STATE OF TEXAS *
COUNTY OF HENDERSON *
CITY OF GUN BARREL CITY *

The City Council of the City of Gun Barrel City, Texas met in a Town Hall Meeting in City Hall Council Chambers, located at 1716 W. Main Street Gun Barrel City, Texas, on Thursday, February 20, 2025, at 6:30 pm.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Brian Crull called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum established. Members in attendance included Mayor Brian Crull, Mayor Pro-tem, Rita Evans and Council members April Burns, Jennifer Jacobs, Jay Burson and Ken Foster.

2. **ROLL CALL & QUORUM**

3. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS (Limited to three minutes)**

   Shiloh Holland shared her experience with irresponsible dog owners who surrender or dump their dogs for her and/or other animal rescues to pick up the tab for. Holland shared her gratitude to the Humane Society and connections in the north that shes made. Holland shared the culture of these locations stating in these places laws are obeyed because they are enforced. Its not an option to spay or neuter your pet continuing on stating the culture has to change around here and in order to do that laws have to be enforced.

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

   4.A Introduction of open discussion regarding Animal Control. (City Manager)

   City Manager, Dr. Angela Smith advised our goal tonight is to allow our attendees to provide us feedback on the Animal Control Ordinance that was repealed. Smith continued stating While there are some really good things in the ordinance which help Gun Barrel City head in the right direction as it related to Animal Control and our animal problems, our residents spoke and we are here to listen.

   But first a little history…this process started in June of 2024 with multiple public input sessions and Council discussions.

   - January 23, 2023 – contract with Innovative Animal Management to begin rewrite of Animal Control Ordinances
   - June 27, 2024 - Animal Control Ordinance Work Session
   - July 23, 2024 - Animal Control Ordinance Special Work Session
   - August 27, 2024 - Animal Control Ordinance passed by Council
   - November 6, 2024 – Notified Council of petition to repeal Ordinance
   - November 19, 2024 - Animal Control Ordinance repealed by Council
   - TONIGHT - 1st Town Hall/Community Discussion on Animal Control Ordinance
   - MID MARCH - 2nd Town Hall/Community Discussion on Animal Control Ordinance

   But I say all this to say, Animal Control ordinances are important and our Council and our staff have invested a lot of time and will continue to invest time until they work for Gun Barrel City. The Animal Control budget for Gun Barrel is $122,370 which includes our contract with the Humane Society.

In January 2025, we impounded 15 dogs, took 13 to HSCCL, 1 went to a rescue, 1 was returned to the owner, we had 5 dog bites and 2 cat bites, and just to date in February we have 2 animal abandonment cases our Animal Control Officer and the Police Department are working.

Tonight, we are having a COMMUNITY DISCUSSION regarding changes our residents might like to see with the ordinance that was repealed. It is where Council agreed to start with the discussion. Staff is not proposing starting over, as I shown we have time and money invested in the ordinance. But we do want to make it better and we do want to educate our public on the problems we are having. Our Police Chief will give his quarterly report next Tuesday night at the Council meeting with a full update on Animal Control.

Shortly, the Mayor will ask the Council and staff to join our residents on the floor of Council Chambers. You will see around the room, story boards of some of the hot topics we heard from our residents with the repealed ordinance. Council will move to the tables in front of the dais and staff and our partners will be around the room to visit with our attendees. Please give us your thoughts on the story boards, having comments in writing will help us take this information back and strengthen our proposed ordinances. We haven't hit every area with our story boards, but there is a blank board if you have other comments, please feel free to put them on that board. As I said earlier we will be holding another Community Discussion in March and those comments will help us know what else to highlight at that event. With us tonight are representatives from the Humane Society at Cedar Creek Lake, Feral Heroes, our Police Department and our Animal Control officer. They are here to answer questions and LISTEN to your feedback. But I do again encourage everyone to please make sure you make some notes about how to make our ordinance stronger on the story boards around the room.

The City Council took the floor to allow for community discussion regarding animal control. Staff provided posterboards of information around the room for anyone to share concerns and proposed changes through a comments section on each board. The boards were labeled as follows: Registration, Foul, Enforcement, Fees, fines and penalties… Mandatory spay and neuter. Discussion was shared among residents and attached in Exhibit A are the posterboards from the meeting with citizen input included.

5. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at **7:**35 p.m.

Attest:

Janet Dillard

Janet Dillard, City Secretary

Approved:

Brian Crull, Mayor

Exhibit A

Comments

Regarding altering animal

Need to recr[illegible] · Vet shortage

altering an animal when it's [illegible] And the culture of

is wrong. Regarding age, need to s/[illegible] forever home w/o being altered

don't tolerate this. Most dumped an[illegible] alters @ 2 lbs. Very few breed

Ordinances help control population [illegible] @ 2 lbs. is safe.

Breeder section – giving [illegible] for free

If your animals are unaltered – you are a breeder!

This is only way to stop the growth

Demonstrate enforcement + make an easy way to report issues. Get the fine $ + let public know you're on the job to overcome current bias

Research the top "Best Practices" in states, counties, cities where they have success for each topic in the ordinance. Then implement those strategies. Enforcement and Educating our community is key. Also sounds like need to come up with fund raising ideas for all this.

✓ Start TNR program. Have Probation Dept add to list of comm. service

– use FOTA Buildings the 6 days that they are closed – Bissel Foundation sponsor vets for mass event

✓ Add $2-$3 to water bill to fund TNR. + Low cost s/n dogs

Angie is the Bomb! ♥!

Grateful to our city council + officials for this discussion!

For **Section 90.03 Enforcement**, the following comments were noted.

Comments

Many thanks to ACO + Police! ✓

Good!

I don't agree with high fees I think it's more important to have folks pay higher citation costs for breaking rules Higher initial fees does feel ~~the stopping someone~~ like it's punishing (sorry strong word) the folks doing the right thing Just ticket & charge folks who don't comply w/ the rules ✓

High Fines for not spay and neutered animals ✓

Enforcement needs to happen & to the fullest extent of the law. ✓

For **Section 90.40 Registration of Animals**, the following comments were noted.

Comments

On the ordinance, people are expected to pay more as a responsible pet owner than the irresponsible pet owners. The bad pet owners should shoulder the burden ← makes no sense?! ✓

Registration should be done through the microchip to limit redundancy

Free registration Higher Fines for animals not Spay & Neutered. ✓

Good ordinance but How Can we (community) ensure that pet owners are actually registering their pets? Especially if the pet has not been chipped or it doesn't have a tag on it ← when there's enough involvement ACO will know which animals belong ✓

For **Section 90.49 Fees, fines & Penalty**, the following comments were noted.

Comments

Make registration free ✓
but ~~raise~~ other costs. ✓
massively

I agree with this

I don't agree w/ initial high fees for registra[illegible]
be collected upon being ticketed for breaking the [illegible]

I agree w/ free or low cost lifetime registration
but only if S/N/ microchipped. Otherwise yearly
fee, but with discount for 65+ & medicaid eligible.

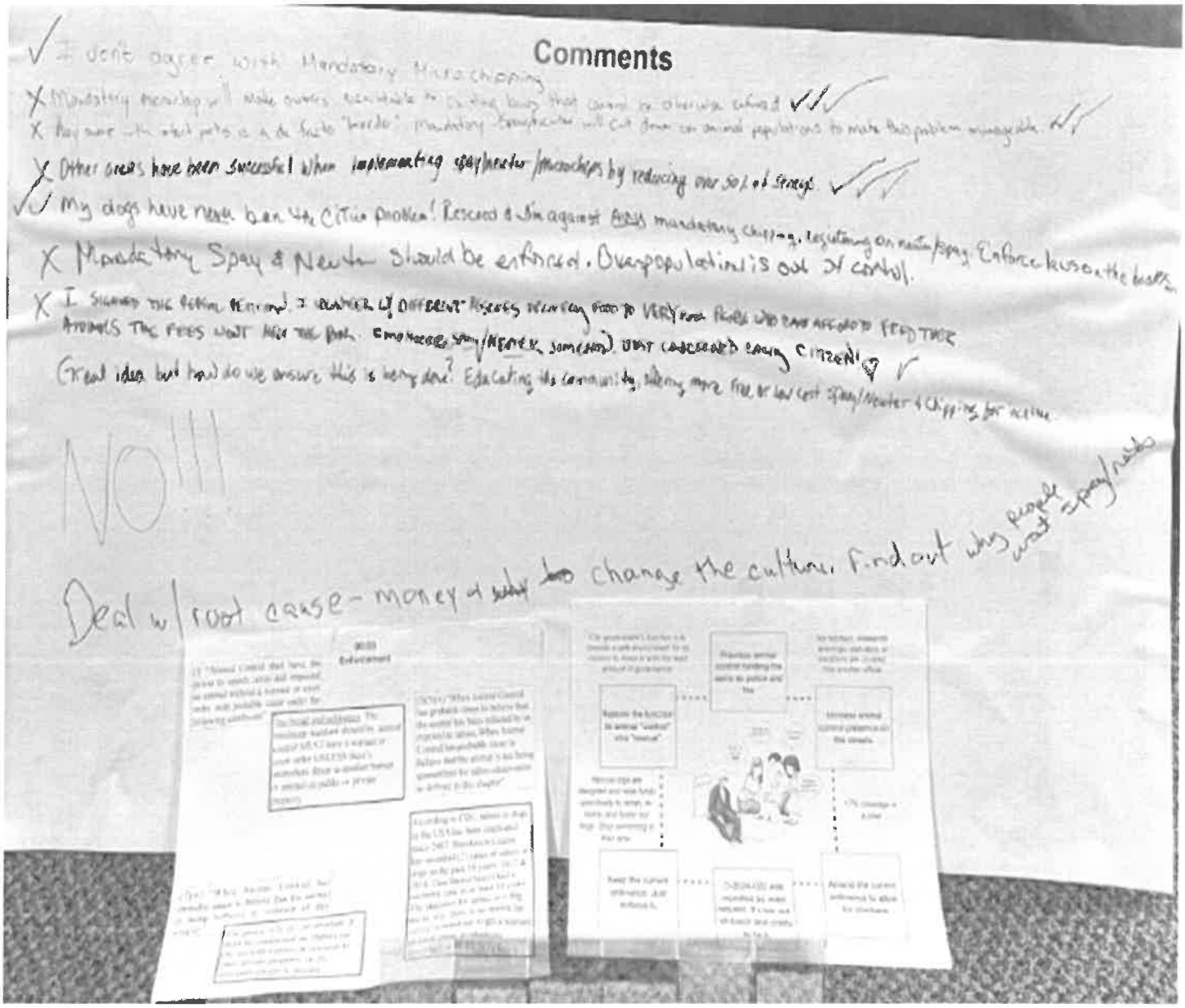
Free Registration. High Fines ✓
^ I Agree

Make dog @ large Fines
lower if registered (no humane society needed, so cost to city lower)

For **Section 90.18 Foul**, the following comments were noted.

Comments

~~Reg~~
Looks great!
I agree

Complaints I heard. This ordinance prevents
- Can't Kill + eat chickens
- Cant bring ducks home to dress
- Can't clean fish @ home

For **Section 90.12 Mandatory Spay/Neuter & Microchipping**, the following comments were noted.