

Columbus Consolidated Government

Minutes of a Quarterly Scheduled

Animal Control Advisory Board

November 9, 2023

3:000 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 3:01 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 community. Everyone took a moment of silence in her honor.

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. She stated it is valid, 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 APPROVED 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 nominations for a co-chair next meeting as the Board can speak with a possible nominee Dr McDermott.

Courtney Pierce asked for the approval of minutes from 08092023, Raymond Culpepper made a motion to approve. Sabine Stull second the motion.

******ACTION TAKEN: ALL VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT APPROVED MINUTES FROM BOARD MEETING 8.09.23.***

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 of 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 09, 2023, with potential amendments:

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 the dismissal of Board members after absences. The Clerk of Council stated members must 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 Culpepper 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 question if Board can still meet. Ms. Johnson spoke with the Clerk Council and was advised; you can 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.

Canita Johnson included two proposed ordinances for mandatory spay/neutering and mandatory micro chipping. These are two ordinances he brought forth that would be good for our community.

Canita Johnson stated she is working on her budget proposal now. She would like the board members to get their recommendations in to her by email or phone call on what they would like to see at Animal Control.

Public Agenda

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, Courtney Pierce 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 by the veterinarian to euthanize. She requested the board to have Dr. Hall, or another veterinarian come and observe, to see if staff is euthanizing correctly.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 pm. The next scheduled quarterly meeting is Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 3:00pm.

C: Clerk of Council, ACAB Members