

**Board of Health
Tuesday, April 1, 2014
Penn Room**

Members Attending: B. Hospidor, J. Seidel, J. Wong, K. Schorn, J. Dethoff
Others Attending: S. Katzenmoyer, A. Rudy, T. Coleman, J. Orrs

Dr. Dethoff called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Dethoff suggested that the first sentence of the last paragraph under the “Animal Control Legislation” heading be changed to “Dr. Dethoff was surprised to learn that non-City residents could speak at Reading City Council meetings.”

Motion was made by Dr. Wong, seconded by Mr. Hospidor, to approve the March 4, 2014 minutes as corrected.

Health Officer Report

Mr. Orrs distributed the monthly report.

Dr. Wong questioned if all laundromats had video surveillance cameras. Mr. Orrs stated that the City does not require them so it is a business decision made by the owner.

Mr. Meinhart arrived at this time.

Animal Control Legislation

Dr. Dethoff stated that he reviewed the report provided by Mr. Minor regarding hoarding. He stated that the report was interesting but that he was unsure what Mr. Minor hoped would be included in the City’s regulations.

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that the report included a sample ordinance from Indiana. She stated that she has reviewed the sample ordinance and that many of the items are already included in the City’s animal regulations. She stated that she has discussed the bonding section with Mr. Coleman who does not recommend including it in Reading’s regulations. She stated that care must also be taken as Indiana law may differ from Pennsylvania law.

Dr. Dethoff questioned if the Board should review the entire animal chapter or only the amended section. Mr. Coleman noted his hope that the entire chapter be reviewed to be sure that it is up-to-date with State law and to ensure that any additional changes are made at this time.

Mr. Coleman expressed concern with the guard dog, dangerous dog language as it is vague. He stated that “threatening” is subjective. He questioned using the phrase dangerous dog. Ms. Rudy stated that the State declares a dog dangerous through the hearing process before a judge. The judge must rule the dog dangerous for it to be classified as such.

Mr. Coleman requested that the Animal Rescue League review the chapter as well.

Dr. Dethoff suggested that the new language regarding six dogs and cats seems understandable and fair.

Mr. Coleman stated that he chose four months to allow people to find homes for litters. He questioned if this is a typical timeframe. Ms. Rudy stated that when pets reach three months they are required to have rabies shots and that is also the time when dogs must be licensed. The timeframe will be changed to three months.

Ms. Rudy questioned if pot-bellied pigs should be addressed in the registration of more than six dogs and cats. Dr. Dethoff suggested that it remain dogs and cats at this time.

Dr. Dethoff questioned how residents would become aware of the need to register dogs and cats over six in a household. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that the requirement will be advertised when the amendment is introduced to Council. She suggested that the ARL and Humane Society also help spread the word with personal contacts. Ms. Rudy stated that she is already discussing the possible need to register more than 6 dogs and cats in a household when she is interacting with the public.

Mr. Coleman questioned the appeals process in section 141-213. Ms. Katzenmoyer suggested that this appeal process only applies to dangerous and/or aggressive dog permits and that an overall appeal is noted in section 141-219.

Mr. Coleman questioned if the ARL could manage the Animal Control Board. Ms. Rudy stated that dangerous dogs cannot be addressed by the Animal Control Board as that is a judicial issue.

Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that the Animal Control Board currently has only two active members. She stated that the ARL may recommend two representatives to the Animal Control Board and that the ARL executive director is a liaison to the Board along with Council staff. She also asked the ARL to help recruit a veterinarian to serve on the Animal Control Board.

Dr. Dethoff questioned if Mr. Minor commented on the amendment. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that the only response she had from Mr. Minor was that he would be unable to attend this meeting.

Mr. Coleman questioned what incentive there would be for residents to register their dogs and cats over six. Ms. Rudy stated that the ARL can assist with outreach and education. Mr. Meinhart stated that the ARL will be starting a new program in May to distribute free pet food to those in need. He stated that this will take place on the second Saturday of each month and that this would also be a good place for education and registration. Ms. Rudy stated that the ARL is also working to have a veterinarian onsite to administer free or low cost vaccinations.

Mr. Coleman questioned the timing to move this forward. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that if the draft is finalized by April 16 the topic can be added to Council's Standards of Living Committee agenda. If the Committee agrees with the amendment, it can be placed on the Council agenda for introduction on April 28 with the earliest possible passage by Council on May 12.

Dr. Dethoff questioned if an inspection would be performed for each registration. Mr. Meinhart noted his understanding that the registration was to know where more than six dogs and cats were located. He expressed the belief that proof of vaccinations and licenses on the registration form was enough at this time.

Dead Animal Removal

Dr. Dethoff stated that he has been thinking about this issue further. He expressed the belief that this is a fundamental service that the City should provide its residents. He suggested that the Board make a statement or pass a resolution and inform Council of their position. He stated that this should be a high priority and that this service should be reinstated. He suggested that the City scavenger remove animal carcasses from public and private property.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Health will be Tuesday, May 6 at 4 pm in the Penn Room.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.

*Respectfully submitted
Shelly Katzenmoyer
Deputy City Clerk*