

Animal Care Advisory Committee
August 14, 2019

A regular meeting of the Animal Care Advisory Committee of the City of Waxahachie, Texas was held in the Training Room at Waxahachie Police Department, 630 Farley Street on Wednesday, August 14, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.

Members Present: Lt. Robert Best, Chairman
Dr. Tommy Menser, Veterinarian
Terri Muniz, Animal Services Officer

Members Absent: Melony Jordan, Code Enforcement Officer
Jennifer Johnson, Ellis County SPCA

Others Present: Lori Cartwright, City Secretary
Mayor Pro Tem Mary Lou Shipley, Council Representative

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Invocation**

Chairman Lt. Robert Best called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

3. Public Comments

Ms. Martha Weedon, President, Ellis County SPCA, referenced item 4 and stated the SPCA is not closing.

Ms. Nancy Fenton, 615 W. Marvin Avenue, Waxahachie, stated she was under the impression that each animal in a home should be registered with the city and stated, if that is correct, it needs to be advertised to the residents.

4. Discuss closing of the Ellis County SPCA and take any necessary action

Chairman Best announced the SPCA is not closing and they are open for business.

Discussion was held and Waxahachie Police Chief Wade Goolsby stated the reason it was an agenda item was he was receiving a lot of calls from other cities that use the SPCA facility and there was confusion with a letter officials received from the SPCA's attorney which was not clear as to the determination of the facility. When speaking to the SPCA's attorney, Chief Goolsby stated the attorney relayed the SPCA is trying to get out of the shelter business and focus on adoption and they are trying to sell the actual shelter building, but will continue to provide services to cities they are contracted with on a month to month basis until such time they sell the facility. He confirmed to Ms. Weedon that the SPCA is not just shutting down and she concurred.

Ellis County Sheriff Chuck Edge stated his office was told the SPCA would not be doing all of the services they used to do such as taking animals and would stay open for research and training. He noted the emails from the SPCA representatives were very confusing.

Ms. Weedon stated the SPCA's ultimate goal is to get out of the animal shelter business and had hoped the County would start sheltering their own animals. Sheriff Edge stated the County does not have a facility to take in animals.

Captain Chris Hamilton, Ellis County Sheriff's office, stated he knows she wants a better location and if so asked Ms. Weedon if that is still her goal. Ms. Weedon stated they have been in their present location since 2004 and would like to be more visible possibly relocating in town. She stated people will not drive the distance to their facility.

Ms. Nancy Fenton referenced the Waxahachie Animal Shelter and asked if that is not usable and/or the city not willing to staff it. Chairman Best stated the Waxahachie Animal Shelter is fully operational noting it is staffed five days a week and on weekends a person is there taking care of animals, feeding and washing the cages. Ms. Fenton asked if the Waxahachie Animal Shelter takes their animals to the SPCA. Animal Services Officer Terri Muniz stated the Waxahachie Animal Shelter does not take their animals to the SPCA. Ms. Muniz stated the city shelter adopts their animals and reaches out to rescue groups. Ms. Fenton asked if the shelter euthanizes the animals. Ms. Muniz stated only if an animal is very ill.

5. Hear report on proposed Ordinance amending Chapter 6 - Animals and Fowl

Chairman Best reported Chapter 6 - Animals and Fowl is being amended and has been sent to the City Attorney for review. Once approved by the attorney, it will go to City Council for consideration.

6. Set next meeting date and time of the Waxahachie Animal Care Advisory Committee

The Animal Care Advisory Committee set their next meeting for October 16, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.

7. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Cartwright
City Secretary