
City Council Regular Meeting

DEPARTMENT: City Secretary's Office
FROM: Amanda Campos, City Secretary
MEETING: September 9, 2024

SUBJECT:

Consider approval of an amendment to Chapter 6 Animal Care and Control, Section 6-16 Animal Shelter Advisory Committee, (c) Number of members; terms, exempting the licensed veterinarian, municipal officer, and daily operations position from term limits. (Final Reading) (*Staff Contact: Amanda Campos, City Secretary*)

SUMMARY:

The City Council approved the amendment on first reading at the August 19, 2024 regular council meeting.

The Community & Intergovernmental Relations Council committee met on August 7, 2024 to review appointments to all the boards, commissions, and committees. In reviewing the applications it was highlighted the vacancies for the licensed veterinarian position on the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee because the local veterinarian who previously served for 9 years had termed out. The veterinarian has played a critical role in the growth and development of programs within the Animal Shelter and Control program and is willing to continue serving. However the current ordinance does not allow for exemption to the term rule for any positions on this committee. The committee requested staff bring forward an amendment that would address this and any other members that would need this exemption.

The Animal Shelter Advisory Committee was first established in 2006 pursuant to the Texas Health and Safety Code with the purpose of providing recommendations to the city regarding compliance with the Texas Rabies Control Act and ways to improve the efficiency and cost effectiveness of the city's animal control program.

The terms and number of members follows the city's code of ordinance Chapter 2, article II, section 2-31 (d) and (e) with no exception given to any members of the committee. The committee has three specific members that are critical to the function of the committee; licensed veterinarian, municipal officer, and a person in charge of daily operations. The municipal officer and daily operations members are city employees, usually the Director and the Animal Control Manager. Given that these two positions are city employees staff believes these term limits should be directly related to their employment or holding these positions. We are seeking amendment to the ordinance to create an exception for these two members.

The licensed veterinarian is another position that staff believes should be exempt from term limits. Retaining a licensed veterinarian on the advisory committee without term limits ensure continuity of expertise and experience, which is essential for maintaining high standards of animal care and welfare. By allowing them to serve without restrictions, the committee benefits from their ongoing professional guidance. This is critical as the animal care program grows with the city. Providing the committee with expert advice on complex and evolving challenges.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve on final reading the proposed amendment to Chapter 6, Section 6-16 (c) by creating exception for licensed veterinarian, municipal officer, and daily operations member of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee.

PRIOR ACTION/INPUT (Council, Boards, Citizens):

The Community & Intergovernmental Relations Council committee met on August 7, 2024 to review appointments to all the boards, commissions, and committees. The committee requested staff bring forward an amendment that would address exemption to the term rule for three members of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee. The licensed veterinarian, municipal officer and the daily operations positions.

REFERENCE:

City of Burleson Code of Ordinances Chapter 6,
Section 6-16.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

STAFF CONTACT:

Name: Amanda Campos
Title: City Secretary
acampos@burlesontx.com
817-426-9665 or text 817-291-5846