

# ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 23, 2007

6:30 P.M.

## MINUTES

**Members Present:** Pat Jackson, Chairperson, Animal Shelter Representative  
Gene Carey, Mayor, Council Representative  
Colleen Ament, Vice-Chairperson, Humane Society Representative  
Martin Newcomb, DVM, Veterinarian Representative  
Cynthia Lombardo, Citizen at Large  
Judy Cromwell, Citizen at Large  
Pam Henricks, DVM, Veterinarian Representative

**City Staff Present:** Sherry Harper, Health & Code Manager  
Deborah Dierks, Secretary

**Citizen in Attendance:** Mary Hill  
Mr. and Mrs. Derrick Lockett  
Ron Aljoe

**Item #1:** Mr. Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. All seven (7) Committee members were present, constituting a quorum.

**Item #2:** Minutes from the March 29, 2007 meeting were approved by a vote of 7-0.

**Item #3:** Mr. Jackson presented background information relating to an attack by two (2) pit bulls earlier this year. The pit bulls entered a house on Logan Drive, where they attacked two (2) other dogs inside the home, killing one of the dogs and seriously injuring the other. This incident resulted in the proposed revisions to the City of Lewisville ordinances relating to dogs that attack other animals. The purpose for the proposed ordinance revisions is to speed up the process for seizing and confining dogs that attack other animals, and to elevate penalties for such attacks to levels comparable with those for attacks on humans. The pit bulls involved in the attack on Logan Drive were deemed to be "dangerous" dogs during a hearing in the Lewisville Municipal Court last month.

Mayor Carey asked if the owners of the dangerous dogs had complied with the court order. Mr. Jackson informed him that the owners had not yet complied with the court order and that the City Attorney's Officer was now involved. Mr. Jackson briefly explained the legal options being considered at this time.

Dr. Newcomb inquired about how a dog is determined to be a “dangerous” dog in the city; Mr. Jackson briefly summarized the dangerous dog hearing process.

Mr. and Mrs. Derrick Lockett, whose two (2) dogs were attacked by the pit bulls that entered their home on Logan Drive, spoke about their frustration with the current process and how long it takes to seize and confine such dogs. Some discussion among the Committee members about the attack and the current dangerous dog process followed.

Mr. Jackson asked the committee to review the proposed ordinance revisions relating to dogs that attack other animals and present their recommendations. Colleen Ament made a motion that the ordinance revisions be sent to the City Council for consideration. Dr. Hendricks seconded the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0. The proposed ordinance revisions are expected to be on the June 4, 2007 City Council meeting agenda for consideration.

The Committee briefly discussed a bill being considered by the state legislature, which proposes a stiffer penalty for owners of dogs that attack and injure people. Mr. Jackson stated that after the state legislature adjourns, he would like review our city ordinances to insure that they are reflective of any new laws that are passed.

**Item #4:** Mr. Jackson informed the Committee that there has been much interest about building a new animal shelter, and that funding for a feasibility study has been requested for next fiscal year.

Mary Hill commented on the need for a new shelter and expressed her support for it. She also suggested a possible location for a new animal shelter and stated that she would check further into it.

**Item #5:** Mr. Jackson informed the Committee that they would be notified of the date and location for the next meeting.

**Item #6:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**THESE MINUTES ARE APROVED BY  
THE CITY OF LEWISVILLE ANIMAL SERVICES  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Deborah Dierks  
Secretary**

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**PAT JACKSON, CHAIRPERSON**

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**COLLEEN AMENT, VICE-CHAIRPERSON**