



**City of Boiling Spring Lakes
Board of Commissioners Workshop Meeting
Animal Control
February 17, 2015
City Hall – 6:30 p.m.**

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Under Minutes and Agendas tab**

1. Call to Order ~ Mayor Craig Caster

Mayor Caster called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Attendance ~ in attendance at the meeting were

Mayor Craig Caster	Commissioner Barbara Glidden
Commissioner Mike Forte	Commissioner David Putnam (excused)
Commissioner Mary Stilwell	City Manager Jeff Repp
City Clerk Jane McMinn	Chief Brad Shirley

3. Mayor Caster explained the purpose of this workshop will be to review the proposed changes recommended by the Police Department to the animal control ordinance. After we hear comments from our Board members we will hear comments from the public.

Commissioner Glidden commented she had concerns with cleaning up after dogs and cats and if the city enforce that. Chief Shirley stated that a lot of our enforcement is complaint driven. If someone has a complaint about a dog or cat they need to contact Animal Control. Also discussed was the issue of collars on cats. All commissioners like the idea of having a collar on a cat and a dog but this would be very difficult to enforce. Chief Shirley stated the Police Department will loan a citizen a trap for 10 days to use to try to trap an animal and they can bring the animal over to the PD. There was also discussion on what constitutes a vicious dog. Chief Shirley stated the Board would deem a dog vicious provided it meets the criteria set forth in the ordinance. City Manager Repp clarified that the language stated to define a vicious dog is based on State Law. Local jurisdiction can put restrictions on vicious dogs but you cannot outlaw them. Commissioner Glidden implored the citizens to report any attack to the Police Department. Chief Shirley also added that his police officers receive training on the handling of animals and we would also like to hold classes for the public to attend to receive information and education in the care and responsibility of being a pet owner.

Commissioners Stilwell, Forte and Glidden strongly urge that the leash law be in place and are happy with the changes being made.

Mayor Caster also commented that he is comfortable with the changes made to the ordinance and requested the updated changes to the Animal Control Ordinance be put on our March agenda for approval. Questions from the mayor and board came up about the trapping of beavers.

City Manager Repp explained that as far as beaver maintenance it is his recommendation that the City not get involved with bringing in a third party to trap the beavers due to insurance and license issues, and the potential of trapping someone's pet instead of a beaver. Manager Repp recommended bringing in someone in from the State who has the specific training to do this and also training our animal control officer to be in full compliance and that the City will begin trapping beavers that are causing flooding problems in the city.

4. Public Comment ~ [public comments will be held to 5 minutes]

Robert Stanley ~ 294 Sycamore Rd.

Mr. Stanley recommended that no dogs be allowed in city parks where swimming is allowed during certain months of the year. Mayor Caster advised that the city ordinance states that no dogs are allowed at any time in any city park, with the exception of North Lake Park.

Sandra Visnosky ~ 2650 Ariel La.

Mrs. Visnosky stated that there is a problem with cats in the city. She questioned when an ordinance will be put into affect for cats and what kind of citation would be issued to owners that are hording cats. There is a problem on Ariel La.; we have approximately 4 dozen cats that are owned by one person. These cats roam all over everyone's property and have damaged our property, ripped screens, scratched our cars and destroyed shrubbery. With all the cats roaming around this has attracted buzzards. Mrs. Visnosky asked the Board and the Police Department what and when something can be done.

The BOC stated they would look into additional ordinance changes that may limit the number of pets allowed at any one property.

Judy Thuer ~ 161 North Lake Dr.

Ms. Thuer suggested having animal education during Fun Day and citizens would be able to register their pets at that time too. There is a large problem in Spring Lake Park with dogs on a leash and dogs off a leash. People have now discovered the field that is used for overflow parking and now people let their dogs run loose in that area. Dogs need exercise and Ms. Thuer commented that it is time to revisit the dog park. Also people are now bringing their dogs inside the community garden to exercise as well. Ms. Thuer agreed that we need a leash law and we need a dog park.

Chuck Wojda ~ 161 North Lake Dr.

Mr. Wojda stated that he would like to see it clearly stated in the ordinance that dogs need to be on a leash, and commented that he was glad that the ordinance states that you need to clean up after your pet. Mr. Wojda mentioned the statement of "complaint

driven” which puts neighbor against neighbor and that can create a problem. He suggested coming up with another way to handle that, such as a neighborhood watch. Under the definition of attack, a dog bite does not have to break the skin to constitute a dog bite, people need to understand that. Mr. Wojda made the suggestion that when registering a dog there should be more detailed information such as breed, color, sex and possibly a photo of the dog.

Norman Carathanasis ~ 1281 Spring Lake Dr.

Mr. Carathanasis commented that there are only 2 signs in Spring Lake Park in the pavilion area, he suggested having bigger signs large enough to read. Mr. Carathanasis reminded everyone that all dogs are potentially dangerous, they are animals, people need to be aware that any dog can be dangerous.

5. Adjourn

The workshop was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.



Craig Caster, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jane McMinn, City Clerk



Date

