

**Columbus Consolidated Government**

**Minutes of a Quarterly Scheduled**

**Animal Control Advisory Board**

**March 14, 2023**

**2:30 pm**

**Location of Meeting:**

Public Works Driver's Training Room

602 – 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bldg. E

Columbus, GA, 31901

Vicious

**Present at Meeting:**

Drale Short

Canita Johnson

Courtney Pierce

Raymond Culpepper

Kristi Ludy

Sabine Stull, Chairperson

Julee Fryer

Stephen Waters

Dr. Scott McDermott

Channon Emery

**Absent from Meeting:**

Dr. Jean Waguespack

Jayne Dunn

The meeting was called to order by Sabine Stull at 2:31 pm. Drale Short introduced the new Animal Control Division Manager of Canita Johnson.

Ms. Short informed the Board there were some inquiries about the composition and voting aspects of each member. Ms. Short explained, to the Council changed the voting rights of some Board Members a while back which included the Public Works Director from non-voting to voting. The PAWS seat and the Public Health Department seat were changed to non-voting members. She believes Council changed PAWS to non-voting because they have a permanent seat on the Animal Control Advisory Board and wanted that seat to remain neutral. Courtney Pierce inquired why PAWS does not have a vote and other

rescues do. Ms. Short replied this was changed and voted by Council, and she was not aware. Ms. Short stated, she did require extra research from the Clerk of Council on the voting changes.

Sabine Stull asked for approval of the last meeting minutes on 02/03/2023. Raymond Culpeper motioned to approve the minutes, and Stephon Waters second the motion. **\*\*\*ACTION TAKEN: ALL VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT APPROVAL MINUTES FROM BOARD MEETING 02.03.2023.**

Contreana Pearson went over the monthly reports for November 2022, December 2022, and January 2023. Channon Emery inquired about decisions of aggressive dogs being on the euthansia list and is a behaviorist consulted. Ms. Pearson stated these decisions are usually done staff that interact with the dogs daily and also how the dogs behave their runs. Ms. Short stated, it is actually several variables to include; if the dogs are coming at the fence, how they act when food is place in the run, can the staff safely give shots, etc. all these play a factor if the dog is deemed aggressive.

Sabine Stull asked Drale Short can the rescues receive a euthansia list before animals are euthanized instead of afterwards. Contreana Pearson stated the list changes as rescues are pulling, adoptions are taking place and returned to owners. She stated the list of 10 that maybe given now is a list of 6 and this number may go up if animals are on the trucks, or other intakes are coming in. Drale Short state, she does not have a problem with sharing the list with Rescues as this list is only for rescues and not to be shared with public.

Sabine Stull stated the next agenda item is proposed by-laws. She stated, she did not know the board was governed by by-laws because when she spoke with the Clerk of Council, she stated the Board is governed by the ordnance. Contreana Pearson explained the Board voted on by-laws back in 2018 which were approved by the seating Board then but could not find where the City Attorney's office had approved. The suggestion is to bring these by-laws back before the Board for approval and include the dog classification language as well. Canita Johnson also stated within the proposed by-laws, she would like the term of the chairperson to be a 2 year term instead of every February voting for a new person. The Board stated they would table the discussion for by-laws until the next scheduled quarterly meeting.

The next item on the agenda is the vote for a new chairperson. Canita Johnson asked for any nominations. Courtney Pierce and Julee Fryer names were mentioned. Ms. Short stated every member write down your nomination name and Ms. Johnson would count the votes. Ms. Johnson stated Courtney Pierce received the majority votes of 3 (three). Ms. Pierce will be the new chairperson effective *March 15, 2023*.

Sabine Stull stated the Board needed to collectively re-vote on the tethering ordinance because Courtney Pierce voted last meeting and she was not supposed to have a vote. Contreana Pearson read the current ordinance **Section 5-.7.2 Restraint** and polled each member if they wanted the language to change or remain the same. The Board member would vote yes, language remain the same or no to change the language in the ordinance. **\*\*\*ACTION TAKEN: VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT DRALE SHORT: YES, SABINE STULL:NO, JULEE FRYER: YES, STEPHEN WATERS:NO; RAYMOND CULPPEPER: YES, SCOTT MCDERMOTT: YES, CHANNON EMERY:NO,**

***VOTE OF 4-3 APPROVAL FOR NO CHANGE TO THE ORDINANCE SECTION 5.7.2 RESTRAINT***

Courtney Pierce wanted to revisit the talk about aggressive and scared dogs at Animal Control Center. She believes this could be affected by the decibel levels there because it is so loud. She wanted to know if the Board finds funding to help with this issue would Animal Control be receptive to the help. Drale Short stated yes, it would be welcomed. Courtney Pierce believes it would go a long way to improve the dogs and cats' quality of life while they are impounded at Animal Control.

Stephen Waters shared with the Board his ride along experience with the Animal Control Supervisor Lt Syck to respond to three Animal Control calls. He stated the software Animal Control uses is antiquated. Ms. Short stated a request for new software has been placed in the FY24 budget and prior years before as well. Mr. Waters stated Lt Syck did a good job, and he was very professional. He stated, Animal Control does a great job with interacting and responding to citizen's request.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:31 pm The next scheduled meeting Tuesday, June 13, 2023.

C: Clerk of Council, ACAB Members

