

**ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING  
MONROE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
300 W. CROWELL STREET  
MONROE, NORTH CAROLINA 28112**

**JANUARY 6, 2026 – 6:00 PM**

**AGENDA**

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1. Call to Order
2. Welcome and Introduction of New Chair and Vice Chair
3. Approval of Minutes of October 22, 2025 Meeting
4. Public Input on Animal Welfare
5. Presentation by Jackie Adams (Managing Director, Homeward Bound Guesthouse)

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300 W. CROWELL STREET  
MONROE, NORTH CAROLINA 28112  
OCTOBER 22, 2025 – 6:00 PM  
MINUTES**

The Animal Welfare Committee of the City of Monroe, North Carolina, met in the City Hall Council Chambers located at 300 West Crowell Street in Monroe, North Carolina at 6:00 p.m. on October 22, 2025 with Chair David Dotson presiding.

**Members Present:** Chair David Dotson, Member Bob Yanacsek, Member Barbara Rooney, Member Jennifer Loria, Member Emma Sullivan

**Members Absent:** Clerk, Angie Carnes

**Staff:** Assistant City Manager (ACM) Lisa Hollowell

**Visitors:** Kathryn Dakin, Kymberly Williams, Jackie Adams

Chair Dotson called the Animal Welfare Committee Meeting of October 22, 2025 to order at 6:01 p.m. A quorum was present. Chair Dotson welcomed Member Jennifer Loria as this was her first official meeting as a Member and announced that when he removes as Chair, there would be room for one more member and he welcomed applications from City residents who would like to participate.

**Item No. 1. Public Input on Animal Welfare.** Chair Dotson recognized individuals to speak.

- A. Kathryn Dakin.** Ms. Dakin shared that she had been gathering statistics from the Union County Animal Shelter every month, had prepared an excel spreadsheet with those numbers, and wanted to share those results. She handed out the spreadsheet to everyone and advised that the information was for the first six months of this year and indicated she would keep doing it for the rest of the year. Chair Dotson advised he would pass along the spreadsheet to the clerk to add to the minutes for meeting. Ms. Dakin advised the statistics were also posted on the UCSO website under Animal Services' statistics but they did not keep a running total. Member Loria thanked Ms. Dakin for putting the information together and inquired whether she just wanted the committee to know about the numbers so that the committee would know how many animals are being surrendered vs. euthanized. Ms. Dakin advised she was just giving an outlook of what was going on at the shelter on a month-to-month basis.

- B. Kymberly Williams.** Ms. Williams advised she wanted to say thank you and that she was happy this committee had been formed and also with the partnership with the Humane Society and the Low Cost Clinic and because of this committee and the City of Monroe voting to fund spay and neuter for the City, they were able to spay/neuter and vaccinate 32 Monroe City kitties and they were returned back home about a month ago. She advised 17 of those were female and 15 were male. She advised that was 32 free-roaming cats from within the City limits that had been reproducing. The average female had about two – three litters per year with at least four kittens minimum per litter, so just with those 32 cats that had been done (and there were plenty more to do), that saved the City from about 1200 kittens being born on the streets over the next two years so she just wanted to say thank you and that they were excited to keep working on it and chipping away for the City.
- C. Jackie Adams.** Ms. Adams advised that she was the managing director of Homeward Bound Guesthouse that was a non-profit that was formed five weeks ago when she realized that shelters across the US were at 90% (or more) capacity and in further research realized just having more foster dogs as an individual wasn't going to do it, so in research discovered Dr. Lisa Gunter said that dogs were 14 times more likely to get adopted if they were in a foster home because their cortisol levels dropped when that stress dropped because of being in a home environment, their dopamine went up so they presented better so she realized one way to help with this issue was to reach out through outreach and education with schools. She met with Piedmont and Cuthbertson schools and talked to 250 middle school students and she talked to 2,500 students in Charlotte. In two weeks she was going to be talking to the agriculture teachers in Union County and they were hoping to integrate the lessons that she helped create that were backed by science and research into the agriculture programs. Ms. Adams advised she was new to the area but was really looking to get involved and wanted to say hi.

**Item No. 2. Discussion on Revised Meeting Schedule.** Chair Dotson indicated he had spoken with most of the committee and relayed that the committee would be moving to quarterly meetings because that seemed more appropriate than meeting every month. He advised the committee was going to have a new staff assistant as Clerk and what he would rather do was have the new Clerk have input on when the meetings would be held, but what he would like for the committee to think about was having meetings in January, April, July, and October and he would have the Clerk email everyone to get that next date set. Chair Dotson indicated he wanted the committee to go ahead and vote on it to make sure it was official, but it would be better for the staff and better for the committee to be able to build up things that come across the radar. Member Yanacsek asked if something came up if the committee could call a special meeting and Chair Dotson said yes, the chair could always call a special meeting if something came up that really needed to be discussed.

Chair Dotson made a motion that the meeting schedule be revised to one meeting per quarter. Member Loria seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with the following votes:

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

**Item No. 3. Recommendation of Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair.** Chair Dotson advised this would be his last meeting as Chair because a new Chair would be decided by January's meeting. He advised the nominations would have to be presented to the Citizens Appointment Committee and then to City Council. Member Loria inquired if the committee was going to vote on who they recommended now or ... Chair Dotson advised it needed to be discussed by the committee members to see 1) who could do it 2) who wanted to do it, 3) who had any experience on other committees, those kinds of things, but that would be his suggestion. Member Loria advised she would be agreeable to the Vice Chair position. She advised she was on the Historic Board and was familiar with how meetings were supposed to run so she would be up for that but she advised she might be too busy to be Chair. Chair Dotson asked if anyone else was interested in being the Vice Chair. Bob Yanacsek advised he was willing to be Vice Chair or Chair. He also advised at any time you could make a motion to appoint a new Chair or Vice Chair, as long as the committee was in favor of it and it was unanimous. Chair Dotson advised moving forward the committee had a lot of possibilities but it would be up to the Chair and the Vice Chair.

With no further discussion regarding the Vice Chair position, Member Rooney made a motion for Jennifer Loria to be Vice Chair. Member Sullivan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with the following votes:

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

With no further discussion regarding the Chair position, Member Loria made a motion for Member Yanacsek to be Chair. Member Rooney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with the following votes:

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

Chair Dotson advised he would leave the committee with the following information: the committee fixed the tethering ordinance and got funding for a spay/neuter program for the City specifically, so all of the things that the committee set out to basically do at the very beginning, had been accomplished. He advised the committee meetings should be an outlet for the citizens to come speak, that there would also be things that if the committee members watched the state laws as they changed, there were some things that could be done with the ordinances and as the residential density grew, there would be some other issues, but there was a real need for this committee. He advised he had enjoyed chairing the committee and he encouraged the committee to use discretion in the things that it sent to City Council. He advised the members to look at things with a critical eye and to get staff's input before sending things up to City Council.

Member Loria asked if there was anything that the committee was thinking of for January's agenda. Member Yanacsek asked if there was anything law enforcement had to say as far as anything coming up recently. Officer Aycoth with City of Monroe PD Animal Services Division advised that there were two new animal service officers, Officer Flores and Officer Gearhart, who

were both coming from Patrol, and that he and Officer Lang were going to move to the detective bureau. He advised that Officer Flores and Officer Gearhart were ready to serve, they loved animals, they had been working the last couple of weeks to learn what was going on with the committee and they were very motivated, easy to get along with, and he asked if the committee members could shake hands with them and introduce themselves. He advised he would be giving them the committee's contact information and that the committee would be seeing them around, and the committee welcomed them. Officer Flores apologized for being late and advised there was a dog in Breckenridge in rough shape with a little bit of mange so they had to step in and get that taken care of, but he was very excited to be in this role coming from patrol and that being able to work with animals now was very unique. Officer Gearhart introduced himself and advised it was good to be here and he was looking forward to making Monroe a better place for humans and animals alike.

Member Sullivan advised she sent an email to the committee regarding how it might be beneficial for Jackie Adams to talk a little bit more about the education outreach for fostering like she was doing and maybe she could give the committee some tips for spay/neuter outreach. Member Loria asked if it would be possible to put her on January's agenda for her to give the committee a presentation like she does at the schools and then the committee could think about how the humane society was dying for fosters and if you could get people that want to foster and then for like spay/neuter options like Carolina Street cats, and getting that information out to people because not a lot of people know about it. Member Sullivan advised most rescues can't help the shelter with pulling animals unless they get more fosters because they are all full. Ms. Adams advised she talked at schools for between 45 minutes and sometimes a lot longer and asked if the committee could give her an idea of how long they wanted her to speak. The committee advised 10 minutes would be perfect and a PowerPoint presentation would be fine as well.

Chair Dotson advised to avoid emailing each other as a group and not talk to each other over the quorum number. Also, one thing he suggested was that there may be a way to do a public/private event type of thing like some of the other committees had done, but that would be something to check with Legal to see because the committee had a very slim budget and what little bit of money it did get went to the animals. Member Sullivan inquired if that could be added to the agenda and Chair Dotson said yes. Member Loria advised that was a really good thing to talk about because she knew the committee had talked about in previous meetings about how certain 501s if you wanted to put an event on or an educational seminar that possibly a price break could be worked out with the City like if the committee wanted to hold an event at the Armory. Chair Dotson advised he thought there were some rules in place already for that and what he would personally like to see were some corporate or industrial types of things to figure out a way that the committee could participate in something that they were hosting. He advised the committee needed to make sure of the legality of it because this was a committee of the City of Monroe, but that would probably be something that if the committee could get a corporate sponsor to put on an event and maybe have all of the nonprofits there and have the committee there to meet and give a presentation. Member Loria advised as far as she understood it from being on the historic board, she had mentioned doing something like that for historic residents, that it would just have to be a special meeting. Chair Dotson advised yes. Member Loria asked if Legal would be at the Committee's future meetings, and Chair Dotson advised no but ACM Hollowell was at the meetings and she could keep the committee on the right track and help them figure things out.

ACM Hollowell advised she would give the information regarding Jackie Adams' presentation to the new Clerk, Angie Carnes, so that they could connect since the new Chair may or may not be in place by the January meeting.

There being no further business, Member Loria made a motion to adjourn the Animal Welfare Committee Meeting of October 22, 2025. Member Rooney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:23 pm.

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David Dotson, Chair

Attest:

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Angie Carnes, Clerk

DRAFT