

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

A regular meeting of the Buckhannon Animal Care & Control Commission was held on April 11, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers of City Hall. The following were in attendance:

Robbie Skinner III	Mayor & Chair	Present
Randy Sanders	City Recorder	Absent
Amberle Jenkins	Assistant Recorder/Director of Finance	Present
Alison Clausen Whitehair	Commission Member	Present-Virtually
Elissa Linger	Commission Member-Lewis-Upshur ACF Rep	Absent
Robin Keough	Commission Member	Absent
Lisa Critchfield	Commission Member & Buckhannon Dog Park	Present-Virtually
DNR Representative	Ex Officio	Absent
Matt Gregory	BPD	Absent
BJ Teets	Cat Trapper	Absent

Guest in attendance -Matthew Walter

*To participate remotely in a City Commission meeting, participants were invited to contact us at 304-472-1651 for the GoToMeeting link/access.*

***Buckhannon Animal Care & Control Commission  
at 5:30 pm in Council Chambers  
Meeting Agenda for Monday, April 11, 2022***

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- 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
  - C. Consent Agenda
    - C.1 Approval of Minutes 04/12/21, 07/12/21, 10/12/21
  - D. Correspondence & Information
    - D.1 Upshur County Commission Report of Cats-September-December 2021
    - D.2 Upshur County Commission Report of Dogs-September-December 2021
  - E. Strategic Issues for Discussion and/or Vote
    - E.1 Issues of Feral Cat Colonies at the Poundstone Riverwalk Trail
    - E.2 Discussion Dog Park
      - Park Maintenance & Improvement Projects
      - Financial Balance
      - Fundraising Events, Brick Sales for the Wall
  - F. Board Members Comments and Announcements
  - G. Adjournment
- Posted 04/05/2022

**A. Call to Order:** Mayor Skinner called the meeting to order followed by a moment of silence and pledge to the flag.

**B. Recognized Guests**  
**B.1 Matthew Walter**

**C. Consent Agenda:**

**C.1 Approval of Minutes 4/12/21, 07/12/21, 10/12/21**

**Motion Whitehair/Critchfield to approve the minutes. Motion carried.**

**D. Correspondence & information**

**D.1 Upshur County Commission Report of Cats-September-December 2021**

- Cats brought in by City Trapper 19
- Cats brought in by Animal Control Officer 0
- Cats brought in by County Residents 180

**D.2 Upshur County Commission Report of Dogs-September-December 2021**

- Dogs picked up by Animal Control Officer 76
- Dogs returned to Owner by ACO 3
- Dogs delivered to LUACF 72

**E. Strategic Issues for Discussion and/or Vote:**

**E.1 Issues of Feral Cat Colonies at the Poundstone Riverwalk Trail:**

Mayor Skinner introduced Guest-Matthew Walter. Mr. Walter has been in contact with the Mayor in regard to the number of cats, as well as the trash and items along the trail. Mr. Walter lives in Buckhannon.

Mr. Walter commented that the number of cats living along the trail has grown. He would like to help resolve the issue and provide insight from what he has observed.

- The cat colonies at the walk trail is growing. He observed at least 25 to 30 cats.
- He has observed dead cats.
- People are feeding the cats.
- Debris such as feeding trays, paper plates, plastic totes converted to shelters, tarps, bird bath and random articles are scattered throughout the area.
- Wind-blown trash along the riverbank and in the river.
- There has been ramification to the local wildlife. He observed dead rabbits and other dead wildlife.
- Many items are near the dog park.
- He is concerned about the possible spread of disease from unvaccinated cats.

He is willing to help clean up the area.

Mayor Skinner explained that there has been some communication with the college since most of the shelters and feeding areas are on college property. The communications indicated that they were in agreement that the situation needed resolved, and the cats should be removed but were concerned that the cats would be euthanized.

The following pictures of the problem were submitted:





Commissioner Whitehair commented she visited the area and was appalled by what has happened. She was not sure that the college cabinet was entirely aware of the issue.

Commissioner Critchfield commented that some of the cats had been trapped, vaccinated, spayed or neutered and released.

One gentleman that is known for feeding the cats gets very emotional when approached about removing them.

Mr. Walter stated that he works with the DNR. A resolution to the issue is all the manmade shelters for the animals should be removed and the public needs to stop feeding the cats. The vegetation that is not part of Wesleyan environment studies should also be removed.

Mayor Skinner commented that the City should try to work this out with WV Wesleyan College.

Commission Members commented concern if the shelters and food were removed then the cats would disperse into other areas. Another option would be to seek funding for catch and release program. Feral colonies do not normally welcome other cats.

Mrs. Jenkins commented that persons are abandoning cats in the area.

Mr. Walter stated these are not true feral cat colonies as they are being fed and there is no competition for food therefore; they would not necessarily “chase off” new cats.

Mayor Skinner asked about placing signs in the areas controlled by the City, warning that feeding the cats is in violation of City Ordinance No. 397. Commission Whitehair felt that would be reasonable.

Mrs. Jenkins included a draft of a sign she worked on and will circulate an updated draft to members before having them made or posted.



**IT IS UNLAWFUL TO FEED STRAY  
OR UNDOMESTICATED CATS OR  
DOGS, OR TO ABANDON ANIMALS.**

Persons violating this ordinance will be fined.

By order of the Buckhannon City Council and enforced by the  
Buckhannon Police Dept.

Ord. 397 of the City of Buckhannon

505.14 It shall be unlawful for any person to place, or cause to be placed any type of food upon any property for the purpose of feeding or watering any stray dog or cat, ie; a dog or cat running at large and apparently unregistered by an owner. Any person, however, may adopt any stray dog or cat through proper registration.

Posted at Poundstone Walk Trail April 2022.

Commission members asked if the cameras at the dog park are functioning. Mrs. Jenkins reported that the camera stopped working but was to meet with IT this week about another matter and will talk to them about this.

**E.2 Discussion Dog Park:**

- **Park Maintenance and Improvement Projects:**

Commissioner Critchfield inquired when the water spigot could be turned on at the dog park. Mrs. Jenkins reported that the Street Department said they would turn the water on the same time as the other city parks which was normally the first of May unless the weather is suitable before that.

Commissioner Critchfield asked if the fence could be repaired. There is a hole in the fence where a dog may have dug out and a section of the fence has a hole. Mrs. Jenkins will report this to the Street Department for repair.

Commissioners would like to install dog activity obstacles in the park.

- Financial Balance:**

Mrs. Jenkins reported the Dog Park balance is \$14,384.

Dog Park Donations Breakdown

General Donations		Bingo		
Electric @ Dog Park		\$6.93	11/15/2021	
Bricks		\$135.00	11/16/2021	
Electric @ Dog Park		\$7.29	12/30/2021	
Electric @ Dog Park		\$7.07	01/31/2022	
Electric @ Dog Park		\$5.25	02/15/2022	
Electric @ Dog Park		\$5.25	03/31/2022	
		\$22,328.09		
		\$15,384.35		
	TO REPLACE CAMERA	\$1,000.00		
	TAKEN FROM CROSSROADS	\$14,384.35		

- Fundraising Events, Brick Sales for the Wall:**

Commissioners would like to have another brick fund raising event. Mrs. Jenkins stated during the last campaign she entered the order information online for each brick. She would like them to wait until after June 30<sup>th</sup> so she could get past all the budgets and year-end tasks, she also asked that a firm deadline date should be set for all orders.

Commissioner Critchfield inquired on bricks that were ordered and not on the wall. Mrs. Jenkins stated there were some applications that were turned in past the deadline in 2018. Late last year after an inquiry, it was found some bricks did not get ordered. She asked for the name to be sent to her so she could check on it.

**F. Board Members Comments and Announcements-None**

**G. Adjournment- There being no further business to be transacted, motion Whitehair/Critchfield to adjourn at 6:08pm. Motion carried.**

**Mayor Robert N. Skinner III** \_\_\_\_\_

**Assistant Recorder Amberle Jenkins** \_\_\_\_\_