

Minutes from Hurst Animal Services Advisory Committee Meeting
May 16, 2018

On the 16th day of May, 2018, at 12 p.m., the Animal Services Advisory Committee for the City of Hurst convened at the City Hall Council Chambers located at 1505 Precinct Line Road in Hurst, Texas.

The following members were present:

Assistant Chief Billy Keadle – City of Hurst
Animal Services Supervisor Amanda Earl – City of Hurst
Veterinarian Dr. Jason Risley
Citizen Member Kim Leach

There was one member of the public present as well as three City of Hurst employees.

A quorum was present.

Assistant Chief Billy Keadle called the meeting to order and conducted the following business.

Consent Agenda

1. Assistant Chief Billy Keadle entertained a motion to approve minutes from the previous meeting held January 17th, 2018. Animal Services Supervisor Amanda Earl moved to approve the minutes. Dr. Jason Risley seconded. The motion prevailed.

Discussion Items

1. Assistant Chief Billy Keadle introduced himself as the new Assistant Chief for the City of Hurst Police Department. Billy has served 18 years in the City of Hurst as well as 7 years for the City of Bedford. He is married with adult children and grandchildren.
2. Assistant Chief Billy Keadle announced the changes to the City of Hurst Council as follows: Henry Wilson – Mayor; Kathy Thompson - Council Place 4; Bill McClendon - Council Place 5; Jon McKenzie - Council Place 6. There will be a runoff election for Council Place 7 between Cindy Shepard and Howard Shotwell with early voting on June 4th and election day on June 16th.
3. Assistant Chief Billy Keadle opened the discussion on shelter statistics. Animal Services Supervisor Amanda Earl presented handouts and highlighted the following statistics: Animal impounds increased by 17%. This is due, in part, to an increase in directed patrols in the field. Adoptions are up 28% while euthanasia is down 27%. Of all dogs impounded, 52% go home to their owners. This statistic is impressive among metroplex

shelters. In December, the shelter staff began tracking a new statistic – field return to owner (FRTO). This reflects the number of dogs at large returned to their owners in the field without the need to impound them at the shelter. Since December, field officers have logged 59 FRTOs. The live release rate remains at over 90% for both dogs and cats. The shelter has taken in 26 transfers from other shelters. The euthanasia rate for cats is down 63% compared to last year due, in part, to strong partnerships with the SPCA of Dallas and Operation Kindness. Intake of feral cats is down 40% thanks to a very successful partnership with Mid-Cities Community Cats. Service calls are up 31%, mostly due to an increase in directed patrols. Finally, unwanted pet surrenders are up 45%. Chief of Police Steven Niekamp asked what breed of dogs are surrendered most. Amanda Earl stated residents are surrendering dogs of various breeds with no particular breed comprising a majority.

4. Assistant Chief Billy Keadle addressed the Clear the Shelters event kickoff. Animal Services Supervisor Amanda Earl stated the adoption event would be on August 18th from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. She added this year's event would include inflatables for children, a food truck for guests, a silent auction to raise funds for the shelter's donation account, and vendor booths. The Parks department will help provide fun extras for guests and the Police Department will be sending an officer to assist with safe street crossings on Cannon Drive.
5. Assistant Chief Billy Keadle addressed the shelter project updates. After waiting for City Council elections to take place, shelter project planning continues. The City is no longer considering partnerships with neighboring cities, but is still discussing a partnership with Humane Society of North Texas. Hurst resident Cindy Ferguson asked if the City had considered a partnership with Texas Coalition for Animal Protection (TCAP). Animal Services Supervisor Amanda Earl replied that the shelter currently has a prolific relationship with VCA Bedford Meadows. The volume of animals vetted through the shelter does not warrant using TCAP for services. Dr. Jason Risley added that VCA Bedford Meadows also provides spays and neuters at a lower cost than TCAP as well as veterinary care for the shelter's sick and injured animals.
6. Assistant Chief Billy Keadle opened discussion regarding a proposed ordinance revision to allow Hurst residents to keep chickens. The current ordinance only allows residents with 40,000 square feet of property to harbor chickens. Animal Services Supervisor Amanda Earl advised the proposed revision would allow up to six chickens (no roosters) as long as they are kept in chicken coops and observe a set-back rule from adjacent properties. Amanda also added there were proposed revisions for mandatory microchipping of impounded animals and trapping guidelines.
7. Assistant Chief Billy Keadle opened the floor for public comments. Hurst resident Cindy Ferguson said she thinks Hurst Animal Services is doing a wonderful job and is grateful that the shelter works with Mid-Cities Community Cats to deal with feral cats in the City. She also announced the City of Richland Hills shelter would be hosting a large garage sale this weekend to benefit the shelter's donation account.

8. Assistant Chief Billy Keadle set the date of the next meeting for Wednesday, August 29th at 12 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located at 1505 Precinct Line Road in Hurst, Texas.

Adjournment


Assistant Chief Billy Keadle entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Animal Services Supervisor Amanda Earl moved. Dr. Jason Risley seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:21 p.m.

Approved this 22 day of August, 2018.

Attest:

Approved:

Supervisor Amanda Earl


Assistant Chief Billy Keadle