



City of Boiling Spring Lakes
Board of Commissioners Workshop Minutes
August 21, 2014
City Hall – 6:30pm

PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES

1. Call to Order ~ Mayor Craig Caster

The Workshop Meeting was called to order by Mayor Craig Caster at 6:30pm

2. Attendance ~ In attendance at the workshop were

Mayor Craig Caster

Commissioner Barbara Glidden

Commissioner Mike Forte

Chief Brad Shirley

Commissioner Mary Stilwell

Commissioner David Putnam

City Manager Jeff Repp

City Clerk Jane McMinn

3. Introduction ~ to the Workshop was given by Mayor Caster on the topic of leash law and animal control. Speakers will be Chief Brad Shirley and Mary Green, Director of Parks & Recreation

Chief Shirley stated that his job as Chief of Police is to educate and teach pet ownership responsibility to animal lovers in our city. Pets play an important part in people's lives and animal owners need to respect others in the community. Commissioner Putnam inquired if the ordinance as it is written today is sufficient enough for Officer Britt to do his job; Chief Shirley stated that it was sufficient but could be improved. Commissioner Forte asked for the definition of a leash. Chief Shirley explained that a leash is attached to the animal's collar so the animal is under the control of the person walking the dog. Commissioner Stilwell commented that there are a lot of complaints of dog excrement being left in yards and also concerns over aggressive dogs. There are responsible pet owners and irresponsible pet owners. Chief Shirley clarified that if a dog should bite someone it is not automatically deemed an aggressive dog. Chief Shirley recommended that we improve the current language in our ordinance which currently reads ***under the control*** to ***physical leash*** attached to the dog's collar.

Chief Shirley discussed feral cats and programs to spay and neuter and release back into their environment. There were representatives from Paws Place, SOAR, Fix a Friend and Paws Ability who offered their services and information.

Chief Shirley and Animal Control Officer Bobby Britt are willing to do educational workshops on responsible pet ownership. Mayor Caster also suggested looking at the ordinance and possibly adding language for trapping to the ordinance. Officer Britt

reaffirmed that the dog tag is \$10. The current tag confirms that the dog has their rabies shots; this is not about the city making money but about protecting the public from rabies.

Mary Green addressed the public saying we currently have only one dog park at North Lake Park. Dog bags and waste containers are provided. The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board unanimously voted to allow all leashed pets in our parks that do not have swimming areas. We would obviously continue to provide the disposal bags and containers.

Citizen Comments ~

Marge Pennington ~ 301 So. Shore Dr.

Mrs. Pennington discussed the portion of the ordinance which refers to dangerous animals. She questioned if a dog bites someone does the owner still get to keep the dog? As a resident of BSL I would like to see a notice posted on people's property stating *beware of dog* or *dangerous dog*. Mrs. Pennington questioned if exotic animals have to be registered? Chief Shirley stated that there is no ordinance requiring registration. Chief Shirley felt that there were about 200 dogs that are registered currently but it fluctuates from year to year. We have part-time residents with people moving in and others moving out. Mrs. Pennington stated there seems to be an awful lot of stray dogs in this city. Chief Shirley said that the community needs to be proactive and notify the police department if you see a stray dog.

Chuck Wojda ~ 161 No. Lake Dr.

When we talk about our family pets there is a distinction between a family pet and guard dog – there should be rules to define this for each one with a separate ordinance. Mr. Wojda also agreed that there seems to be a lot of stray dogs, however it is difficult to track them or take pictures so I as a citizen am not sure how much more help I could be. After educational programs are done there should be enforcement of fines and fees.

Shirley Desnoyers ~ 341 Fox Squirrel Dr.

I am happy to hear that parks now are considering making non-swimming parks into dog parks. Education and responsible pet ownership is the key. Mrs. Desnoyers commented that we live in a rural area and would like to see some freedom for dog owners to let their dogs off leash as a responsible dog owner.

Nancy Crawford ~ 241 Ash Rd.

When people take dogs into vacant lots, those lots belong to someone, and these dogs that are allowed to go roam on other people's property should not be allowed. There should be a penalty for violating the ordinance.

Paws Place Representative Nancy Janovetz ~ 3710 E. Boiling Spring Rd.

We are happy to be working with the city to help promote spaying and neutering of stray dogs and cats. Spaying, neutering, tags, shots are all part of educating the community and responsible pet ownership. Fix a Friend has been a huge asset to our county. People are not aware that they can get free certificates to neuter and spay their animal due to a

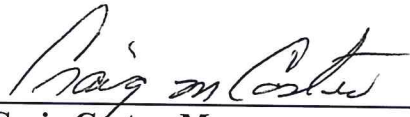
restricted income. Citizens in our community need to become aware that this is available to them

Jo E. Needham ~ Fix a Friend Neuter Clinic

Education is the key, showing people what opportunities they have available to them to help spay/neuter their animals which helps to stop aggression, spraying, and biting to a degree. Also in Brunswick County through the sheriffs department have programs to help control and neuter cats. Paws Ability currently has a grant to help people spay/neuter.

Commissioner Putnam stated that he has heard a lot and good points and suggestions, that being said I think it would be a good idea to schedule another workshop on this topic. Commissioner Forte also agreed it would be a good idea for Chief Shirley and Officer Britt put together a presentation on what they would like to see. Commissioner Stilwell agreed too that she would like to see a presentation on how to educate the public and what is in our ordinance that needs to be added and how we can improve the language.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm



Craig Caster, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jane McMinn, City Clerk



Date

