



DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES

Service – Compassion - Education

Advisory Minutes- Monday, February 13, 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm.

Members Present:

Ms. Amanda Rocker, Chair

Mr. Gary Evans, Vice-Chair

Ms. Toni O'Neil

Members Absent:

Ms. Susan Passey

Dr. Robert Sheegog

Guests Present:

Mr. Richard Gabbert, Interim Director, Animal Services

Citizen guest

Chair Rocker requested any addendum to the posted agenda:

Mr. Gary Evans requested a discussion about shelter hours/walk-in status

Ms. Amanda Rocker requested a discussion regarding the posting of meeting minutes online

Approval of Agenda – Motion by Mr. Gary Evans; 2nd; All in favor. Motion approved

Review of prior meeting minutes:

Members discussed that all requests for changes to minutes will be presented to Officer Gabbert for correction.

Approval of Minutes – Motion by Mr. Gary Evans; 2nd; All in favor. Motion approved with the understanding that requested corrections will be addressed.

Shelter Report:

Officer Gabbert addressed the board, providing the shelter report.

There is an update regarding the Interim Director position. Mr. Tony Padgett has resigned from Onslow County Government and Officer Gabbert has been appointed the new Interim Director of Animal Services. The position for full-time director remains posted. There is no update on whether candidates have been interviewed.

Shelter operations have returned to normal. No appointment is not required, and walk-ins are accepted. Appointments are being utilized for scheduled pick-ups and for those who call ahead.

Staffing: All Animal Care Specialist positions have been filled and the front desk is now fully staffed. There are vacancies for a full-time Kennel Care Attendant (provides care/cleaning in kennel areas) and part-time Staff Veterinarian.

Shelter statistics report provided. Officer Gabbert added that two weeks prior a raccoon had tested positive for rabies in Richlands.

Ms. Rocker asked how rabies calls are addressed through dispatch. Per Officer Gabbert, citizens are advised to contact the Wildlife Commission, for calls outside ACO scope. If a domestic animal has signs of rabies exposure or is showing signs of rabies, Animal Control will impound the animal to be quarantined/monitored for rabies contact. In the case of the raccoon having tested positive in the Richlands area, the animal had been shot by the property owner and the animal was sent for testing.

Mr. Evans inquired what information is provided when Animal Control cannot respond and expressed concern that citizens be given accurate information. Officer Gabbert stated that there is a hotline number that is provided and if necessary, follow-up by Animal Control.

Mr. Evans asked for a clarification on shelter hours. Per Officer Gabbert, hours are 12:00pm – 5:30pm weekdays (closed Mondays) and 10:00am - 4:00pm Saturday (closed Sunday).

The board asked that the digital sign information be updated to reflect current shelter information. Officer Gabbert will address.

Unfinished Business:

There is no unfinished business to address.

New Business:

Ms. Rocker: Agenda items regarding wildlife calls, shelter hours have been addressed by Officer Gabbert during presentation of the shelter report.

Request for minutes to be posted online by Chair, Amanda Rocker. This had previously been discussed with former Director Switzer, and Mr. Glen Hargett, so that minutes will be available for public view. Officer Gabbert will follow up and the April meeting.

Floor open to the public for citizen comment:

No public comment.

Motion to adjourn; 2nd; All in favor. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.