

**AD HOC DOMESTIC ANIMAL COMMITTEE**  
**FIRST MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2013**

The Ad Hoc Domestic Animal Committee met for the first time on Thursday, July 18, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. in the Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall.

**PRESENT:** Brit Goda, Carol Pasco, Colleen Kenny, Dave Bachman, Lee Nelson, Jr., Roger Zielinski, Mitch Deisch

**ABSENT:** Jason Hallead

PURPOSE: City Council has committed to reviewing City Ordinance 606 Animals that was originally drafted in 1963. The intent of the review is to discuss domestic animals and possible language to amend the ordinance. Ultimately, recommendations will be made to City Council for their action. Purpose of new ordinance is to protect animals, people and surrounding neighbors.

Mitch Deisch reviewed the agenda with the committee. No additional items were added to the agenda.

Discussed exotic pets and townships that have drafted an ordinance. Filer and Dickson Townships both have ordinances that address and limit exotic pets. The committee felt that this was not necessary in the new City ordinance.

Committee discussed the need to include language that requires pet owners to be responsible for the care and wellbeing of their pets. Possibly need to develop a set of criteria for evaluating responsible pet ownership. Currently Manistee County does not have an animal control ordinance.

If we put a section on neglect and cruelty in the City ordinance and tickets were issued under the City ordinance for violations, this could result in revenue (minimal) being received by the city. JR Nelson identified that state law currently covers animal cruelty and neglect and that it would not be necessary for it to be covered under the proposed new City ordinance.

Committee felt that new ordinance needs to be complimentary to State statutes.

Discussed the law regarding kennel licenses. Having kennel licenses allows for property inspection. The state requires that anyone that owns three or more dogs that are used to derive income through the sale of those dogs or their offspring are required to have a kennel license.

Committee spent considerable time discussing domestic cats and how they should be addressed in the new ordinance. Committee felt that cats should be licensed, just as dogs are. There was also discussion about letting cats wander freely throughout the City. Some felt that this was unavoidable, while other committee members felt that like dogs, cats should not be allowed to wander freely. Majority of committee felt that cats **should not** be allowed to wander freely throughout the City; however no final decision was made. More discussion will follow. D. Bachman there will be an upfront issue if the City ordinance prohibits cats from wandering freely. In order for cats to be licensed they need to be spayed or neutered; with exceptions for breeders.

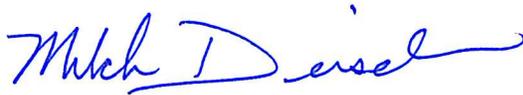
The committee briefly discussed the Right to Farm Act. City Attorney George Saylor will be requested to attend the next meeting to discuss the Right to Farm Act with the committee.

City Manager Mitch Deisch will start the process of accumulating domestic animal ordinances from other communities to assist drafting a new ordinance. Roger Zielinski has already accumulated several ordinances to start that process.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, August 15, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. in the Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall.

Adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mitchell D. Deisch, City Manager

MDD:cl