



**COLUMBIA HEALTH, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

The Columbia Health, Social and Environmental Affairs Committee met on Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at City Hall (Mayor's Conference Room), 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201. The Honorable Howard E. Duvall, Jr. called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Aditi Bussells	Chair	Present	11:25 AM
Howard E. Duvall	Member	Present	
Edward H. McDowell	Member	Present	

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. Ordinance No.: 2023-099 - Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 4, Animals, Article I, In General to add Sec. 4-7, Temporary Use of Livestock for Clearing Land - *Endorsed for City Council consideration.*

Ms. Victoria Riles, Superintendent of Animal Services introduced the concept of Goat Vegetation Management to the committee. She discussed the purpose of developing an ordinance that would provide general structure for allowing the use of goats in the city.

Ms. Dana Thye, Deputy City Attorney said those permitting guidelines would be part of the standard operating procedures within that department.

Mr. Clint Shealy, P.E., Assistant City Manager for Columbia Water explained that the current draft of the ordinance doesn't have specific guidelines included yet. They are asking for a period of 90 days to flush out the details.

Mr. Jacob Porter, Owner of Green Goat Land Management explained how he has worked with other municipalities prior to the City of Columbia. He discussed the quantity of goats utilized for the service, how having too many is a safety hazard, and what's best for the environment. He confirmed that the goats only eat vegetation and the usage of female and neutered mail goats will reduce any concerns in relation to smell. He asked to be part of the upcoming advisory committee as this moves forward.

There was a discussion about the permitting guidelines and fees.



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Mr. Robert Anderson, Director of Public Works said the idea was to get Mr. Porter involved. We need to make sure that the guidelines we put in place are for all such businesses, not just one in particular.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. McDowell, the Committee voted unanimously to refer the ordinance to the next City Council Meeting with 90 days to develop the guidelines.

2. Ordinance No.: 2023-100 - Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 4, Article III, Division 1, to add Sec. 4-75, "Sterilization of Pit Bulls" - *Tabled*
3. Ordinance No.: 2023-101 - Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 4, Article III, Division 1, to add Sec. 4-75, "Sterilization of Dogs & Cats" – *Tabled*

Dr. Bussells said that neither ordinance would be particularly effective unless we have Richland County on board with a similar or identical ordinance. I have asked Clint and his team to provide the background. We know that Columbia Animal Services continues to be overburdened by the number of dogs coming in. Many of them are of pit breed and the majority of them still come from the County.

Ms. Victoria Riles, Superintendent of Animal Services explained how having legislation that is promoting the spaying/neutering of a specific breed is not a solution. All pets are contributing to over population. She proposed a one-time licensing fee as reward to responsible pet owners: \$25 if pet is already spayed/neutered and chipped or a \$100 annual fee for unsterilized pets.

There was a discussion about strengthening partnerships with the vet community, adding an online payment feature for pet licensure, and encouraging spaying/neutering through our licensing program.

Dr. Bussells said for the spay/neuter ordinances to be consistent, it has to already be on a state level.

There was a consensus of the committee to target a January 1, 2024 implementation date.



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Ms. Victoria Riles, Superintendent of Animal Services provided an update on the improvements in transparency efforts. We are utilizing a new platform that is advertising dogs that are at the highest risk for being euthanized. There is high demand from the public for more online engagement and response.

There was a discussion about helping the community with compliance, the Space Planning Study, and how the potential new licensure fee will provide additional funds.

Upon a single motion made by Dr. Bussells and seconded by Mr. Duvall, the Committee voted two to one [2 to 1] to table Ordinance No.: 2023-100 - Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 4, Article III, Division 1, to add Sec. 4-75, "Sterilization of Pit Bulls" **and** Ordinance No.: 2023-101 - Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 4, Article III, Division 1, to add Sec. 4-75, "Sterilization of Dogs & Cats". Dr. Bussells and Mr. Duvall voted aye. Mr. McDowell voted nay.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. McDowell, the Committee voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 11:57 a.m. for the discussion of Item 4.

4. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2)

Homeless Services Contracts

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC
City Clerk