

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT
Wednesday, September 28, 2011 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
Council Chambers, 140 West Pine Street, Missoula, Montana

Members Present: Dave Strohmaier, Pam Walzer, Cynthia Wolken, Jon Wilkins, Renee Mitchell, Lynn Hellegaard, Dick Haines, Ed Childers

Members Not Present: Dave Strohmaier, Bob Jaffe

Other Present: Jim Carlson, Ed Franceschina, Marty Rehbein, Jim Nugent

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. Approve minutes from [September 21, 2011](#). Minutes approved unanimously.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. Consider an ordinance amending Title 6 Missoula Municipal Code entitled "Animals" repealing Chapters 6.02, 6.04, 6.09, 6.12, 6.16, 6.20 and 6.22, enacting Chapter 6.07 entitled "Animal Ordinance" and renaming Chapter 6.08 entitled "Dogs and Pet Shops" to "Pet Shops, Pet Sales and Boarding Kennels" to generally amend, recodify and update the city's regulations pertaining to animals, increase license fees and increase fines pertaining to violations. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Marty Rehbein) (Referred to committee: 06/27/11)

MOTION: The committee recommends that a public hearing be set for Monday, November 7, 2011 to consider an ordinance amending Title 6 Missoula Municipal Code entitled "Animals" repealing Chapters 6.02, 6.04, 6.09, 6.12, 6.16, 6.20 and 6.22, enacting Chapter 6.07 entitled "Animal Ordinance" and renaming Chapter 6.08 entitled "Dogs and Pet Shops" to "Pet Shops, Pet Sales and Boarding Kennels" to generally amend, recodify and update the city's regulations pertaining to animals, increase license fees and increase fines pertaining to violations.

Jim Carlson provided budget [documents](#) outlining the costs for an Animal Control Officer and for a Bear Coordinator. He provided background on the current Animal Control staffing and enforcement activities.

Pam Walzer discussed a Parks department estimate for additional staffing.

Cynthia Wolken asked if Animal Control separately tracks the number of responses in the City versus the County.

Jim Carlson responded that they do. He discussed the provision of services between the City and the County.

Ed Childers does not think that Animal Control would be significantly more effective with one additional person. He would like to know what resources it would actually take to truly increase the effectiveness of Animal Control. He feels that more Animal Control officers are needed. He asked if the County provides a separate funding stream for Animal Control.

Jim Carlson replied that the County uses general fund tax receipts to fund the interlocal agreement between the City and the County. License and impound revenue is separated for each jurisdiction.

Ed Childers discussed funding.

Jim Carlson clarified some funding points.

Ed Childers asked if Jim thinks that Animal Control is working effectively, and if not, what can be done to improve the situation.

Jim Carlson described successes with the Animal Control program. He discussed possibilities for improving the performance of the department.

Jon Wilkins asked where revenues from fees and fines are allocated.

Jim Carlson indicated that fees stay in the Animal Control program's coffers, while court revenues are allocated to the City's general fund.

Jon Wilkins asked about other Montana City-County Animal Control departments, and how their programs are working out.

Ed Franceschina discussed the configuration of other Animal Control departments. He provided examples. Ed feels that Missoula's program works well.

Pam Walzer asked if increases revenue estimates were considered if an additional Animal Control officer is added,

Jim Carlson replied that the potential increases in revenue have not yet been analyzed.

Pam Walzer discussed additional revenues offsetting the cost of hiring another Animal Control officer.

Jim Carlson discussed fee increases that offset increases in operating expenses. He stated that estimating court revenues is difficult, because his department has no control over that.

Ed Franceschina discussed additional expenses offsetting additional revenue.

Pam Walzer asked Jim what staffing levels would be optimal for the department.

Jim Carlson replied that the basics are currently covered. He stated that his answer is dependent on the level of service that the council would like to see. He suggested that three more officers would be helpful.

Cynthia Wolken moved to set a public hearing for November 7, 2011.

Motion passed unanimously.

Jim Carlson discussed staffing levels versus ordinance enforcement.

Ed Franceschina discussed recent bear issues addressed within in the City.

Jim Carlson discussed a Bear Coordinator position and compliance issues. He discussed education regarding fruit tree management.

Dick Haines asked about the recent bear issues.

Ed Franceschina responded.

Dick Haines asked if there was any discussion regarding collaboration between Animal Control and the State Fish, Wildlife, and Parks department.

Ed Franceschina replied that there has not been any discussion. He feels that Allied Waste needs to be more predictable regarding trash pickup.

Jim Carlson discussed the involvement of the State Fish, Wildlife, and Parks department.

Pam Walzer discussed the bear buffer zone. She discussed the issue of enforcement and the need for additional funding to increase enforcement.

Jim Carlson discussed the possibility of including language in the ordinance that addresses trash pickup in bear buffer zones.

Jon Wilkins would like to see more collaboration with State Fish, Wildlife, and Parks department.

IV. REGULAR AGENDA ITEM

V. HELD AND ON-GOING AGENDA ITEMS

1. Police Department Update – Ongoing in Committee. (Mark Muir)
2. Fire Department Update – Ongoing in Committee (Mike Painter)
3. Health Department Update – Ongoing in Committee. (Ellen Leahy)
4. Eat Smart Coalition information. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Jason Wiener) (Referred to committee: 07/11/11)
5. Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan update ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Pam Walzer) (Referred to committee: 09/12/11)

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM. Submitted by Gregg Schonbachler.