

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF UPSHUR, CITY OF BUCKHANNON, TO WIT:

A scheduled meeting of the Buckhannon Animal Care and Control Commission was held at the Buckhannon City Hall Council Chambers, 70 East Main on Monday, April 10, 2017 at 5:30 pm with the following in attendance:

Mayor	David McCauley	Present
Assistant Recorder	Amberle Jenkins	Present
Comm. Member	Elissa Mills	Present
Comm. Member	Maria Bray	Present
Comm. Member	Robin Keough	Absent
DNR Rep		Absent
County Animal Control	Dustin Hollen	Absent
City Cat Trapper	Jeff Wamsley	Present

Guest:

County Commission Member Sam Nolte, David Thomas, Ron Pugh and Police Sgt. Tom Posey.

Meeting Agenda Posted 04-03-17

Buckhannon Animal Care & Control Commission- 5:30 pm in Council Chambers Meeting Agenda for April 10, 2017

- A. Call to Order**
 - A.1 Moment of Silence**
 - A.2 Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America**
- B. Recognized Guests**
 - B.1 County Commissioner Sam Nolte-Discuss the responsibilities of the Animal Control Officer**
- C. Consent Agenda**
 - C.1 Approval of Minutes - Regular meeting -January 9, 2017**
- D. Strategic Issues for Discussion and/or Vote**
 - D.1 Discussion of Dog Park:**
 - .Update and Enforcement**
 - D.2 Discussion/Review Ordinance 300 & Ordinance 397:**
 - .To Recommend to Council: Allow off-leash areas**
 - D.3 Feral Cat Issues**
- E. Board Members Comments and Announcements**
 - E.1 Town Hall Meeting Notice –Dog Park- May 8, 2017 at 6 pm at PSC**
 - E.2 Press Release Buckhannon Dog Park Development Underway**
- F. Adjournment**

POSTED 04-03-17

The meeting was called to order by Mayor McCauley with a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance.

Upshur County Commissioner-Sam Nolte:

- Mayor McCauley recognized Upshur County Commissioner-Sam Nolte. Mr. Nolte appeared before the Commission to explain the role of the Upshur County Animal Control Officer-Dustin Hollen. Mr. Hollen is not sure he has the authority to enforce city animal control ordinances. Mr. Nolte would like to have a mutual aid agreement between the City and County as to expectations and funding due to the time that may be involved in enforcing the city ordinances.
- Mayor McCauley and Board Members believe that by code the County animal control officer can enforce the city ordinances but understand that the city ordinances are more restrictive and may take more time to enforce. In 2016 there were 22 incidents regarding animal

control in which law enforcement was needed. Mayor McCauley would like to begin dialogue and involve the City Attorney and County to draft a mutual aid agreement.

Consent Agenda:

- Approval of minutes 1-9-17

Motion Bray/Mills to approve the minutes of January 9, 2017. Motion carried.

Strategic Issues for discussion and/or vote:

- **Dog Park discussion**

Mayor McCauley presented a map of the area where the dog park will be located off of Randolph Street. He sees that there will be a parking issue. In first phase, plans are to stone an area off of Randolph Street that would create about 21 parking spaces which could also serve the future fishing pier and rose garden. 2nd phase is adding 34 more parking spaces near the walk trail. The dog park will be approximately one acre. Director Arnold plans to meet with a contractor that has a large dozer to help clear the lot. Access to water is nearby.

Fund raising for this project continues. A Dog Park Committee meeting will be held tomorrow at 5:30 pm.

- **Ordinance 300 & 397 review and updates**

Member-Maria Bray stated that the City Attorney needs to compare the language in both of the Animal Care and Control Ordinances (300 and 397) to make sure they are translated accurately and clear up the language. Also, language needs added to allow off leash areas as determined by City Council, such as the dog park.

- **Feral Cat Issues**

Mayor McCauley has heard several comments, both for and against the feeding of feral cats in city limits. There are several colonies of feral cats in town that a group or individuals are feeding. Some of the cats are being spay or neutered then released again. Unfortunately people also dump cats out in these areas. One area of feral cats is near Stockert Youth Center.

The Commission talked at length about the cat issues. Some of the talking points were:

- Meeting with Pet Door Rescue and other organizations or individuals to receive input
- Possibility of Trap and Release Program
- Control of disease and population

Mrs. Jenkins will talk to the person that has been feeding the cats near SYC.

Mr. Thomas will contact persons with Pet Door Rescue to seek information and ask them to attend one of the meetings.

- **Geese at North Buckhannon Park**

Mrs. Bray reported that there is a device approved by the Audubon Society that sounds an alarm which disturbs the geese. Board members also talked about use of dogs to chase the geese. Mr. Wamsley was asked to explore possibility of someone that may have dogs to chase the geese.

Sgt Posey:

- Sgt Posey also mentioned that the Chief of Police had recommended that some type of language should be added to the updated Animal Care and Control Ordinance to re-enforce protection of seeing-eye dogs. Recently a dog that was running loose tried to attack a seeing-eye dog that was working. The owner of the dog running at large was cited.

Board Members Comments and Announcements

- **Town Hall Meeting Notice-Dog Park- May 8, 2017 at PSC at 6pm**

Town Hall Meeting Notice of the City Council of Buckhannon for Monday, May 8, 2017 – 6:00pm- located at the Public Safety Complex Community & Training Room at Two Friendly Way

CITIZENS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND & CONTRIBUTE INPUT REGARDING THE PROPOSED BUCKHANNON DOG PARK

POSTED 03-22-17

- **Press Release Buckhannon Dog Park Development Underway**

Buckhannon Dog Park Development Underway

BUCKHANNON, WV- March 25, 2017. The Buckhannon Dog Park Committee announces the establishment of a dog park to be an added enhancement to the River Walk trail. The City of Buckhannon and the Buckhannon Dog Park Committee are collaborating with West Virginia Wesleyan College to develop a park for canines and humans alike while maintaining the beauty of the area.

There are currently thousands of public dog parks throughout the United States. Surrounding cities report overall good response from citizens and dogs regarding dog parks. The proposed park will consist of a gated area with a double-gated entrance and separate areas for large dogs and for small or timid dogs to socialize off leash.

Members of the Buckhannon Dog Park Committee hope to have fundraising complete and have the first phase of the park open for Labor Day weekend. Please visit our Facebook page Buckhannon Dog Park Discussion and share your hopes and dreams for this community venture.

Fundraising is underway and will continue in order to fund phase one and establish a maintenance fund for ongoing improvements. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation please visit the dog park Go Fund Me page at <http://www.gofundme.com/fxnbxw-dog-park> or send a check to Buckhannon City Hall at 70 East Main Street, Buckhannon, WV 26201, with "Dog Park" written in the memo.

A Town Hall meeting scheduled on May 8, 2017, at 6 pm in the Public Safety Complex Community & Training Room will allow for open discussion and idea sharing. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend regarding the dog park in Buckhannon.

There being no further business to be transacted, meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Mayor David McCauley _____

Assistant Recorder Amberle Jenkins _____

The next regular meeting of Animal Care and Control will be held July 10, 2017.