

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 -City Council Chambers, 70 East Main on Monday, January 9, 2017 at 5:30 pm with the following in attendance:

Mayor	David McCauley	Present
Recorder	Susan Aloï	Present
Comm. Member	Elissa Mills	Present
Comm. Member	Maria Bray	Present
Comm. Member	Robin Keough	Present
DNR Rep	Robert Silvester	Present
County Animal Control	Dustin Hollen	Present
Police Chief	Matt Gregory	Present
City Cat Trapper	Jeff Wamsley	Present

**City of Buckhannon
ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL Meeting Attendance Record**

Name - Please write clearly	Street Address	Do you desire to address Council? Yes or No and if Yes, State Topic	
Lisa Critchfield	116 Circle Drive	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y	<input type="radio"/> N Dog Park
Robert Silvester	163 Wildfire Rd Finch Gk	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y	<input type="radio"/> N
Matt Gregory		<input type="radio"/> Y	<input type="radio"/> N
Brendley Hankins		<input type="radio"/> Y	<input type="radio"/> N
Robin Keough	18 Allman	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y	<input type="radio"/> N
Dustin Hollen	1880 Gladys Fork Rd	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y	<input type="radio"/> N
Jeff Wamsley		<input type="radio"/> Y	<input type="radio"/> N
Maria Bray	115 Chestnut St	<input type="radio"/> Y	<input type="radio"/> N
Pat Long		<input type="radio"/> Y	<input type="radio"/> N
Elissa Mills	14 Park St	<input type="radio"/> Y	<input type="radio"/> N Dog Park
		<input type="radio"/> Y	<input type="radio"/> N
		<input type="radio"/> Y	<input type="radio"/> N

Monday, January 09, 2017

Meeting Agenda Posted 12-21-16

Buckhannon Animal Care & Control Commission- 5:30 pm in Council Chambers Meeting Agenda for January 9, 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 Lisa Critchfield
 - B.2 Police Chief Matt Gregory
 - Animal Control Log
 - B.3 Cat Trapper Jeff Wamsley
- C. Consent Agenda
 - C.1 Approval of Minutes - Regular meeting -January 18, 2016
- D. Strategic Issues for Discussion and/or Vote
 - D.1 Discussion of Dog Park
 - D.2 Discussion/Review Ordinance 300 & Ordinance 397
- E. Board Members Comments and Announcements
 - E.1 Meeting Schedule 2017
- F. Adjournment
 - Posted 12-21-16

Call to Order – Mayor McCauley called the meeting to order with a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests: Pat Long and Lisa Critchfield

- Lisa Critchfield explained her rationale for wanting to start a dog park in Buckhannon. Ms. Critchfield provided an outline of the proposed project.



After living in other areas for six years I recently returned to Buckhannon. I have lived here over two years now. Last year we got a dog that we truly love. The problem is that once we're off work, often times a walk is it not enough exercise for her.

Something I have seen in many towns that I have lived in is a dog park. A dog park is an area where dogs can exercise off leash which allows them to burn more energy as they play. A dog park is a great area for dogs and humans alike to socialize. Well exercised dogs are typically better behaved, making life more enjoyable for the people in their lives. A dog park can also be an educational asset as well as a necessity for a dog owner who may have physical difficulties walking their dog. A dog park is like a playground for dogs! In Buckhannon there currently is not a public area like this where dogs are allowed to exercise off leash. Dogs in city limits are required to be leashed.

This petition is to show interest in developing a dog park. I am willing to start the development of and fundraiser to begin this project. Let's allow our canine citizens to exercise, socialize and be happy!

This petition will be delivered to:

- Lisa Critchfield

- Mayor McCauley explained the history behind the dog park discussion. He is supportive of this initiative and believes there is probably appropriate City property available. Ms. Critchfield said that we need to be careful not to take over any property that could be used for youth activities.
- A previous City intern, Graham Scott, had outlined a plan and budget for a dog park. Committee discussed that this was a “high-end” design, and that the project could be smaller and more affordable, at least to start with.
- Pat Long described an incremental design that could start small and then grow, as needed. Chain link fence, water source for dogs, and perhaps a couple of benches for humans seem to be the essentials needed to begin. Lighting may also be necessary, so the park could be used after dark.
- Mr. McCauley indicated that City employees are capable and willing to construct the park.
- Robin Keough discussed some of the rules for use of the dog park that will be necessary for it to be used safely.
- Maria Bray expressed support for the project. She indicated that the City would not be liable for anything that a dog might do; this would be the responsibility of the dog owner. The City would need to be responsible for maintaining the safety of the facilities. Owners are also expected to clean up after their dogs, so Mr. McCauley does not see City concerns regarding regular maintenance. Ms. Keough explained that doggie clean-up bags and trash cans should be available at the dog park and the City would maintain these. Mr. Long suggested that there be an active volunteer group that would monitor the upkeep of the park. Mr. McCauley suggested hosting pet adoption events at the dog park, using dogs that are housed in the pound; this

would need to be coordinated with the Upshur County Commission. Elissa Mills suggested the installation of a couple of security cameras to monitor behavior and use of the park, as well as to maintain a record of usage. She also suggested a kiosk for sharing information about pet adoption, including photos.

- Mayor McCauley suggested that the dog park committee should identify three or four possible sites, share the locations, and let committee members view these before the next meeting.
- The dog park group agreed to meet again in two weeks, Monday, January 23 at 5:30pm, and then regularly, to plan for the dog park. Anyone who is interested in developing a dog park is invited to attend; this will not be a regular meeting of the Animal Care & Control Commission.
- Police Chief Matt Gregory shared the animal control log. Mayor McCauley noted that there are approximately two issues a month. In response to a question about whether the County Animal Control officer has responsibilities within the City limits, Dustin Hollen indicated that he is only permitted to pick up stray dogs, but cannot write citations for violations of ordinances. Maria Bray noted that the additional requirements in the new ordinance may necessitate additional animal control enforcement. There may need to be a discussion with the County Commission to extend the County Animal Control officer's responsibilities to the City.

ANIMAL CONTROL LOG

DATE	ADDRESS	COMPLAINT	ACTION TAKEN
03/07/2016	CENTRAL AVE	DOG BARKING	CITATION ISSUED
03/19/2016	RUSTIC DRIVE	DOG RUNNING AT LARGE	CITATION ISSUED
04/01/2016	44 CLEVELAND AVE	DOG DEFECATING ON OPEN LOT	ORD GIVEN TO OWNER AND WARNED
04/07/2016	10 FOURTH ST	CAT RUNNING AT LARGE	CITATION ISSUED
04/18/2016	166 POCAHONTAS	CAT RUNNING AT LARGE	CITATION ISSUED
04/20/2016	166 POCAHONTAS	CAT RUNNING AT LARGE	CITATION ISSUED
04/29/2016	26 FRANKLIN	DOG RUNNING AT LARGE	INVESTIGATED - UNSECURE RESIDENCE
05/02/2016	LOWER DRIVE	FAILURE TO CLEAN AFTER DOG	OWNER WARNED
05/05/2016	RUSTIC DRIVE	DANGEROUS DOG	CITATION ISSUED RELATED TO 3/19/16
05/07/2016		CAT COMPLAINT	ADVISED OF CITY PROCEDURE
	108 FAYETTE	DOG BARKING	SPOKE W/OWNER ADVISED OF ORD
06/10/2016	9 CLEVELAND	CAT RUNNING AT LARGE	CITATION ISSUED
06/18/2016	87 SMITH FIELD	DOG RUNNING AT LARGE	CITATION ISSUED
07/22/2016	167 RANDOLPH	DOG RUNNING AT LARGE	CITATION ISSUED
	17 ELIZABETH	DOG DEFECATING IN YARD	REFER TO ZONING
08/31/2016	85 S KANAWHA	DOG BARKING	ORD GIVEN TO OWNER/COMPLAINT WILL NOT GIVE STATEMENT/OFFICER OBSERVED NO BARKING
09/14/2016	SHAWNEE DRIVE	CHICKEN AT LARGE	CITATION ISSUED
09/20/2016	POCAHONTAS	DOG BARKING	UNFOUNDED
10/13/2016	117 POCAHONTAS	CAT RUNNING AT LARGE	CITATION ISSUED
10/18/2016	4th Street	DOG AT LARGE	CITATION ISSUED
11/02/2016	SHAWNEE DRIVE	CHICKEN AT LARGE	CITATION ISSUED
11/03/2016	147 WOOD ST	CAT AT LARGE	CITATION ISSUED

- City Cat Trapper Jeff Wamsley explained the process he uses to humanely trap stray cats and deliver them to the animal shelter. He caught 59 cats this year, some feral and some pets at large. Discussion on the possibility of a trap-neuter-release program for cats.

Consent Agenda:

- Approval of Minutes from regular meeting of January 18, 2016. **Motion Bray/Mills to approve minutes; passed.**

Strategic Issues for Discussion and/or Vote:

- **Discussion of Dog Park (see above)**
- **Discussion/Review of Ordinance 300 & Ordinance 397** – McCauley suggested that the committee study these combined ordinances between now and the next meeting. Maria Bray indicated that she has a version of the document that the committee believed was final. She will confer with Mayor McCauley to determine a final document.

Board Members' Comments and Announcements: None

- **Meeting Schedule for 2017:** The Commission will meet the second Monday of each quarter at 5:30pm in Council Chambers, as follows:

Monday, April 10, 2017

Monday, July 10, 2017

Monday, October 2, 2017 (the 9th is Columbus Day holiday)

With no further business the Commission adjourned at 6:50pm.

Mayor David McCauley

Recorder Susan Aloï
