



Tulsa Animal Welfare Commission

**Regular Meeting | October 7th | 6:00 pm
One Technology Center 175 East 2nd Street Tulsa OK 74103
10th Floor North Conference Room
Meeting Minutes**

Commissioners Present:

Susan Savage
Robin Ballenger
Teresa Meinders Burkett

Others: Dwain Midget, Jean Letcher, Christina da Silva

Commissioner Chair Savage called the meeting to begin at 6:02pm.

Commissioners reviewed the Monday July 8th meeting minutes to make corrections. Commissioner Ballenger made a motion to make corrections to the July meeting minutes, Commissioner Burkett seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioners reviewed September meeting minutes. Commissioner Burkett made a motion to approve, Commissioner Ballenger seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Discussion on Next Steps for Title II Animal Ordinance

Commissioner Chair Savage shared that the Commission had reviewed the proposed changes listed in Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and have been able to gauge public support based on the survey responses. City staff stated that they would provide a red-line document with strike throughs for the Commission to review by the next meeting.

Based on the feedback received from the public and City prosecutor's review, Commissioner Chair Savage recommended that subcommittees be formed to review the issues proposed in the drafts that included Chapter 9 Humane Treatment and Chapter 10 Community Cats. These subcommittees could explore national and local best practices and develop recommendations.

Commissioner Chair Savage began discussion on Chapter 1 Definitions and General Regulations. Commissioner Chair Savage asked Jean Letcher to explain the reasoning behind separating the hobbyist permit into three different exemption permits. Letcher explained that the current hobbyist permit presented several challenges, for example, it excludes individuals who have family circumstances that require them to take on more animals and does not have an animal count limit. For these reasons, it was proposed to create separate permits that allow for individuals to have intact animals or have more than 5 animals if the limit is expanded.

Commissioner Chair Savage asked for Tulsa Planning Department to speak on Chapter 2. Susan Miller and Luisa Krug from the Tulsa Planning Department discussed that it was critical that language is clear about the limits on agricultural animals based on the zoning codes. Jean Letcher agreed that current ordinance is problematic that it does not make it very clear about land requirements agricultural animals. Susan Miller also added that a new zoning category, agricultural residential zone (AG-R), was in process of being adopted. The intent of AG-R would allow for some agriculture activities to occur in some residential lots that are a minimum of 1 acre that are in the outer limits of the city. Susan Miller and Jean Letcher agreed to meet and work on aligning language to ensure that it complies with current zoning ordinances and best practices.

Commissioner Chair Savage opened the meeting up for public comment. Public comment can be reviewed online here: <https://cityoftulsa.viebit.com/?folder=ALL>.

Commissioner Chair Savage adjourned the meeting at 8:20pm.