

**ROLLA CITY COUNCIL/COMMUNITY WORKSHOP MINUTES
ANIMAL SHELTER PROJECT
MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2013; 6:30 P.M.
PHELPS COUNTY COURTHOUSE MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM
200 NORTH MAIN STREET, ROLLA, MISSOURI**

Presiding: Mayor William S. Jenks, III

Council Members in Attendance: Jonathan Hines, Monty Jordan, Greg Sawyer, Steven Leonard, Kelly Long, Susan J. Eudaly, Don Morris, Brian Woolley, Tony Bahr, and Walt Bowe

Council Members Absent: Lou Magdits and Jim Williams

Other City Officials/Employees in Attendance: City Administrator John Butz, Police Chief Mark Kearse, Lieutenant Jim Macormic, Animal Control Supervisor John Redshaw, Animal Control Officer Kathleen McMeen, Animal Control Officer Roy Taylor, IT Technician Rob Hribar, and City Clerk Carol Daniels

Others in Attendance: Mr. Larry Stratman, Phelps County Commissioner; Ms. Maria Bancroft, Meramec Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) Community Development Specialist; Ms. Shannon Coatney, MRPC Communications/Marketing Coordinator; Mr. Brian Fogle, Community Foundation of the Ozarks President and CEO; Ms. Mary Aycok, Phelps County Animal Welfare League (PCAWL) President; Ms. Glenda Sutton, PCAWL Treasurer; Ms. Charlotte Wiggins, Phelps County Humane Society President, and; St. James City Administrator Jeff Davis.

Mayor Jenks called the meeting to order at approximately 5:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. He then turned the floor over to City Administrator John Butz. Mr. Butz indicated that during this workshop City staff would provide an update on the current conditions of the City's animal shelter and provide an overview of trips staff has made to other animal shelter facilities in the state. He said no timeline has been set to have a new animal shelter in place. However, the Rolla City Council could be asked to consider funding a feasibility study that would include a preliminary conceptual design with scoping and engineering work as well as a financial study looking at ways to raise funds for a new animal shelter. He then turned the floor over to Police Lieutenant Jim Macormic who provides immediate supervision over the Animal Control Division. Lieutenant Macormic introduced Animal Control Supervisor John Redshaw and Animal Control Officers Roy Taylor and Kathleen McMeen. Lieutenant Macormic reported the current animal shelter was constructed at its present location in the 1970's. Using visual aids, he showed photos of the existing shelter and pointed out its deficiencies.

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Mr. Redshaw mentioned the insufficient kennel space at the facility. He said Rolla residents who wish to bring an animal to the shelter are charged a \$10.00 fee per animal. Phelps County residents are charged a \$45.00 fee per animal or \$65.00 for a mother with litter or litter only.

Mr. Redshaw explained the City has been docked by the Department of Agriculture inspector for the condition of the shelter, but has not been fined. Mr. Butz added the Department of Agriculture has been complimentary of the Animal Shelter staff and are anxious to work with those who are trying to do their best with what they have.

Mr. Butz then provided an overview of the tours he and other staff members took of animal shelter facilities in Jefferson City and West Plains, Missouri. He noted Jefferson City's facility includes an in-house veterinarian service. Mr. Butz noted the City of Lee's Summit, Missouri recently constructed a new facility.

Ms. Mary Aycock, President of the Phelps County Animal Welfare League (PCAWL), which was formed in 2006, relayed the reasons why a new animal shelter is needed. She pointed out stray animals can carry rabies, contribute to road accidents, and occasionally cause property damage. Ms. Aycock said the current animal shelter is too small. In some years, nearly one-fifth of the animals come from the county and many animals are dumped inside the city limits. Mr. Aycock said the County is failing to help citizens who encounter strays by passing the burden of intake fees to them.

Ms. Charlotte Wiggins, President of the Phelps County Humane Society, said the Humane Society would like to see the County involved in a new animal shelter. Additionally, they would like a good working building and one that does not constantly need patching.

Mr. Butz noted Mr. Robert A. Eck left over \$441,000 to the City for "Rolla Animal Care." He pointed out the donation did not stipulate the money had to be used for a new shelter. Mr. Butz said it could be spent to just renovate the existing facility.

Mr. Butz said an engineer would first be needed to do a conceptual design of a facility to determine how much money would be needed. He said he would like to begin a needs assessment within the next three months and would like to have Requests for Proposals sent out within the month.

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Phelps County Commissioner Larry Stratman reported there is not a consensus among the three Phelps County Commissioners about assisting in the construction of a new animal shelter. He reported the Phelps County Sheriff indicated he does not have problems with small animals; rather he has problems with abandoned horses and stray cattle.

Animal Control Supervisor John Redshaw, along with Animal Control Officers Kathleen McMeen and Roy Taylor, stated they receive numerous calls from County residents about abandoned/stray animals. Mr. Redshaw said the City simply does not have the space for these animals.

Ms. Wiggins commented County residents call the City or the Humane Society instead of calling the County Sheriff.

Mr. Stratman suggested the City and the Humane Society begin keeping a log of the calls they receive from County residents and present it to the Sheriff. He said the County needs a way to quantify it.

Beginning tomorrow, the Rolla Animal Control Officers indicated they would begin logging the name, address, telephone number, and number of animals the person wants to bring to the shelter.

St. James City Administrator Jeff Davis indicated St. James City officials have not discussed the issue of assisting in the construction of a new animal shelter. He noted the City of St. James sends less than 5% of its animals to Rolla. Mr. Davis pointed out St. James is a no kill facility. He said it might not be something the City of St. James could afford and he is unsure whether they could significantly help.

Ms. Maria Bancroft, with the Meramec Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) and representing the Meramec Regional Community Foundation, which is an affiliate of the Community Foundation of the Ozarks (CFO) of Springfield, Missouri, introduced Mr. Brian Fogle, President and CEO of the CFO.

Mr. Fogle provided background on the CFO and explained different ways for charitable giving for a project such as a new animal shelter. He noted donors feel better giving to a charitable fund rather than to the City.

Within the next few weeks, Mr. Butz said he would be asking the Rolla City Council to consider submitting Requests for Proposals for pre-conceptual design and feasibility tools for a new animal shelter.

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Mayor Jenks concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for attending this important workshop.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by City Clerk Carol Daniels.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

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