



**CITY OF GRAND PRAIRIE
ORDINANCE**

MEETING DATE: 02/03/2026

PRESENTER: Ryan Simpson, Assistant Director of Police

TITLE: Ordinance amending Chapter 5 “Animal Services” of the Grand Prairie Code of Ordinances to amend Section 5-4 as it relates to the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee Membership and Quorum; Providing a Savings Clause; Providing a Severability Clause; Making this Ordinance Cumulative; Providing an Effective Date

REVIEWING COMMITTEE: (Reviewed by the Public Safety, Health, and Environment Committee on 01/20/2026)

PURPOSE OF REQUEST:

Section 823.005 of the Texas Health and Safety Code requires municipalities with an animal shelter to appoint an advisory committee to assist in complying with Chapter 823 of the Code. The advisory committee, at a minimum, must be composed of the following: a licensed veterinarian, a county or municipal official, a person whose duties include the daily operation of an animal shelter, and a representative from an animal welfare organization.

Section 5-4 of the City of Grand Prairie Ordinances establishes an advisory committee composed of 13 members: nine citizens, a licensed veterinarian, a representative of an animal welfare organization, a person whose duties include the daily operation of the shelter, and the Environmental Services Director. All members of the committee, except the person whose duties include the daily operation of the shelter and the Environmental Services Director must be residents of Grand Prairie.

Staff is seeking to update this ordinance to align with current organizational structure, and no longer require that any of the committee members holding positions required by the Texas Health and Safety Code be residents of Grand Prairie. Further, staff seeks to add a provision that allows one of the nine citizen members to also fulfill one of the Health and Safety Code-required positions, if they meet the respective qualifications. This will change the total composition of the committee to “up to” 13 members. Staff is also seeking to reduce the number of members needed to establish a quorum from five board members to a majority of the appointed voting members. The quorum will be reduced for vacant voting positions.

BODY

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRAND PRAIRIE, TEXAS, AMENDING CHAPTER 5 “ANIMAL SERVICES” OF THE GRAND PRAIRIE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO AMEND

SECTION 5-4 AS IT RELATES TO THE ANIMAL SHELTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND QUORUM; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; MAKING THIS ORDINANCE CUMULATIVE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Prairie created an Animal Advisory Committee as required by state law; and

WHEREAS, state law requires the City to appoint certain employees to the Committee; and

WHEREAS, the City has reorganized since the creation of the Animal Advisory Committee; and structure,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND PRAIRIE, TEXAS, THAT:

SECTION 1. Section 5-4 of the City of Grand Prairie Code of Ordinances shall be amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 5-4. Animal shelter advisory committee; duties generally; membership; meetings.

- a. There is hereby created an animal shelter advisory committee, as provided in Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 823. The animal shelter advisory committee shall assist the animal services division in ensuring that the standards for animal shelters, as contained in Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 823, as amended, are complied with.
- b. The animal shelter advisory committee shall be composed of up to thirteen (13) members. Voting Members of the committee shall be appointed by City Council, and shall serve at the discretion of the City Council. Composition of the animal shelter advisory committee shall be as follows:
 1. Nine (9) members shall be citizens of Grand Prairie;
 2. One (1) member shall be a licensed veterinarian; one (1), who will be appointed by the Director responsible for supervising the Animal Shelter or their designee, shall have duties which include the daily operation of an animal shelter; one (1) shall be the City's Animal Services Manager; and one (1) shall be a representative of an animal welfare organization. Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, members appointed under this subsection are not required to be citizens of Grand Prairie.
 - i. The members whose duties include the daily operation of the shelter and the Animal Services Manager shall serve as non-voting ex-officio members.
 - ii. Members appointed under subsection 5-4(b)(1) may fulfill the requirements in subsection 5-4(b)(2), provided they are qualified to serve in such capacity.
 3. The animal shelter advisory committee shall appoint, annually, a chair and vice-chair from amongst the City Council-appointed members of the committee.

- c. The animal shelter advisory committee shall meet at least three (3) times a year. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, a majority of the appointed voting members of the board shall constitute a quorum. The quorum is reduced for every vacancy in a voting position.”

SECTION 2. That Chapter 5, “Animal Services”, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Grand Prairie, Texas, as amended, shall be and remain in full force and effect save and except as amended by this Ordinance.

SECTION 3. That the terms and provisions of this Ordinance are severable and are governed by Section 1-4 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Grand Prairie, Texas.

SECTION 4. All ordinances or parts of ordinances not consistent or conflicting with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed. Provided that such repeal shall be only to the extent of such inconsistency and in all other respects this Ordinance shall be cumulative of other ordinances regulating and governing the subject matter covered in this Ordinance.

SECTION 5. That this Ordinance shall be and become effective immediately upon and after its passage

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND PRAIRIE, TEXAS, ON THIS THE 3RD DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026.