

Columbus Consolidated Government
AMENDED Minutes of a Quarterly Scheduled
Animal Control Advisory Board

November 9, 2023

3:00 pm

Location of Meeting:

Council Chambers
311 Citizens Way
Columbus, GA, 31901

Present at Meeting:

Drale Short
Canita Johnson
Courtney Pierce, Chairperson
Raymond Culpepper
Kristi Ludy
Sabine Stull
Julee Fryer
Lori Turner
Channon Emery

Absent from Meeting:

Dr. Jean Waguespack
Dr. Scott McDermott

The meeting was called to order by Courtney Pierce, chairperson at 3:081 pm. She asked everyone present to vacate chambers for an executive session with the board members.

Courtney Pierce resumed the regular meeting and introduced the new board member Lori Turner. She's a great asset with 20 years in animal welfare.

Julee Fryer recognized Renate West for her dedication in the animal welfare committee. Everyone took a moment of silence to recognize her.

Courtney Pierce addressed and reminded the Board Members, while not officially in the Code of Conduct, things she has seen, name calling and slanderous statements especially on social media is extremely unprofessional of Board members. It is valid that we have questions and concerns about Animal Control, but we can do so in a professional manner. Courtney Pierce made a motion to include "professional conduct" in

the official handbook and by laws for the Animal Control Advisory Board members. Board member Sabine Stull 2nd the motion.

*****ACTION TAKEN: ALL VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT APPROVAL TO INCLUDE 'PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT' IN OFFICIAL HANDBOOK AND ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD BY-LAWS.**

Courtney Pierce addressed the need for a Co-Chair for the Board. She explained the last meeting in September did not occur because she was out. She doesn't want her absence to hinder any further meetings.

Courtney Pierce stated her nomination is not present, she asked if anyone is interested in being the Co-Chair for the board. The discussion was tabled for nomination of co-chair until the Board can speak with a possible nominee Dr McDermott.

Courtney Pierce asked for the approval of minutes from 08292023, Raymond Culpepper made a motion to approve. Sabine Stull second the motion. *****AMENDED TO REFLECT CORRECT DATE**

*****ACTION TAKEN: ALL VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT APPROVED MINUTES FROM BOARD MEETING 8.29.23.**
*****AMENDED TO REFLECT CORRECT DATE**

Courtney Pierce asked if there were any questions or comments about the monthly reports. Board members did not have any questions.

Canita Johnson reminded the Animal Control Advisory Board members of their responsibilities and duties. Ms Johnson read the mission of the Animal Control Advisory Board members from the Animal and Fowl Ordinance. Ms. Johnson included the mission in each member's packets.

Canita Johnson discussed the bylaws recommendations from the subcommittee meeting August 29, 2023, with potential amendments: *****AMENDED TO REFLECT CORRECT DATE**

1. Heading in the bylaws – move the last remark that stated subsequently to remove that last remark.
2. Membership header, to include co-chair when nominated and approved.
3. Change status of PAWS position from a non-voting to a voting member. .
4. Ms. Johnson spoke with the Clerk of Council about dismissal of Board members after absences. Clerk of Council stated members have to miss at least 3 meetings in order to be removed from the Board. Absences must be reported to the Clerk of Council along with dates. Must go before Council to remove a member, the Animal Control Advisory Board can only make a recommendation.
5. Raymond Culpeper requested a sign in sheet for each meeting, with agenda items listed. If any Board member has a conflict of interest, that member be dismissed from the meeting if it is a voting item.
6. Meeting Header needs a change from meeting requirement of twice a year. The Board meets quarterly and will discuss at the beginning of the year, a schedule of meetings for the year.
7. Discussed a quorum if Board can still meet. Ms. Johnson spoke with the Clerk Council and advised you to still meet but the meeting will not be considered official. The recording secretary has the discretion to take minutes or not,

Canita Johnson inquired if Courtney Pierce wanted to add professional conduct in the bylaws, Courtney Pierce stated yes. Courtney Pierce inquired if unexcused absences, do board members need to let the chairperson know. Absences for Board members are to go through the recording secretary.

Canita Johnson stated she discussed with J. Allen Barber, a professor which teaches Animal Welfare at University of Georgia and assist municipalities to write and update their ordinances. He uses 2nd and 3rd year law students he teaches to help cities across Georgia. He is willing to help this board with our ordinances to update to make sure the ordinances are proactive. This is done at no cost, he will elevate the ordinances. His team is already working with Forsyth County and having great success.

CJ has included two proposed ordinances for mandatory spay/neutering and micro chipping. These are two ordinances he brought that would be good for our city.

CJ is working on her budget proposal, would like the board members to get your recommendations by email or phone call on what they would like to see in Animal Control.

Courtney Pierce explained the 5 minute time limit and advised their questions would be recorded but this would not be a Q & A segment.

After the public agenda, CP asked if any board members had any comments. Channon Emery wanted to go back to the 70% of animals not being tranquilized. Ms. Emery stated she thought this was a requirement. Drale Short stated the staff is trained under the veterinarian to euthanize. She requested the board to have Dr. Hall or another veterinarian to come and observe to make sure we are doing it correctly.

****AMENDED ITEMS UNDERLINED REFLECT CORRECT DATE OF 8/29/23 SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINTUES FROM WRONG DATE REFLECTED IN THE MINUTES AS 08/09/23 MINUTES WERE APPROVED ON 11/09/23 ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING.**