

**CITY OF MONROE
ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
300 W. CROWELL STREET
MONROE, NC
JUNE 3, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.**

AGENDA

1. Public Comment Period Regarding Animal Welfare
2. Discussion of Limitation of Ownership of Intact Versus Neutered Animals within City of Monroe
3. Discussion of Proposal from Union County Humane Society
4. Minutes of Animal Welfare Committee Meetings of April 2, 2024, May 7, 2024, June 4, 2024, July 2, 2024, August 6, 2024, September 5, 2024, October 1, 2024, December 3, 2024, January 7, 2025, February 4, 2025, March 4, 2025 and April 1, 2025

CITY OF MONROE
ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
April 2, 2024
MINUTES

The Animal Welfare Committee of the City of Monroe, North Carolina, met in Special Session in the City Hall Council Chambers located at 300 West Crowell Street in Monroe, North Carolina at 6:00 p.m. on April 2, 2024 with Chair David Dotson presiding.

Present: Chair David Dotson, Member Maria Bando, Member Barbara Rooney, Member Emma Sullivan, Member Robert Yanacsek and Clerk Angie Rangolan.

Absent: None.

Visitors: and others.

Chair Dotson called the Animal Welfare Committee Special Meeting of April 2, 2024 to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

Item No. 1. Public Comment Period. Chair Dotson recognized individuals to speak during the Public Comment Period.

A. Theresa Eaman (513 Everette Street, Monroe NC). Ms. Theresa Eaman thanked the members for applying and serving on the committee. She further advised that she lives on a street where animal welfare has long been an issue, stated she works with the Humane Society to address loose dogs and feral cats. Ms. Eaman advised that last year she used her own funds (\$2,100) and in conjunction with Carolina Street Cats was able to spay/neuter multiple cats due to the amount of feral cats that she encountered in and around her home. Ms. Eaman stated that she does not believe that the laws of the County are not good enough for the City based on the fact that hunters are not housing dogs in the city and the fact that the proximity of residences in the city is closer than in the County. Ms. Eaman stated that the Animal Shelter and animal rescues in the area are beyond burdened due to the amount of animals that are being surrendered. Ms. Eaman stated that she believes that lack of education about animal welfare, animal care and spay/neuter options, specifically in the Hispanic community, is an issue that should be addressed. Ms. Eaman further believes that the Rabies requirement is not enough to ensure animal welfare.

B. Laura Sur (120 Aspire Circle, Wingate NC). Ms. Sur advised that she has been involved in animal rescue for approximately 15 years. She also believes that educating the public, especially the Hispanic community, about low cost services that are available. Ms. Sur would like to work on a partnership with the City of Monroe to hold low-cost or free spay/neuter and microchips clinics, which she believes would be very helpful for Animal Control when they locate roaming animals. Ms. Sur works with the Humane Society and advised that although they are busy and booked, they are attempting to expand services and have recently moved the clinic to a location

on Franklin Street near the hospital. Ms. Sur advised that the Humane Society is currently booked into May to spay/neuter cats in conjunction with Carolina Street Cats. Chair Dotson inquired as to how many animals the Humane Society currently has and Ms. Sur advised that currently they have approximately 50-60 animals up for adoption. She further advised that prior to COVID, the Humane Society had approximately 300-350 adoptions per year, but adoptions have dropped and 202 adoptions were completed last year in addition to nearly 6,000 spay/neuter surgeries. Chair Dotson inquired about the requirements to adopt. Ms. Sur advised as to the requirements (spay/neuter, vaccinations up to date, heartworm/feline leukemia testing, requirements for the adopters, etc...). Committee Member Robert Yanascek inquired what would be most beneficial to make spay/neuter easier (more money, more facilities, more vets...?). Ms. Sur responded, "yes, all of the above." Ms. Sur expanded on her answer to detail needs, personnel, supplies, funds. Ms. Sur discusses pricing for spay/neuter services with Committee Member Robert Yanascek.

C. Kimberly Williams (424 Lee Pierce Rd, Marshville NC). Ms. Williams also stated that she believes that community education regarding services available is needed. Ms. Williams stated that she believed it would be beneficial for the City of Monroe to have more Animal Control Officers and a dedicated City of Monroe Animal Shelter. Committee Member Robert Yanascek spoke about other cities and jurisdictions utilizing non-profits and rescues as their shelters and fund them instead of the county. He further advised that he would be interested in learning more about this possibility. Ms. Williams talked about beginning a registry. Committee Member Robert Yanascek talked about surrounding areas that have a pet registration and how helpful the tool could be to Animal Control Officers.

D. Committee Member Emma Sullivan. Committee Member Sullivan discussed her belief that the registration fee collection or interaction offers an opportunity for education about services available.

E. Tracy Stone (1480 Long Leaf Court, Weddington NC). Discussed the fact that she sent Lincoln County Ordinances to every County Commissioner as well as the County Manager and Assistant Manager as an example of ordinances and offered to e-mail them to the Chair and Members as a guide.

F. Committee Chair David Dotson & Committee Member Robert Yanascek. Chairman Dotson inquired as to whether or not anyone else wanted to speak or if any other member wanted to speak. Committee Member Robert Yanascek wanted for the Animal Control Officers present to speak to their biggest concerns and things that would make their jobs easier. Chairman Dotson advised that he requested that the Animal Control Officers research animal registration options and that that item would be placed on the next committee meeting agenda.

G. Officer Chase McSheehan. Officer McSheehan provided background on his knowledge and experience in Animal Control. He stated that the Animal Control positions within the City were not previously sworn law enforcement and that change has made an impact as far as what enforcement action(s) can be taken.

H. Officer Kendal Aycoth. Officer Aycoth provided background on his knowledge and experience in Animal Control. Further stated that he and Officer McSheehan work to create relationships within the community to solve issues that arise.

I. Committee Chair David Dotson , Committee Member Robert Yanacsek, Officer Kendal Aycoth & Officer Chase McSheehan. Chairman Dotson inquired as to whether or not enforcement action included writing state citations. Officer McSheehan clarified that the state citations for the violations in conjunction with City Ordinances (leash law violations) dictate that the citation is considered an arrest on citation with a mandatory court appearance. Chairman Dotson inquired as to what the most common violation seen. Officer McSheehan advised that leash law violations are the most common and went into further explanation as to how issues with loose dogs are handled. Officer Aycoth also spoke to the process and how some calls are handled and how education on the part of the all interested parties would be beneficial. Chairman Dotson inquired about seizure numbers per month. Officer McSheehan spoke to how Animal Controls Officers work to educate and assist the owners prior to seizing animals, then further explained that approximately 15-20 animals per month are seized, and that a high number of these animals are aggressive due to their living conditions. Committee Member Yanacsek inquired as to whether or not Animal Control Officers encounter a great deal of “repeat customers?” Officer McSheehan advised that he has seen a decrease in “repeat customers” based on the fact that Animal Control Officers are sworn and enforcement action is feasible. Chairman Dotson and Committee Member Yanacsek discuss the possibility of the registration process.

Item No. 2. Mission Statement. Chair Dotson introduced a proposed Mission Statement for the Animal Welfare Committee. Mission statement reads as follows: It’s the mission of the Animal Welfare Committee to improve the lives of the Monroe citizens by creating a city where animals are treated humanely and with compassion. Using community engagement collaboration with local stakeholders, the Animal Welfare Committee will research, recommend and promote policies that will ensure the ethical and responsible care for animals. Chair Dotson further discusses that the goal is to do what is best for the animals.

Item No. 3. Regular Meeting Schedule. Chair Dotson advised that the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM is the set meeting schedule. All meetings will be held at 300 W. Crowell Street, Monroe, NC 28112. The Chairman may cancel any meeting. A written notice of cancellation should be posted on the door of the meeting room. Chair Dotson discussed agenda items for the next meeting, registration and bi-lingual literature. Attorney Terry Sholar advised that the committee should vote to adopt the meeting schedule.

Chair Dotson made the motion to adopt the regular meeting schedule. Member Barbara Rooney seconded the motion. The meeting schedule passed unanimously with the following votes:

AYES: Members Bando, Sullivan, Yanacsek and Chair Dotson
NAYS: None

There being no further business, Committee Member Robert Yanacsek moved to adjourn the Animal Welfare Committee Special Meeting of April 2, 2024 at 6:55 p.m. Member Rooney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with the following votes:

AYES: Members Bando, Sullivan, Yanacsek and Chair Dotson
NAYS: None

Attest:

David Dotson, Chair

Angie Rangolan, Clerk

CITY OF MONROE
ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
May 7, 2024
MINUTES

The Animal Welfare Committee of the City of Monroe, North Carolina, met in Regular Session in the City Hall Council Chambers located at 300 West Crowell Street in Monroe, North Carolina at 6:00 p.m. on May 7, 2024 with Chair David Dotson presiding.

Present: Chair David Dotson, Member Barbara Rooney, Member Emma Sullivan and Clerk Angie Rangolan.

Absent: Member Maria Bando and Member Robert Yanacsek.

Visitors: and others.

Chair Dotson called the Animal Welfare Committee Regular Meeting of May 7, 2024 to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

Item No. 1. Public Comment Period. Chair Dotson recognized individuals to speak during the Public Comment Period.

A. Sue Ratliff (1428 Crescent Street, Monroe NC). Ms. Sue Ratliff advised that she was the past president of the Humane Society from 2005-2015. She further discussed some of her accomplishments during her tenure. Ms. Ratliff asked that when changes are discussed that it is considered whether or not those changes are actually enforceable. Ms. Ratliff discussed the importance of spay/neuter and the affordability of that service. Ms. Ratliff encouraged higher fines for animal related violations.

B. Ben Hau (4511 Gwen Hartis Ct., Monroe NC). Mr. Hau is current board chair of the Humane Society of Union County. Mr. Hau thanked all in attendance for their participation. Mr. Hau is advocating for funding and resources to assist in spay/neuter and education.

Item No. 2. Animal Registration Follow-up/Information. Chair Dotson advised that Committee Members Bando and Yanacsek are not present and this item may be re-visited. Chair Dotson advised that the prioritization of goals is very important and needs to be discussed and asked if any members present have a list of priorities. Chair Dotson advised that he reached out to City of Monroe IT department based on some of his questions/concerns related to an electronic registration program. This is a topic that continues to be under research for storage purposes, operation purposes, funding purposes, etc...

A. Committee Member Emma Sullivan. Committee Member Emma Sullivan advised that she believed that spay/neuter and education were both high priorities.

B. Chairman David Dotson. Chair Dotson posed a question to the committee members present, “give me three ways that we can reduce the number of animals, and in what ways can we encourage the public to do that?”

C. Committee Member Barbara Rooney. Make services easily available and make them affordable.

D. Chairman David Dotson. Chair Dotson discussed the possibility of inviting Lisa Strickland to the meeting to discuss the funding that the City provides to the County.

E. Officer Kendal Aycoth. Officer Aycoth asked if there was a way to tell how many of the pet owners receiving services through the spay/neuter clinic are actually residents of the City of Monroe and the county of Union. As to the Animal Registration follow-up issue, Officer Aycoth voices concerns about stray animals not being chipped and therefore no owner can be located for fines, etc. Officer Aycoth discussed issuing citations as a compliance tool, but the DA’s office does work with officers to assist in reducing or waiving fees if compliance is achieved.

F. Laura Sur (120 Aspire Circle, Wingate, NC). Ms. Sur stated that address she believed that 90% of persons using the clinic are in Union County. Ms. Sur also advised that there is no money received from the City, but they do get grants from the County and are always working to get more grants.

G. Committee Member Barbara Rooney. Discussed the possibility of working with Union County Shelter to have a microchip option available at vaccine clinics. Various persons spoke up to say that it would be great, but a Veterinarian would be required to perform the surgery.

H. Chair David Dotson. Chair Dotson questioned Ms. Sur regarding the ability of other municipalities to read microchips in animals. Discussed the idea that although registration is still a discussion, but it sounds as if microchipping becoming more prevalent would be a good thing as well. Again discussed the idea of a joint vaccination and microchipping clinic and obtaining grants/funding for that idea.

Item No. 3. Bilingual Animal Welfare Literature. Chair Dotson stated that along with affordability and availability, the ability to have Spanish outreach is also a priority. Chair Dotson asked Animal Control Officer McSheehan to speak to that issue.

A. Officer Chase McSheehan. Officer McSheehan has advised that the Animal Control Division has an Animal Welfare presentation scheduled to be held at the Police Department on Saturday, July 13, 2024 from 10AM-12PM. They plan to cover City Ordinances, State Law, have Spanish literature available and hope to have a Spanish-speaking officer available to assist during the presentation.

B. Kimberly Williams (424 Lee Pierce Rd., Marshville, NC). Ms. Williams works with Carolina Street Cats and advised that she also has a great deal of Spanish language information available for distribution.

C. Chairman David Dotson. Chair Dotson discussed ideas of the possibility of partnering with public/ businesses, radio stations, etc... to assist in education. Chair Dotson acknowledged the existence of bi-lingual literature, but stated that dissemination is more of the issue.

D. Committee Member Emma Sullivan. Member Sullivan discussed the possibility of utilizing electronic sign boards, churches, businesses.

E. Chairman David Dotson. Chair Dotson discussed the possibility of “showcasing” animals at City events.

F. Joni Stevens (2221 Honeycutt Simpson Rd, Monroe, NC). Ms. Stevens discussed her concerns related to the sale of puppies in the Lowes and Tractor Supply parking lots. Ms. Stevens asked if a permit was required and advised that she has asked if the store employees will make the sellers leave.

G. Laura Sur (120 Aspire Circle, Wingate, NC). Ms. Sur inquired as to whether or not a breeding licensure requirement is a possibility and if no license is in place, there is a fee/fine attached.

Item No. 4. Field Trip Discussion.

A. Committee Member Emma Sullivan. Committee Member Emma Sullivan advised that she believed that visiting the Union County Animal Shelter would be beneficial for the committee members.

B. Chair David Dotson. Chair Dotson agreed that this was a good idea and that he would ask if this could be facilitated. Chair Dotson further advised that he will continue to check into City Works and see if that is a feasible option for registration.

C. Laura Sur (120 Aspire Circle Wingate. Ms. Sur advised that she is aware of a volunteer that may be willing to create a resource list.

There being no further business, Committee Chair David Dotson moved to adjourn the Animal Welfare Committee Special Meeting of May 7, 2024 at 7:23 p.m. Member Rooney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with the following votes:

AYES: Members Sullivan, Rooney and Chair Dotson
NAYS: None

Attest:

David Dotson, Chair

Angie Rangolan, Clerk

CITY OF MONROE
ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING
June 4, 2024
MINUTES

The Animal Welfare Committee of the City of Monroe, North Carolina, met in Regular Session in the City Hall Council Chambers located at 300 West Crowell Street in Monroe, North Carolina at 6:00 p.m. on June 4, 2024 with Chair David Dotson presiding.

Present: Chair David Dotson, Member Maria Bando, Member Barbara Rooney, Member Emma Sullivan, Member Robert Yanacek and Clerk Angie Rangolan.

Absent: None.

Visitors: and others.

Chair Dotson called the Animal Welfare Committee Regular Meeting of June 4, 2024 to order at 6:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

Item No. 1. Public Comment Period. Chair Dotson recognized individuals to speak during the Public Comment Period.

A. Katherine Daiken (7205 Medlin Rd., Monroe NC). Ms. Katherine Daiken advised that she was concerned with sales of puppies in various parking lots within the City of Monroe. Ms. Dakin requests that the City create and pass an Ordinance to address this issue.

B. Teresa Eaman (513 Everette St., Monroe NC). Ms. Eaman discussed the “face of animals that are suffering in the City of Monroe. Ms. Eaman talked about a specific dog that she recently found and took to a local rescue. Ms. Eaman discussed her inability to enjoy her home due to the crying of dogs that are tethered in surrounding yards. Ms. Eaman also mentioned that the state of Louisiana made it illegal to sell dogs in the state in 2018.

C. Committee Member Emma Sullivan. Committee Member Sullivan advised that she lived in Forsyth County previously and they had a publication called “Happy Tails” and that Buncombe County previously printed “Critter Magazine.” Member Sullivan advised that she believed this was a good idea for getting information about animal welfare out to the public. Member Sullivan was not able to advise if the two publications were actively being printed and distributed, the publisher or how the publications were funded. She was holding a 2018 publication.

D. Teresa Eaman (513 Everette St., Monroe NC). Ms. Eaman advised that she believed that getting publications into the local schools was a good idea to get information about animal welfare out to the public.

E. Katherine Daiken (7205 Medlin Rd., Monroe NC). Ms. Daiken agreed that getting the local schools to distribute information would be helpful.

F. Ben Hau (4511 Gwen Hartis Ct., Monroe NC). Mr. Hau is the current president of the Humane Society and discussed how to get information out about the Animal Welfare Committee meetings and boosting attendance at the same.

G. Chairman David Dotson. Chair Dotson explained/discussed guidelines for attendance and participation in the Animal Welfare Committee meetings.

H. Katherine Daiken (7205 Medlin Rd., Monroe NC). Ms. Daiken advised that she is aware of cities that have anonymous drop boxes for strays and surrenders. Ms. Daiken did not expand or indicate the specific location(s).

Item No. 2. Discussion of how to amend the tethering ordinance. Chair Dotson advised the City of Monroe abides by Ordinance Chapter 91 and invites the committee members to discuss tethering and proposals to amend the current ordinance. Chair Dotson reads the tethering description/requirements per the current ordinance and asked Animal Control Officers Aycoth and McSheehan to discuss tethering complaints they encounter.

A. Animal Control Officer C. McSheehan. Officer McSheehan clarifies that tethering violations are civil fines according to the ordinance. Officer McSheehan discussed some issues with tethering as it relates to animal welfare of dogs.

B. Kimberly Williams (424 Lee Pierce Rd., Marshville, NC). Ms. Williams asked how long dogs can be tethered and specifically stated that she believed that a tethering time limit would be helpful in an ordinance amendment. Ms. Williams advised she was not a fan of just changing the tethering rules to include a pulley system without a time limit amendment.

C. Committee Member Robert Yanacsek. Committee Member Robert Yanacsek advised that he was aware that Winston Salem recently enacted similar rules/changes to their tethering ordinance.

D. Committee Member Emma Sullivan. Committee Member Emma Sullivan advised that she was aware that Lincoln County recently enacted some new ordinances regarding tethering animals and animal welfare in general.

E. Committee Member Robert Yanacsek. Committee Member Robert Yanacsek inquired as to how reasonable would it be to enact rules in UDO to assist with the tethering issue.

F. Chairman David Dotson. Chairman David Dotson advised that there is not a civil penalty in the UDO.

G. Committee Member Robert Yanacsek. Committee Member Robert Yanacsek suggested that rules related to tethering be written into City code as it relates to lot size.

H. Chairman David Dotson. Chairman David Dotson advised that some of the proposed additions/edits as it relates to time limits pose enforcement issues.

I. Committee Member Robert Yanacsek. Committee Member Robert Yanacsek stated that Forsyth County has it written in their ordinance that there is no time limit when inside a fenced yard.

J. Chairman David Dotson. Chairman David Dotson discussed further the issue of placing a time limit on tethering and further clarification of tethering (affixed item, etc...).

K. Animal Control Sergeant J. Harris. Sergeant Harris clarified that Animal Control Officers do not like tethering and agree that some changes would be idea related to enforcement. He further stated that Animal Control Officers do currently and will continue to utilize common sense, training and experience related to time limits and enforcement of the same.

L. Chairman David Dotson. Chairman David Dotson made a Motion to seek further instruction on non-tethering in Monroe through the City Legal Department. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Emma Sullivan. All committee members were in favor with no opposition.

M. Chairman David Dotson. Chairman David Dotson inquired of the Animal Control Officers present as to generally how are calls about chickens in the City handled.

N. Animal Control Officer C. McSheehan. Officer McSheehan advised that there are a large number of calls, complaints and questions received regarding chickens in the city. He advised that chickens are considered containment animals; they are free range and must be in a coop, there are no limitations on the number of hens or roosters that a resident may own, but there is a restriction within the ordinance that states that the containment must be a certain number of feet from another residence.

O. Chairman David Dotson/Animal Control Officer C. McSheehan/Animal Control Officer Kendal Aycoth. Parties listed engaged in a discussion regarding what containment animals are, discussed that the ordinance states that chickens must be in a coop and are not allowed to be free range, discussed that the ordinance does not limit the number of chickens a resident can own (hens or roosters), but does indicate a specific number of feet a coop must be from another residence.

P. Animal Control Officer Kendal Aycoth. Officer Aycoth advised that chickens in the City are a big issue at this time. He does not agree with limiting ownership numbers or really changing the ordinance as it is based on the fact that no one will claim “free range” chickens and the problem then becomes an issue for the animal shelter and the “owner” can just go buy more chickens.

Q. Chairman David Dotson. Chairman David Dotson clarifies with Officer Aycoth that no limit language is needed in the ordinance related to chickens.

R. Animal Control Officer Kendal Aycoth. Officer Aycoth affirms the statement of Chairman David Dotson.

S. Chairman David Dotson. Chairman David Dotson reads Ordinance 92.21 Section 3 Dogs in Pens and asks for rebuttal from Animal Control Officers present.

T. Animal Control Officer Chase McSheehan. Officer McSheehan advises that 92.21 discusses dogs roaming freely and 91.24 discusses the number of dogs allowed per owner in the city limits. He further states that he can and he has written citations for violations of both of those ordinances.

U. Jennifer Loria (305 Maurice Street, Monroe, NC). Ms. Loria discussed whether or not indicating or clarifying altered dogs versus non-altered dogs when the ownership limit of two is enforced would be an option for ordinance language change.

V. Chairman David Dotson. Chairman David Dotson discussed and clarified that the sale of puppies in parking lots included the need for business owners to trespass persons selling puppies in order to keep them off the property.

W. Animal Control Sergeant Patrick Harris. Animal Control Sergeant Harris remarked that the potential unintended consequence of moving the sale of puppies out of parking lots could mean that the sales of puppies could increase online where it is harder to enforce.

X. Chairman David Dotson. Chairman David Dotson advised that with regard to the sale of puppies in parking lots, he will check with the City of Monroe Legal Department regarding the possibility of selling certain age, selling certain number (number limitation), etc... and whether or not that is a possibility in the ordinance language.

Y. Kimberly Williams (424 Lee Pierce Rd, Marshville, NC). Stated that according to social media standards, you are not supposed to be able to sale pets online.

Z. Committee Member Robert Yanacsek/Jennifer Loria (305 Maurice Street, Monroe, NC)/Animal Control Sergeant Patrick Harris/Katherine Daiken (7205 Medlin Rd, Monroe, NC). Committee Member Robert Yanacsek remarked that if the problem moves, then maybe that would encourage other locations to also enact measures to deter/control the issue. Ms. Loria stated that she believes that the issue is that the same people are selling puppies every weekend in local parking lots. Animal Control Sergeant Patrick Harris advised that the Animal Control Officers are working diligently to initially educate the people selling puppies in parking lots prior to enforcement and they've received cooperation from the vendors. He further advised that it is harder to obtain cooperation from the business owners to take action to request for the vendors to leave the property so that Trespassing enforcement can occur as a means to deter this action. Ms. Daiken remarked that the people selling puppies in parking lots are not from Monroe and further asked how to get information out to business owners regarding the fact that Monroe does not allow for the sale of puppies in parking lots inside the city limits.

There being no further business, Committee member Robert Yanacsek moved to adjourn the Animal Welfare Committee Meeting of June 4, 2024 at 7:03 p.m. Member Rooney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with the following votes:

AYES: Members Sullivan, Rooney, Bando, Yanacsek and Chair Dotson
NAYS: None

Attest:

David Dotson, Chair

Angie Rangolan, Clerk

CITY OF MONROE
ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING
July 2, 2024
MINUTES

The Animal Welfare Committee of the City of Monroe, North Carolina, met in Regular Session in the City Hall Council Chambers located at 300 West Crowell Street in Monroe, North Carolina at 6:00 p.m. on July 2, 2024 with Chair David Dotson presiding.

Present: Chair David Dotson, Member Maria Bando, Member Barbara Rooney, Member Emma Sullivan, and Clerk Angie Rangolan.

Absent: Member Robert Yanacek.

Visitors: and others.

Chair Dotson called the Animal Welfare Committee Regular Meeting of July 2, 2024 to order at 6:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

Item No. 1. Public Comment Period. Chair Dotson recognized individuals to speak during the Public Comment Period.

A. Kimberly Williams (424 Lee Pierce Rd., Marshville, NC). Ms. Williams advised that she spoke with Dr. Welch (mobile veterinarian) with regard to holding a mobile vaccine/microchip event. She stated that this would be a public paid event and she was in discussion with members of the Monroe Police Department staff regarding the event and obtaining assistance.

B. Committee Member Barbara Rooney. Committee Member Rooney requested that Ms. Williams take the weather into account while planning this event.

C. Committee Member Emma Sullivan. Committee Member Sullivan requested Ms. Williams to remember to add a note to bring all cats inside a carrier for the event.

D. Chairman David Dotson. Chairman David Dotson advised of future plans related to Finance Director, Lisa Strickland, to provide information/explanation on the legalities of spending tax dollars on events. He further advised that Assistant City Manager, Lisa Hollowell previously attended a meeting to speak to funds available through the state for spay/neuter efforts.

E. Katherine Daiken (7205 Medlin Rd., Monroe NC). Ms. Katherine Daiken provided information about the sale of puppies in local parking lots and information about heartworm positive dogs. Ms. Daiken further inquired as to why the Animal Control Services Lieutenant was not attending the Animal Welfare Meetings. Ms. Daiken advised that she has e-mailed several people regarding a dog fighting ring and was told that Monroe Police Department did not like her e-mails. Ms. Daiken further questioned as to how she can obtain calls for service and how to find out if Rabies citations were issued related to specific calls for service.

F. Chairman David Dotson. Chairman David Dotson explained to Ms. Daiken that other staff members may or may not be able to attend meetings based on their schedules, but that other supervisors were present. Chair Dotson advised that he could not speak to how Monroe Police Department felt about her e-mails or if they were even aware of her e-mails. Chair Dotson explained how to obtain call for service information.

G. Teresa Eaman (513 Everette St., Monroe NC). Ms. Eaman discussed the rabies vaccination requirement has long been a tool for enforcement and that Union County does not utilize this tool enough. Ms. Eaman inquired as to how to address “dogs hidden on properties in plain sight.” Specifically noting that multiple dogs live on a property across the street from her home and advised that she can provide pictures and audio of this property and has done so at the City Council Meetings.

H. Committee Member Emma Sullivan. Committee Member Sullivan inquired as to whether or not anything could be done or enforcement action taken with pictures or audio proof.

I. Chairman David Dotson. Chairman David Dotson explained the legal expectation of privacy on property and curtilage of property. Chair Dotson advised that the committee was moving on to agenda item number two.

Item No. 2. Discussion of how to amend the tethering ordinance. Chairman David Dotson began the discussion about the conversation with City Legal regarding modification of the tethering ordinance (time limits, defining a tether, etc...).

Option 1: remove tethering option except under two specific situations; if owner is outside with the dog; when a citizen/good Samaritan tethers a dog while reporting/locating owner.

Option 2: remove option to tether except under certain conditions.

A. Multiple unnamed attendees. Multiple unnamed attendees participated in open discussion and commenting on the options explained by Chairman David Dotson and Animal Control Officers were asked how to enforce the “stray hold” by Good Samaritan (72 hour hold limit), and for their opinion on the available options explained.

B. Katherine Daiken (7205 Medlin Rd, Monroe, NC). Ms. Daiken inquired as to how officers could enforce the tethering ordinance if animals were not visible from the street.

C. Chairman David Dotson. Chairman David Dotson explained the legal expectation of privacy on property and curtilage of property.

D. Laura Sur (120 Aspire Circle, Wingate, NC) and multiple attendees. Ms. Sur inquired what happens if complaint comes in about noise made by animal and wanted to know if officers could then go onto property. Other attendees made comments about calling in welfare checks on animals.

E. Animal Control Sergeant Patrick Harris. Sergeant Harris advised that a noise complaint does not change the expectation of privacy on property and curtilage of property.

F. Chairman David Dotson. Chairman David Dotson called for a vote on the ordinance change. Chairman Dotson made a motion to amend Ordinance 91.2.1 and that motion was seconded by Committee member Barbara Rooney. All committee members were in favor with no opposition.

Item No. 3. Discussion of requiring permits to sell puppies in City limits. Chairman David Dotson discussed the creation of an ordinance with restrictions or attempt to copy information from Colorado Springs. Chair Dotson further discussed how ordinances through the state regulate the sale of animals. Chair Dotson asked the committee members to research North Carolina General Statutes regarding the sale of animals along with if and how the City could benefit from instituting a local ordinance.

There being no further business, Committee member Barbara Rooney moved to adjourn the Animal Welfare Committee Meeting of July 2, 2024 at 7:02 p.m. Member Bando seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with the following votes:

AYES: Members Sullivan, Rooney, Bando, and Chair Dotson
NAYS: None

Attest:

David Dotson, Chair

Angie Rangolan, Clerk

CITY OF MONROE
ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING
August 6, 2024
MINUTES

The Animal Welfare Committee of the City of Monroe, North Carolina, met in Regular Session in the City Hall Council Chambers located at 300 West Crowell Street in Monroe, North Carolina at 6:00 p.m. on August 6, 2024 with Chair David Dotson presiding.

Present: Chair David Dotson, Member Maria Bando, Member Barbara Rooney, Member Robert Yanacek, and Clerk Angie Rangolan.

Absent: Member Emma Sullivan.

Visitors: and others.

Chair Dotson called the Animal Welfare Committee Regular Meeting of August 6, 2024 to order at 6:17 p.m. A quorum was present.

Item No. 1. Public Comment Period. Chair Dotson recognized individuals to speak during the Public Comment Period.

A. Joni Stevens (221 Honeycutt Simpson Rd, Monroe, NC). Ms. Stevens wished to discuss chaining of dogs within the City of Monroe and provide pictures of dogs she's encountered that are chained. Expressed her concern with this practice.

B. Katherine Daiken (7205 Medlin Rd., Monroe NC). Ms. Katherine Daiken requested that hang tags be made to place on doors and fences of dog owners who may not be home at the time that Animal Control Officers are present.

Item No. 2. Lisa Hollowell, Assistant City Manager, to discuss state funding program for low cost spay and neuter efforts. Chairman David Dotson introduced this agenda item and Ms. Hollowell. Assistant City Manager Hollowell provided information on state provided funding and state funding programming options available that the City of Monroe could apply for related to spay and neuter efforts. The general idea of the discussion was that based on the economic rating of Union County, the only state funding option available would be a reimbursement option that is not guaranteed to refund any funds paid by the municipality.

A. Committee Member Robert Yanacek. Committee Member Yanacek inquired as to the degree of difficulty of the application process for this option. Member Yanacek further inquired for clarification purposes that the option was indeed a reimbursement program with no guarantee of repayment.

B. Chairman David Dotson. Chairman David Dotson inquired as to whether or not it would be more beneficial to form a private partnership with area service providers in efforts to lower the cost of spaying and/or neutering animals. Chair Dotson further expressed his concern about this being a non-guaranteed reimbursement program and further discussed the implications of

providing upfront funding. Chair Dotson then engaged in a conversation with Assistant City Manager Lisa Hollowell on the topic of creating a budget line item to allow for qualifying non-profits to meet predefined qualifications in order to receive City of Monroe funds for this specific effort.

C. Committee Member Barbara Rooney. Committee Member Barbara Rooney also engaged in the discussion between Assistant City Manager Lisa Hollowell and Committee Chairman David Dotson. Member Rooney reminded Dotson to inquire as to the alternate possibility of creating a City of Monroe Animal Shelter.

D. Chairman David Dotson. Chairman David Dotson made the inquiry regarding the possibility of creating a City of Monroe Animal Shelter to Assistant City Manager Lisa Hollowell. The two discussed the inquiry, providing information related to the hurdles that would have to be overcome in order for this option to become a reality. The specific hurdles discussed were land, funding, a building, proper licensing and staffing among other topics.

Item No. 3. Continued discussion of creation of ordinance and restrictions/requirements to sell puppies in City limits.

A. Chairman David Dotson/City of Monroe Staff Attorney Terry Sholar/Committee Member Robert Yanascek/Officer K. Aycoth/Sergeant J. Harris. Chair Dotson discussed the creation of an ordinance with restrictions. Chair Dotson asked City of Monroe Staff Attorney, Terry Sholar if he would participate in the discussion on the topic. Attorney Sholar, Chair Dotson, Member Yanascek, Animal Control Officer K. Aycoth and Sergeant J. Harris all participate in open discussion about this topic. Further explanation with regard to how the state mandates the sale of puppies versus how an ordinance would assist in these efforts was discussed. Officer Aycoth and Sergeant Harris discuss their encounters with vendors in local parking lots and their attempts to educate them before taking further action, but did state that they would prefer a criminal remedy to a civil fine with any ordinance change. Attorney Terry Sholar echoed the concerns of the officers and all parties agreed that the better option for any change would include criminal ramifications.

B. Teresa Eaman (513 Everette St., Monroe NC). Ms. Eaman stated that she agrees with the idea of an ordinance with criminal ramifications because she believes it would slow down the amount of puppies that would end up on chains later.

C. Chairman David Dotson. Chairman David Dotson declared that an Ordinance is the best direction and committee members present verbally agree.

D. Staff Attorney Terry Sholar. Staff Attorney Terry Sholar advised that he will begin the drafting process.

E. Katherine Daiken (7205 Medlin Rd, Monroe, NC). Ms. Daiken states that she agrees that an ordinance will help.

F. Joni Stevens (2221 Honeycutt Simpson Rd, Monroe, NC). Ms. Stevens commented that she has seen dogs being given away at Lowe's in Monroe.

G. Chairman David Dotson. Chairman David Dotson inquired of Staff Attorney Terry Sholar to discuss current edits to the tethering ordinance and the parties had a brief discussion on this topic.

There being no further business, Committee Chairman David Dotson moved to adjourn the Animal Welfare Committee Meeting of August 6, 2024 at 6:55 p.m. Member Robert Yanascek seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with the following votes:

AYES: Members Rooney, Bando, Yanascek and Chair Dotson
NAYS: None

Attest:

David Dotson, Chair

Angie Rangolan, Clerk

CITY OF MONROE
ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING
September 5, 2024
MINUTES

The Animal Welfare Committee of the City of Monroe, North Carolina, met in Regular Session in the City Hall Council Chambers located at 300 West Crowell Street in Monroe, North Carolina at 6:00 p.m. on September 5, 2024 with Chair David Dotson presiding.

Present: Chair David Dotson, Member Maria Bando, Member Barbara Rooney, Emma Sullivan, Member Robert Yanacsek, and Clerk Alice Williams.

Absent: None.

Visitors: and others.

Chair Dotson called the Animal Welfare Committee Regular Meeting of September 5, 2024 to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

Item No. 1. Public Comment Period. Chair Dotson recognized individuals to speak during the Public Comment Period.

A. Katherine Daiken (7205 Medlin Rd., Monroe NC). Ms. Katherine Daiken spoke about the fact that she did not get notification of the meeting being moved. She also indicated that she believed there was a FaceBook page for this committee.

B. Committee Member Robert Yanacsek. Member Yanacsek responded to Ms. Katherine Daiken to advise that he normally posts information on his page, but was unable to do so because he was involved in other meetings, which was also the reason for the rescheduling of the Animal Welfare Committee Meeting.

C. Laura Sur (120 Aspire Circle, Wingate, NC). Ms. Sur commented that nothing has changed, so she has nothing else to talk about.

Item No. 2. Animal Control ordinance amendment. Chairman David Dotson introduced this agenda item and advised that City of Monroe Staff Attorney Terry Sholar would be speaking with regard to the ordinance amendment on the sale of puppies.

A. City of Monroe Staff Attorney Terry Sholar. Attorney Sholar advised that he provided a draft of ordinance edits to the committee and wanted to explain the same. Attorney Sholar advised that he had the opportunity to speak with the Animal Control Officers and the first issue to discuss was the issue of tethering. The edit with regard to tethering is that the dog be in the visual sight of the owner at all times, when on a tether outside. Additionally, item M on the second page is related to a person finding a stray animal and it gives them the authority to tether the animal for 72 hours to attempt to contact the owner or animal control, it does provide for some leeway there. The next item for edit/amendment relates to 91.26 Dangerous Dog section. Attorney Sholar advised that in discussion with the Animal Control Officers, there is some dangerous dog enforcement actions

that are taking place and concerns regarding the appeals section. Specifically, if the dog is deemed to be a dangerous dog by Animal Control, the owner has the right by law to appeal that decision/determination. Currently as the ordinance reads, the appeal is made to the Board of Adjustments. There are some questions with regard to have a Board of Adjustments in the future, so the amendment made was to take out the Board of Adjustments appeal and the new process will be that any appeal will be made to a three (3)-member board appointed by the City Manager at the time. This board can be elected officials, employees, citizens-at-large, etc... the board appointees will be up to the discretion of the City Manager. But the board will be appointed specifically to hear the appeal of the dangerous dog determination. These changes were made to address the concerns regarding dangerous dogs. Section three (3) has to do with the sale of dogs and cats, upon recommendation of the committee, amendments have been made to makes it basically unlawful to offer, sale, give-away or whatever any dog, puppy, cat or kitten in or on a public street, parking lot, side of the road, flea market, yard sales, pretty much anything, except on your private property, but pretty much anywhere in Monroe. Additionally, this is city-wide and at any time. The exception in this section has to do with shelters, rescues organizations, dealers and pet shops. All those are required to be licensed by the Department of Agriculture and are exempt. (Attendee, Laura Sur interjected at this time regarding a clause about having less than nine (9) dogs. Attorney Sholar clarified this point with Ms. Sur). The next revision has to do with enforcement, state law basically says that cities, municipalities and counties cannot have enforcement by both civil and criminal procedures, you have to elect one or the other. Our current ordinance had both, so it's been modified to reflect criminal procedure enforcement going forward. Any violation of any aspect of the animal control ordinance going forward will be subject to a class 3 misdemeanor penalty. The statutes allow the City Council to set the penalty for these violations, so included in the amendments is that a first conviction will be a \$50 fine, second conviction will be a \$250 fine and a third conviction will be a \$500 fine. These fine amounts are subject to debate; these are just numbers that Attorney Sholar used to provide explanation of the amendments. Also specified in the amendment is that the second and third conviction that there be mandatory seizure and disposal of the animal. The way this will work is that if an officer seizes and animal, it will be placed in the animal shelter and be held pending the court case. The Court will then dispose of the animal in whatever manner it deems appropriate as a part of the sentencing phase of the criminal conviction process. (At this time, Chair Dotson interjects to clarify whether or not the Court could deem it appropriate to release the animal to the shelter or whether or not the animal would automatically be disposed of. Attorney Sholar clarified that this would be up to the Court to determine what would be done with the animal.) Attorney Sholar went on to discuss an additional provision stating that at the Animal Controls Officers discretion, if they feel that the animal will be abused or is a danger to the public, they can seize the dog and hold it pending the criminal process and allow the Court to determine the disposition of the animal as a part of the criminal court procedure/process. These amendments provide a little bit more authority to allow the Animal Control Officers to handle the situations when they arise. This summary provides amendments in the ordinance that were recommended and necessary to allow for strengthening enforcement measures. Attorney Sholar asked for any questions at this time.

B. Chairman David Dotson. Chairman David Dotson thanked Staff Attorney Sholar for his work and time spent on these amendments.

C. City of Monroe Staff Attorney Terry Sholar. Attorney Sholar advised that he believes that these amendment provide the opportunity to the Officers to get the situation under control and the

Courts the opportunity to figure out the best disposition of the animal in cases where a dangerous animal is involved or abuse of an animal is involved. Attorney Sholar further made remarks to thank the Animal Control Officers for their work and for working with him to figure out some of the information and amendments needed.

D. Committee Member Robert Yanacsek. Member Yanacsek inquired as to the timeline of when this proposal may go before City Council.

E. City of Monroe Staff Attorney Terry Sholar. Attorney Sholar advised that he was hopeful that it would go before Council in October, but possibly November.

F. Chairman David Dotson. Chairman David Dotson made the inquiry to the Animal Control Officers present regarding whether or not there would be a grace period for the institution of enforcement action. Chair Dotson further clarified that he understood there would be no grace period for abuse allegations, but specifically related to tethering amendments, would there be anything that we give a grace period for enforcement. He would prefer education prior to enforcement on this specific topic.

G. Sergeant Patrick Harris. Sergeant Harris agreed that a grace period for education before enforcement would absolutely be the best option. Further stated that with the discretion it would allow for Animal Control Officers to document and work towards compliance.

H. Committee Member Emma Sullivan. Member Sullivan wanted to clarify that the mandatory seizure and disposal is not always a non-live outcome and the animal could potentially be adopted out. Member Sullivan stated that the word disposal indicates the dog would be put to sleep.

I. Sergeant Patrick Harris and Animal Control Officer Kendal Aycoth. Both Sergeant Harris and AC Officer Aycoth clarified that disposal is a legal term as it relates to property and that an animal is considered property. AC Officer Aycoth further goes on to explain that anytime an animal is seized it is up to the Court to determine what happens to the animal. The Monroe Police Department does not care for the animal once it is seized, it is turned over to the Union County Animal Shelter. The UC Animal Shelter will determine the dogs temperament and they will generally attempt to contact rescues, etc... the temperament of the dog is taken into consideration and that information is provided to the Court during the process. Sergeant Harris further clarified that this option only comes into play on the second violation with a repeat offender.

Committee Member Robert Yanacsek made the motion to recommend to approve the ordinance amendments. Member Maria Bando seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with the following votes:

AYES: Members Bando, Sullivan, Rooney, Yanacsek and Chair Dotson
NAYS: None

J. Chairman David Dotson. Chairman David Dotson stated that going forward, the committee needs to figure going forward where the focus needs to be. Specifically, how we can as a city put money or efforts towards reducing the number of stray dogs (animals) in the city. Poses the idea to the committee to communicate with each other to see where we can get the “most bang for our

buck” while making this a City of Monroe specific effort, whether it be reaching out to non-profits or other options.

K. Laura Sur (120 Aspire Circle, Wingate, NC). Ms. Sur commented that she would like to clarify a question regarding puppy sales. She stated that the majority of rescues do not have a Department of Agriculture License because if you do not have more than nine (9) dogs, and stated that the Humane Society does not have the license.

L. Chairman David Dotson. Chairman David Dotson stated that he believed that Attorney Sholar was indicating that this applied to breeders.

M. Animal Control Officer Kendal Aycoth. Talking about private property that belongs to someone other than the person making the sell.

N. Laura Sur (120 Aspire Circle, Wingate, NC). Ms. Sur questioned about PetSmart adoption events?

O. Animal Control Officer Kendal Aycoth & Sergeant Patrick Harris. Officer Aycoth stated that the sale of puppies in the PetSmart parking lot is prohibited. Sergeant Harris advised/clarified that as it pertains to an adoption event, if you are acting in conjunction with PetSmart, then you are considered PetSmart and the animals are not being sold, they are being adopted.

P. Chairman David Dotson. Chair Dotson read a portion of the ordinance that states that this section shall not apply to duly licensed animal shelters, rescue organizations, dealers or pet shops licensed pursuant to Chapter 19A of North Carolina General Statutes. Chair Dotson then inquires to Ms. Sur as to whether or not she or her organization, The Humane Society, are a rescue organization?

M. Sergeant Patrick Harris. Sergeant Harris clarified the reasoning for putting the word licensed in the amendments to the ordinance. Sgt. Harris advised that this stops people from applying for a 501 C3 and claiming they are a rescue. So this allows for AC Officers to hold them accountable and to make it more difficult to exploit this loophole. Also further clarified that while working with PetSmart during adoption events, The Humane Society would fall under the PetSmart permit.

N. Open conversation/discussion involving Member Yanascek, Laura Sur, Kimberly Williams and Sergeant Patrick Harris and Joni Stevens and Aycoth. Conversation consists of questions regarding the need for the word “licensed” within the amendments. Chair Dotson wrapped up the discussion by stating that he would follow-up with Staff Attorney Sholar to discuss the questions/concerns raised, he further stated that folks should keep in mind that officers have discretion in the enforcement action taken.

O. Ben Hau (4511 Gwen Hartis Ct., Monroe NC). Mr. Hau stated the purpose of the permit through the Veterinary Division of the NC Department of Agriculture. He stated that the permit does pertain to the number of animals, but further stated it would really only pertain to organizations that house animals and house more than nine (9) animals. At the point when you house more than nine (9) animals you are considered a shelter and do have to be licensed as a shelter. He stated that most of the non-profits do not have housing facilities and therefore are not

going to have this permit, specifically The Humane Society only has four dog runs and do not meet the licensing threshold or need the permit from the state.

P. Chairman David Dotson. Inquired as to whether or not The Humane Society could reach out to Union County and ask them to partner with them to hold adoption events

Q. Kimberly Williams (424 Lee Pierce Rd., Marshville, NC). Ms. Williams stated that it appears that City and County Governments do not like positioning themselves real cozy to anyone. She further stated that she understood that, but stated she would not say anything further about that.

R. Chairman David Dotson. Chair Dotson discussed his personal experience with CMPD partnering with different non-profit groups to work closely with them related to mental health causes, clothing needs, etc... Chair Dotson suggested compiling a list of non-profits that could be used as partners for this cause.

S. Committee Member Barbara Rooney. Member Rooney stated that Iredell County Animal Shelter listed on FaceBook that they put up their own microchip scanning station right outside their facility that is a self-service option. She was unable to advise what information was available to be provided upon scanning, but stated it was a good idea.

T. Jennifer Loria (305 Maurice Street, Monroe, NC). Ms. Loria asked where the City of Monroe could place one of these scanners.

U. Sergeant Patrick Harris. Sergeant Harris stated that the Union County Sheriff's Office runs the shelter and that would be a question for them.

V. Kimberly Williams (424 Lee Pierce Rd., Marshville, NC). Ms. Williams stated that this item would be useful in the Indian Trail, Brandon Oaks, Lake Park area.

W. Chairman David Dotson. Chair Dotson stated that although he believed this would be a great idea, it would be the option of the Union County Sheriff's Office to place this type of equipment. Additionally, a drawback of the placement of this type of equipment would be if a person located a dog and it was chipped and belonged to someone else and although they have the information, they chose not to return the animal to the owner.

X. Kimberly Williams (424 Lee Pierce Rd., Marshville, NC). Ms. Williams inquired whether or not it was written in the ordinance that if a stray is located, how to go about reporting it or returning the animal. Further states that Charlotte lists in their ordinance that there is a reporting process that you must follow.

Y. Chairman David Dotson/Sergeant Patrick Harris/Animal Control Officer Kendal Aycoth. Chair Dotson confirmed that the ordinance states you can tether a stray for up to 72 hours. Sergeant Harris states that the ordinance states you are to report a stray to an Animal Control Officer within 72 hours. Animal Control Officer Aycoth further states that you must keep in mind that you are talking about the wanton disregard of whether or not you follow the ordinance. An officer must

prove that you know/knew about the ordinance and the person can simply state that they didn't know they were doing something wrong.

There being no further business, Committee Member Barbara Rooney moved to adjourn the Animal Welfare Committee Meeting of August 6, 2024 at 6:39 p.m. Member Robert Yanascek seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with the following votes:

AYES: Members Rooney, Bando, Sullivan, Yanascek and Chair Dotson
NAYS: None

Attest:

David Dotson, Chair

Angie Rangolan, Clerk

CITY OF MONROE
ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING
October 1, 2024
MINUTES

The Animal Welfare Committee of the City of Monroe, North Carolina, met in Regular Session in the City Hall Council Chambers located at 300 West Crowell Street in Monroe, North Carolina at 6:00 p.m. on October 1, 2024 with Chair David Dotson presiding.

Present: Chair David Dotson, Member Barbara Rooney, Member Emma Sullivan and Clerk Angie Rangolan.

Absent: Member Maria Bando, Member Robert Yanacsek.

Visitors: and others.

Chair Dotson called the Animal Welfare Committee Regular Meeting of October 1, 2024 to order at 6:03 p.m. A quorum was not present.

Chair Dotson advised that due to a quorum not present, he would allow for agenda item number three (3) "Discussion regarding funding options for non-profits within the City of Monroe," to be moved to the top of the agenda. This presentation by Teresa Campo, City of Monroe Community Development Manager, and this portion of the meeting would be held for informational purposes only until a quorum was present.

Item No. 3. Discussion regarding funding options for non-profits within the City of Monroe.

Ms. Teresa Campo discussed information and options available through the City of Monroe with regard to the availability of funding for non-profit groups. Ms. Campo discussed the various opportunities for non-profits to apply, the application process and provided an overview of applicant criteria. Ms. Campo did take multiple questions during her presentation from various attendees with regard to clarification of specific criteria for the application process.

A quorum was present at 6:13 p.m. with the arrival of Member Emma Sullivan. Chairman David Dotson acknowledged that a quorum was present and made the inquiry to attendees as to whether or not anyone would like to participate in the public comment period.

Item No. 1. Public Comment Period. Chair Dotson recognized individuals to speak during the Public Comment Period.

A. Jennifer Loria (305 Maurice Street, Monroe, NC). Ms. Loria, as a member of Carolina Street Cats spoke related to the growth of the City of Monroe and how the increase in stray animals affects the health of and creates a nuisance for residents. Ms. Loria discussed TNR (Trap and Release) efforts of Carolina Street Cats and the need for government funds to assist in spay and neuter programming as a part of their goal to reduce the number of stray animals within the City of Monroe.

B. Dana Domrungchai (1417 Langdon Terrace Drive, Indian Trail, NC). Ms. Domrungchai, as the Vice President of Carolina Street Cats discussed the need for government funding, specifically City of Monroe, to assist in spay and neuter programming as a part of their goal to reduce the number of stray animals within the City of Monroe.

C. Michelle Ammons (4728 Calvert Court, Marshville, NC). Ms. Ammons discussed and explained how TNR (Trap and Release) works and how these actions help to reduce the number of stray cats. Ms. Ammons discussed how difficult it is to trap cats, how costly it is have them spayed and how once these two tasks are completed, the cats are released back into the community.

D. Kimberly Williams (424 Lee Pierce Rd, Marshville, NC). Ms. Williams, as a member of Carolina Street Cats spoke related to TNR (Trap and Release) efforts of Carolina Street Cats and the need for government funds to assist in spay and neuter programming as a part of their goal to reduce the number of stray animals within the City of Monroe.

Item No. 2. How to reduce the number of stray animals within the City of Monroe. Chair Dotson introduced agenda item number two (2). An open discussion was had between Chair Dotson and Member Emma Sullivan as she inquired as to how the City can assist in getting spay and neuter information out to the public. Chair Dotson advised that he felt it a better option to think about this agenda item as a committee and come back with some discussion points at a later meeting with all members present.

There being no further business, Committee Chairman David Dotson moved to adjourn the Animal Welfare Committee Meeting of October 1, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Member Emma Sullivan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with the following votes:

AYES: Members Sullivan, Rooney and Chair Dotson
NAYS: None

Attest:

David Dotson, Chair

Angie Rangolan, Clerk

CITY OF MONROE
ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING
December 3, 2024
MINUTES

The Animal Welfare Committee of the City of Monroe, North Carolina, met in Regular Session in the City Hall Council Chambers located at 300 West Crowell Street in Monroe, North Carolina at 6:00 p.m. on December 3, 2024 with Chair David Dotson presiding.

Present: Chair David Dotson, Member Maria Bando, Member Barbara Rooney, Member Emma Sullivan, Member Robert Yanacek and Clerk Angie Rangolan.

Absent: None.

Visitors: Mayor Robert Burns and others.

Chair Dotson called the Animal Welfare Committee Regular Meeting of December 3, 2024 to order at 6:03 p.m. A quorum was present.

Item No. 1. Public Comment Period. Chair Dotson recognized individuals to speak during the Public Comment Period.

A. Monroe Police Department Sergeant Patrick Harris. Sergeant Harris introduced Lieutenant C. Renee Hower as the new lieutenant over the Animal Control Division. Sergeant Harris discussed efforts by the Animal Control Officers with regard to the tethering ordinance. He explained that the efforts of the Animal Control Officers was to first educate the public on this matter. Sergeant Harris requested patience and grace from the public and wanted to ensure that he and his staff were working towards compliance through education prior to enforcement.

B. Monroe Police Department Lieutenant C. Renee Hower. Lieutenant Hower introduced herself and provided some background on her experience. Lieutenant Hower expressed that she was looking forward to learning all that she could about the Community Services Division and specifically the Animal Control section. She encouraged the attendees to talk with the Animal Control Officers and reach out to them if they can be of assistance.

C. Katherine Daiken (7205 Medlin Rd., Monroe, NC). Ms. Daiken expressed her appreciation to Mayor Burns and Mayor Pro Tem Dotson for the creation and continuance of the Animal Welfare Committee. Ms. Diaken inquired as to how she could obtain a copy of the written changes to the tethering ordinance.

Item No. 2. Discussion regarding funding options for non-profits within the City of Monroe. Chair Dotson introduced the agenda item and inquired as to whether or not anyone in attendance was able to attend the non-profit funding seminar that was put on by Teresa Campo? Multiple attendees (Kimberly Williams, Jennifer Loria, and Laura Sur) confirmed through open discussion that they did not attend due to the fact that the criteria for application (discussed in the previous Animal Welfare Committee Meeting) required did not fall within their capability. Chair Dotson confirmed that no one attended and explained that he is also in discussion with City of Monroe

Finance Director Lisa Strickland, and is working to find out if there is a possibility of or opportunity for the City of Monroe to set aside funding for spay and neuter efforts. If so, how can this be accomplished? Laura Sur (120 Aspire Circle, Wingate, NC) interjected at this time and engaged in a discussion with Chair Dotson. Ms. Sur conveyed that there was a need for outside funding and their continues to be a need.

Item No. 3. Discussion regarding publicizing spay/neuter efforts within the City of Monroe.

Chair Dotson introduced the item and began to discuss options for how to publicize spay and neuter efforts within the City of Monroe.

A. Jennifer Loria (305 Maurice Street, Monroe, NC). Ms. Loria, as a member of Carolina Street Cats expressed the need for government funds to assist in spay and neuter programming as a part of their goal to reduce the number of stray animals within the City of Monroe.

Item No. 4. Discussion of future goals or projects. Chair Dotson introduced this agenda item and began to discuss the goals of the committee: 1) Change ordinances, and 2) Lower the number of stray animals within the City of Monroe. Chair Dotson expressed that he and the other committee members have worked to accomplish both tasks in the time the Animal Welfare Committee was created. Chair Dotson then asks for the attendees to express and explain their goals in order to help achieve them and create the needed change.

A. Committee Member Robert Yanascek. Committee Member Yanascek discussed common goals for cats and dogs alike. Specifically the need to have both spayed and/or neutered equally in order to reduce the overall number of stray animals within the City of Monroe.

B. Animal Control Officer Kendal Aycoth. Officer Aycoth referred to previous questions about how to publicize information about spay and neuter efforts. He stated that there are multiple ways that he and his co-workers currently accomplish this task and further stated that education of the public is the biggest hurdle facing animal welfare.

C. City of Monroe Mayor Robert Burns. Mayor Burns discussed options and events held in the City and the ability for groups to attend and participate. He explained that there are ways to partner, but work needs to be done to accomplish this task.

D. Animal Control Officer Kendal Aycoth. Officer Aycoth thanked the non-profits groups for their continued efforts to work with the Animal Control Division and its officers.

E. Committee Member Emma Sullivan. Member Sullivan inquired as to how the committee may be able to set up a tent or booth at City events and hand out educational material on animal welfare.

F. Chairman David Dotson. Chair Dotson discussed that a goal of the non-profit groups involved in these meetings could be how to become a City of Monroe partner and resource.

G. Animal Control Officer Kendal Aycoth. Officer Aycoth remarked that once community stakeholders get involved, this will help to get the buy-in of the public and increase community participation in animal welfare efforts.

H. Kimberly Williams (424 Lee Peirce Rd, Marshville, NC). Ms. Williams expressed her appreciation for the creation of the Animal Welfare Committee.

I. Jennifer Loria (305 Maurice Street, Monroe, NC). Ms. Loria advised that she has a friend that wants to live in the historic district, but has three (3) dogs and that is an issue for her as it is not currently in compliance with the ordinance as it reads. She further stated that the current ordinance only allows for residents to have a maximum of two (2) dogs and that this is something that should be reviewed.

J. Animal Control Officer Kendal Aycoth. Officer Aycoth stated that he has no objection to reviewing or editing the ordinance language that limits the number of dogs resident. He further stated that three (3) dogs per residence is very common in Monroe.

K. Joni Stevens (2221 Honeycutt Simpson Rd., Monroe, NC). Ms. Stevens advised that she would like for flyers to be printed and distributed to educate the public on new ordinances, changes to ordinances and this information should also be in Spanish.

There being no further business, Committee Chairman David Dotson moved to adjourn the Animal Welfare Committee Meeting of December 3, 2024 at 7:08 p.m. Member Barbara Rooney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with the following votes:

AYES: Members Bando, Sullivan, Rooney, Yanascek and Chair Dotson
NAYS: None

Attest:

David Dotson, Chair

Angie Rangolan, Clerk

CITY OF MONROE
ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING
January 7, 2025
MINUTES

The Animal Welfare Committee of the City of Monroe, North Carolina, met in Regular Session in the City Hall Council Chambers located at 300 West Crowell Street in Monroe, North Carolina at 6:00 p.m. on January 7, 2025 with Chair David Dotson presiding.

Present: Chair David Dotson, Member Maria Bando, Member Barbara Rooney, Member Emma Sullivan, Member Robert Yanacsek and Clerk Angie Rangolan.

Absent: None.

Visitors: and others.

Chair Dotson called the Animal Welfare Committee Regular Meeting of January 7, 2025 to order at 6:04 p.m. A quorum was present.

Item No. 3. Legislative Discussion by Assistant City Manager Lisa Hollowell. Chairman David Dotson introduced the agenda item and introduced Assistant City Manager Lisa Hollowell. Assistant City Manager Lisa Hollowell discussed options for the City of Monroe to seek funding through the North Carolina Legislative body, the City of Monroe City Council body and alternate methods. The options presented consisted of:

- 1) The City of Monroe seeking additional authority for funding through the North Carolina General Assembly;
- 2) Look at different appropriations given to City of Monroe;
- 3) Alternate methods of funding non-profits as previously discussed.

Assistant City Manager Lisa Hollowell discussed the priorities of City Council and stated that the Council and City leadership is actively seeking priority listings from committees as well.

A. Committee Member Robert Yanacsek. Member Yanacsek made a statement regarding requests for information about funding for rental registration within the City. He further stated that the state allowed municipalities to require registration of rental properties to assist law enforcement in identifying property owners for nuisance properties.

B. Assistant City Manager Lisa Hollowell. Assistant City Manager Lisa Hollowell advised that she was not aware of this being a city ordinance and deferred the question/statement to City of Monroe Staff Attorney Terry Sholar.

C. City of Monroe Staff Attorney Terry Sholar. City of Monroe Staff Attorney Terry Sholar advised that this was a local ordinance that he believed was no longer in effect.

D. Chairman David Dotson. Chair Dotson provided further clarification on the fact that rental registration was a tool used in Charlotte by CMPD. Being that both Member Yanacsek (retired

CMPD officer) and Chair Dotson are both law enforcement officers in Charlotte, they were familiar with the tool and it's use by law enforcement.

E. Committee Member Emma Sullivan. Member Sullivan stated that she would like to see funds appropriated for spay and neuter efforts within the City of Monroe.

F. Chairman David Dotson. Chair Dotson stated that he would like to find a way to be able to give funds directly to Union County Animal Services to complete spay and neuter procedures, but the funds would need to be used only for City of Monroe residents/pet owners. This is not currently an option. He further stated that the option for the city to somehow partner with non-profits who provide this service would also be idea, again with funding going directly to the non-profit(s) and the service being offered/completed only for City of Monroe pet owners.

G. Laura Sur (120 Aspire Circle, Wingate, NC). Ms. Sur discussed funding being spend through non-profit organizations and how positive funding would be assistive to the efforts of The Humane Society. She further stated that some residents cannot afford the cost of spay/neuter services, but if funding can be provided to off-set the cost to the pet owner, maybe more people would be inclined to have the procedure completed.

H. Committee Member Robert Yanacsek. Member Yanacsek discussed the possibility of the City of Monroe increasing funding to the Union County Animal Services, specifically to the Veterinary services side to provide spay/neuter services to City residents.

I. Committee Member Barbara Rooney. Member Rooney advised that Union County Animal Services does not pay for or offer spay/neuter services for animals pulled from the shelter. She stated that the cost for these services are the responsibility of the rescue or non-profit organization that pulls the animal.

J. Sergeant Patrick Harris. Sergeant Harris acknowledged that he discouraged sending additional funding to Union County Animal Services, but was more in favor of finding a way to provide direct funding to the non-profit organizations within the City who actually complete the spay/neuter services.

K. Assistant City Manager Lisa Hollowell. Assistant City Manager Lisa Hollowell inquired as to whether or not any of the meeting attendees non-profit groups or organizations are currently or were previously a recipient of any city funding opportunities.

L. Chairman David Dotson. Chair Dotson provided an explanation to Assistant City Manager Lisa Hollowell that Teresa Campo had previously come to a meeting to explain City of Monroe funding opportunities for non-profit organizations. He further explained that, from his understanding, none were involved due to inability to meet requirements.

M. Sergeant Patrick Harris. Sergeant Harris advised that he did attend the meeting held by Ms. Campo and provided some additional information as to the options and rules for funding opportunities for non-profits through the City of Monroe.

N. Chairman David Dotson and Sergeant Patrick Harris. Chair Dotson and Sergeant Harris engaged in a discussion with regard to the ways in which persons/non-profits could be verified

and/or vetted to confirm city residency, eligibility, etc... for funding purposes or to receive a voucher where the funding would be paid directly to the non-profit for spay/neuter services. This discussion also involved questions and possibilities of providing funding through a specific city department out of their budget as a line item for a specific vendor or partner.

O. Laura Sur (120 Aspire Circle, Wingate, NC). Ms. Sur provided an explanation of how The Humane Society currently tracks voucher use and reporting on funding usage provided through Union County.

P. Sara Sawyers (1510 Buena Vista Rd., Monroe, NC). Ms. Sawyers advised that she works at the low cost spay/neuter clinic and advised that this clinic currently tracks voucher usage and reports funding usage.

Q. Teresa Eaman (513 Everette St., Monroe NC). Ms. Eaman stated that some people cannot afford to pay \$50 for spay/neuter services and that as the topic of vouchers is being discussed, an affordable option for pet owners should be available.

R. Sergeant Patrick Harris. Sergeant Patrick Harris advised Ms. Eamon that he understood that \$50 may be costly for some residents for spay/neuter services. However, in order for the program to be successful, some type of positive funding source would need to be an option. Additionally, Sergeant Harris advised that the partial pay option for residents provides for a layer of owner responsibility in the care and upkeep of their animal(s).

S. Chairman David Dotson. Chair Dotson engaged in open discussion with Ms. Teresa Eaman with regard to her concern about partial pay for spay/neuter services and inquired as to her opinion on what was “a reasonable amount” for residents to contribute.

Item No. 2. Discussion regarding possible change to ordinance § 91.24 Number of Dogs Regulated. Chair Dotson introduced the agenda item and began discussion on potential amendments to the number of dogs regulated. Chair Dotson read the ordinance being discussed and invited City of Monroe Staff Attorney Terry Sholar up to discuss the same.

A. City of Monroe Staff Attorney Terry Sholar. Attorney Sholar provided a legal explanation of the current ordinance.

B. Chairman David Dotson. Chair Dotson began the discussion with committee members by stating that he understood the explanation by Attorney Sholar to advise that the current ordinance appears to allow residents to have as many outside dogs as they want, but only two (2) inside dogs based on the current ordinance and restrictions prescribed therein.

C. Committee Members Robert Yanascek and Barbara Rooney. Committee Members Robert Yanascek and Barbara Rooney engaged in open discussion about options for amendment with regard to the number allowed being stated within the ordinance more explicitly.

D. Sergeant Patrick Harris. Sergeant Harris advised that he had no real opinion on the discussion with regard to the limit on the number of animals owned.

E. Committee Member Robert Yanascek. Committee Member Robert Yanascek stated that the current ordinance does indicate pen restrictions and specifically provides for language with regard to that issue.

F. Animal Control Officer Kendal Aycoth. Animal Control Officer Aycoth provided further clarification with regard to the explanation of locations where restrictions would apply based on geographic locations within the City of Monroe. He further explained that responses to residences with multiple dogs occur the majority of the time due dogs that are housed together or in the same space that are aggressive towards one another. This aggression can be attributed to the simple need/drive to establish dominance within a pack.

G. Teresa Eaman (513 Everette St., Monroe NC). Ms. Eaman posed a question about what happens when you have more dogs than allowed that are well cared for, but your neighbor or a member of the public calls the police on an unrelated matter that results in Animal Control response in addition to initial response by law enforcement.

H. Animal Control Officer Kendal Aycoth. Animal Control Officer Aycoth responded to Ms. Eaman and advised that this is a possibility. He also advised that officer discretion would most like be utilized in this situation and again reminded her that their goal is compliance through education. Officer Aycoth stated that the Animal Control Division does not want to seize animals just to take them to overfill the Union County Animal Shelter, but would prefer to work with residents to ensure compliance and the overall wellbeing of the city, resident and animal(s) involved.

I. Chairman David Dotson. Chair David Dotson advised that he was aware that both the City of Charlotte and the Town of Waxhaw were two close jurisdictions that included a limit on the number of dogs owned within their ordinances.

J. Sergeant Patrick Harris. Sergeant Harris advised that he was aware that the City of Ashville also limited the number of dogs owned in their ordinances.

K. Katherine Daiken (7205 Medlin Rd., Monroe NC). Ms. Katherine Daiken remarked and compared this restriction to the limitation of number of horses owned.

L. Laura Sur (120 Aspire Circle, Wingate, NC). Ms. Laura Sur inquired as to whether or not there can be an unlimited number, but place restrictions on the number in-tact animals verses the number of spayed/neutered animals? She further inquired as to the possibility of placing a requirement for immunizations within the ordinance.

M. Chairman David Dotson. Chair David Dotson stated that the immunization requirement suggested by Ms. Sur is covered by the requirement within state law. Chair Dotson further inquired of Ms. Sur her idea to ensure compliance except through registration requirements.

N. Committee Member Robert Yanascek. Committee Member Robert Yanascek remarked that the current spacing of housing lots in comparison with the ordinance requirements could mean that increasing the number of dogs allowed per resident creates potential health issues as it pertains to dog waste odor, etc...

O. Sergeant Patrick Harris. Sergeant Harris stated that he does believe that restricting the number of dogs a resident is allowed to own could be helpful overall, but that the restrictions must be well-thought, purposeful.

P. Ben Hau (4511 Gwen Hartis Ct., Monroe NC). Mr. Hau inquired as to whether or not restrictions would inhibit foster situations? Specifically indicating that sometimes fosters house more than two (2) dogs, but only for the purposes of rehabilitation, future adoption, etc...

Q. Chairman David Dotson. Chair David Dotson agreed with Sergeant Harris that any amendments would need to be well-thought out; would require specifics in the ordinance that makes the language clear, concise and enforceable.

R. Teresa Eaman (513 Everette St., Monroe NC). Ms. Eaman questioned the committee with regard to persons feeding colonies of feral animals. Specifically, Ms. Eaman stated that she currently feeds colonies of feral animals (cats), but does not own the animals.

S. Chairman David Dotson/Sergeant Patrick Harris/Animal Control Officer Kendal Aycoth. Chair Dotson, Sergeant Harris and Officer Aycoth all confirmed with Ms. Eaman that the amendment(s) proposed does not pertain to cats.

T. Laura Sur (120 Aspire Circle, Wingate, NC). Ms. Sur asked for clarification on the US Department of Agriculture's limit of (9) nine dogs per household.

U. Chairman David Dotson. Chair David Dotson engaged in open discussion with Ms. Laura Sur with regard to the USDA regulation. Both parties agreed that nine (9) is a lot for one household. Chair Dotson further clarified the USDA regulation and advised that as he understands this regulation, it applies to breeders and dealers.

V. Sergeant Patrick Harris. Sergeant Harris stated that after hearing all of the discussion, he believes that a limit of two (2) dogs outside and a limit of three (3) dogs inside are reasonable amendments. This would limit ownership to a maximum of five (5) dogs total. Sergeant Harris further remarked that discussion on alternatives regarding lot size, etc... would still occur.

W. Chairman David Dotson. Chair David Dotson agrees with the proposal of Sergeant Harris and encourages continued discussion by the committee members.

X. Committee Member Emma Sullivan/Chairman David Dotson. Member Emma Sullivan and Chair Dotson engage in discussion with regard to how restrictive the ordinance could be for breeders and/or dealers.

Y. Animal Control Officer Kendal Aycoth. Animal Control Officer Kendal Aycoth advised that (based on his experience) residents that live on the west side of the City own more inside dogs and residents that live on the east side of the City own more outside dogs.

Z. Teresa Eaman (513 Everette St., Monroe NC). Ms. Eaman stated that she was hesitant to suggest or agree with an increase in the number of dogs allowed per residence inside the immediate

city limits based on the fact that an increased number of dogs allowed in a small area could create additional issues related to the current noise ordinance.

AA. Committee Member Barbara Rooney. Member Barbara Rooney advised that she does not want to increase the number of outside dogs allowed within the ordinance.

BB. Katherine Daiken (7205 Medlin Rd., Monroe NC). Ms. Katherine Daiken stated that she does not agree with increasing the number of outside dogs allowed within the ordinance. She further remarked that she is currently aware of an animal housed inside a pen filled with feces with no name.

CC. Sergeant Patrick Harris. Sergeant Harris requests for people to again show some grace and be patient with Animal Control in regard to seizing animals related only to a violation of the amended tethering ordinance. He advised that animal control officers have handled an increased volume of calls related to this matter and they are working to educate the public. Sergeant Harris noted that the animal control officers strive for compliance through education and that simply seizing animals only creates the additional problem of the shelter being at capacity or unable to take additional animals that are seized that may be aggressive, etc...

DD. Chairman David Dotson/Sergeant Patrick Harris. Chairman David Dotson and Sergeant Patrick Harris engage in open discussion with regard to the use of the tethering ordinance in enforcement ability. Chair Dotson praised the animal control officers for their work and encouraged their approach of gaining compliance through education prior to enforcement.

EE. Laura Sur (120 Aspire Circle, Wingate, NC). Ms. Sur questioned whether or not the size of the dog could or would be considered in any edit or amendment to the ordinance.

FF. Committee Member Maria Bando. Member Maria Bando agreed with Ms. Sur in the fact that the size of the dog should be an option when discussing amendment(s) to the ordinance. Member Bando also agreed that the limit for the number of dogs owned within the city limits should be a total of five (5).

Item No. 1. Public Comment Period. Chair Dotson recognized individuals to speak during the Public Comment Period. No attendees wished to be recognized for the public comment period.

There being no further business, Committee Member Robert Yanascek moved to adjourn the Animal Welfare Committee Meeting of January 7, 2025 at 7:14 p.m. Member Maria Bando seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with the following votes:

AYES: Members Bando, Sullivan, Rooney, Yanascek and Chair Dotson
NAYS: None

David Dotson, Chair

Attest:

Angie Rangolan, Clerk

CITY OF MONROE
ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING
February 4, 2025
MINUTES

The Animal Welfare Committee of the City of Monroe, North Carolina, met in Regular Session in the City Hall Council Chambers located at 300 West Crowell Street in Monroe, North Carolina at 6:00 p.m. on February 4, 2025 with Chair David Dotson presiding.

Present: Chair David Dotson, Member Maria Bando, Member Barbara Rooney, Member Emma Sullivan, Member Robert Yanacek and Clerk Angie Rangolan.

Absent: None.

Visitors: and others.

Chair Dotson called the Animal Welfare Committee Regular Meeting of February 4, 2025 to order at 6:06 p.m. A quorum was present.

Item No. 1. Public Comment Period. Chair Dotson opened the Animal Welfare Committee Regular Meeting of February 4, 2025, by reading a statement with regard to a recent animal cruelty case that occurred in Monroe, NC. Chair Dotson then allowed meeting attendees to engage in open conversation about this matter.

A. Mark Zappa (2525 Willowbrook Drive, Stallings, NC). Mr. Zappa inquired as to how to make contact with the Union County District Attorney to express his opinion and wishes for the DA's office to prosecute this matter to the fullest extent of the law. Mr. Zappa further remarked that he was willing to start a petition to give to the DA's office that encouraged them to prosecute this offense to the full extent of the law and ensure the harshest punishment available for the offender(s).

B. Chairman David Dotson. Chair Dotson thanked the attendee and conveyed his understanding of the desire to contact the Union County District Attorney's Office with regard to his opinion on the matter. Chair Dotson encouraged Mr. Zappa and other attendees on the process of making contact and also the need to ensure that any contact made was made in a respectful way. Chair Dotson provided some explanation on the level of this specific criminal charge and possible punishments available to the Court in similar situations. Chair Dotson encouraged the attendees to have continued discussion with regard to making reasonable punishment requests to the DA's office.

C. Committee Member Robert Yanacek. Member Robert Yanacek remarked that with regard to the prosecution of this matter that communicating "reasonable asks" goes a long way with regard to the punishment process.

D. Joni Stevens (2321 Honeycutt Simpson Rd., Monroe, NC). Ms. Stevens expressed concern about the offender(s) in this specific matter potentially receiving an option for a plea bargain related to the charge(s).

E. Committee Member Robert Yanascek/Chair David Dotson. Both Member Robert Yanascek and Chairman David Dotson further explained the plea bargain process and provided hypothetical information related to the potential offering of a plea bargain through the Union County District Attorney's Office. Both Member Robert Yanascek and Chairman David Dotson further encouraged the meeting attendees to contact the District Attorney's Office in a respectful manner and with reasonable requests.

F. Debra Zappa (2525 Willowbrook Drive, Stallings, NC). Ms. Zappa remarked that she was also planning to contact the Union County District Attorney's Office and expressed her appreciation to law enforcement for their work on this matter.

Item No. 2. Continued discussion regarding possible change to ordinance § 91.24 Number of Dogs Regulated. Chairman David Dotson introduced the agenda item and opened the floor up to discussion by the committee members.

A. Committee Member Robert Yanascek. Member Robert Yanascek stated that he completed some research and advised that the most common limits posed in other cities were four (4) to five (5) dogs per residence.

B. Chairman David Dotson. Chairman David Dotson stated that in his research, he noted that some large/similar sized cities and municipalities place the dog ownership limitation at three (3) to four (4) dogs per residence. Chair Dotson then again put the item out for discussion between the committee members for further discussion. Chair Dotson did remark that due to the absence of Animal Control Officers and City Legal, it may be more appropriate to table further discussion based on the need for further clarification on the language changes requested.

C. Laura Sur (120 Aspire Circle, Wingate, NC). Ms. Sur asked to clarify that any amendment made would address multiple dogs, specifically the pit bull breed, tied or tethered to trees in yards.

D. Chairman David Dotson. Chairman David Dotson stated that the discussion for limitations on the number of dogs owned per residence would be discussed with a starting point of limiting the number to somewhere between three (3) and five (5). Chair Dotson further advised that the current wording with regard to parcel space requirements and/or restrictions would also be considered/discussed.

Item No. 3. Discussion regarding priorities of committee that should be presented to City Council. Chair Dotson introduced the agenda item and opened the floor up for discussion by the committee members.

A. Committee Member Emma Sullivan. Member Emma Sullivan stated that she believed a priority of the committee should be funding spay/neuter programs within the City of Monroe.

B. Committee Member Robert Yanascek. Member Robert Yanascek stated that it was great to get amendments to the tethering ordinance and the ordinance related to the sale of puppies.

C. Chairman David Dotson. Chairman David Dotson stated that he believed it was appropriate to seek options to address animal welfare issues within the City at the State Legislative level and seek to know if the City is authorized or can be authorized to make certain decisions at the city government level. Chair Dotson also state that he would seek further clarification on whether or not committees or only the council are allowed/permitted to put concerns on legislative agenda.

D. Laura Sur (120 Aspire Circle, Wingate, NC). Ms. Sur discussed making funding for non-profits involved in spay/neuter efforts a priority. Ms. Sur further stated that she disputes the fact that City staff understand the needs/goal of non-profits attempting to be a benefactor of city funds.

E. Chairman David Dotson. Chairman David Dotson explained to Ms. Sur that he does want funding fro spay/neuter programming within the City, but the options to gain funding are limited greatly due to the classification on Union County as “wealthy.” Chair Dotson advised that he plans to reach out to City of Monroe Finance Director Lisa Strickland to discuss some possible options related to spay/neuter funding through the city budget.

F. Committee Member Robert Yanacsek. Member Robert Yanacsek inquires of Ms. Laura Sur to provide the number of spay/neuter procedures The Humane Society completed in the last year.

G. Laura Sur (120 Aspire Circle, Wingate, NC). Ms. Sur advised that The Humane Society completed approximately 5,600 spay/neuter procedures last year. She further discussed what her organization requests from Union County Government each year.

H. Chairman David Dotson. Chairman David Dotson redirects the discussion back to the priorities of the committee and outlines that he understands that the priorities discussed are:

- 1) Spay/neuter funding; and
- 2) Confirm language for amendment to Chapter 91 ordinance.

I. Laura Sur (120 Aspire Circle, Wingate, NC). Ms. Sur stated that getting information oout to the public should also be a priority and she discussed creating partnerships like the one The Humane Society has with Carolina Street Cats.

J. Chairman David Dotson. Chairman David Dotson advised that he will check about the possibility of having a table for the Animal Welfare Committee at upcoming City events as an additional priority of the committee. Chair Dotson repeated the priority listing as he understood;

- 1) Spay/Neuter funding;
- 2) Language for change to ordinance 91;
- 3) Legislative agenda options to increase punishment for misdemeanor animal cruelty and felony criminal cruelty; and
- 4) Explore the potential for change to the abandonment law.

There being no further business, Chairman David Dotson moved to adjourn the Animal Welfare Committee Meeting of February 4, 2025 at 6:46 p.m. Member Barbara Rooney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with the following votes:

AYES: Members Bando, Sullivan, Rooney, Yanascek and Chair Dotson

NAYS: None

David Dotson, Chair

Attest:

Angie Rangolan, Clerk