

APPROVED

PUBLIC HEALTH and HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY MARCH 4TH, 2015

Members: Alderman Gabby Rujawitz – Chairman
Alderman Ken Kinsella
Alderman Jim Musgrove
Alderman Joe Hayden
Alderman Bob White
Tricia Tialdo

Staff: Robert Sabo
Roger Barfield

Guests: Alderman Janet Schmidt, Alderman Dorothy Meyer, Michael Hagberg, Dianne Rogge, Michael Buettner, Raffi Ovian and Alexendar Enyart.

Chairman Rujawitz called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

On roll call all members were present.

Alderman Kinsella made a motion to approve the minutes from February 4, 2015 meeting, second by Alderman Hayden. Motion carried.

On public participation:

Alexander Enyart spoke in favor of a chicken ordinance that would allow three hens per household.

Alderman Dorothy Meyer commented that she had received a few calls from citizens in her ward that were against allowing chickens in the City. She had several reservations herself.

Michael Buettner voiced his objections to allowing chickens. He cited health concerns and the extra burden to the housing department in the enforcement of such an ordinance.

Alderman Janet Schmidt related that she received one call against chickens and seven for allowing chickens. She related that research in several cities in Missouri that allow chickens have had minimum nuisance complaints.

Alderman James Musgrove stated that he is against allowing chickens. He has received two calls against and believes that it would be a nuisance for the City.

Michael Hagberg suggested that if the City wanted to try to allow chickens that it could be done under current ordinances by allowing a variance.

Dianne Rogge related that on one occasion she had to call the housing department due to some chickens on her property. Roger Barfield responded but did not have the necessary equipment to deal with this problem. She believes that even with an ordinance it would be difficult to enforce and control the problems resulting from the nuisance complaints.

Alderman Schmidt wished to pull the chicken ordinance request from the agenda until she could gather more information on communities that do allow residents to have chickens.

Alderman Hayden suggested that since the item is on the agenda that the committee should proceed with a vote on this matter. He inquired from the Housing Director as to his thoughts on the additional duties such an ordinance would bring. Director Sabo has the same concerns as voiced by the opposition to the chicken ordinance but that if directed by this committee and council that the Housing department could handle the additional responsibility.

Alderman Hayden made a motion to vote on this agenda item and was second by Alderman White. Alderman White added that this was brought to the committee last year and was tabled with intentions that the group supporting the ordinance were going to obtain at least five hundred signatures however nothing further has been brought to the committee until this point. He recommends that a vote be taken by this committee.

Alderman Kinsella stated that there had been previous items of discussion on the agenda that had been voted on in the past. But on discussion he feels that on looking at this subject there are two reasons a person would want chickens. One would be as a pet and the other for eggs. There are different pets a person can have and organic eggs are available other than from having your own chickens.

Chairman Rujawitz called for a vote on the motion to deny amending the animal control ordinance to allow chickens. On roll call all members voted AYE, motion carried.

Raffi Ovian wished to discuss rental properties in the City of Belleville. He related that he did a spread sheet of the rental properties in each ward and questioned as to how many occupancy permits were issued in 2014. Mr. Ovian believes that this information should be available to the alderman.

With no further business Alderman Kinsella made a motion to adjourn second by Alderman White.