

STATE OF TEXAS {}
COUNTY OF BURNET {}
CITY OF BURNET {}

On this the 12th day of January, 2016, the City Council of the City of Burnet convened in a Special Meeting-Public Hearing Session, at 5:45 p.m., at the regular meeting place, thereof with the following members present, to-wit:

Mayor Gary Wideman
Council Members Paul Shell, Tres Clinton, Mary Jane Shanes, Paul Farmer, Philip
 Thurman, Joyce Laudenschlager
City Manager David Vaughn
City Secretary Kelly Dix

Guests: Bill Flynn, Jill Flynn, Wanda Kauffman, Betty Foulds, Jim Kenyan, Mona Kenyan, Weldon Clark, Dorothy Clark, Pat Collins, Tommy Gaut, Elizabeth Waters, Mark Lewis, Dennis Friedrich, Austin Keller, Meagan Keller, Marcus Horner, Mark Lewis, Crista Bromley, Gene Courtney, Jonny Simons, Craig Lindholm, Patricia Langford, Paul Nelson, Doug Fipps, Alan Burdell, Mark Ingram, Connie Maxwell

Call to Order: By Mayor Gary Wideman at 5:45 p.m.

Public Hearing on the Proposed Animal Feeding Ordinance: D. Vaughn

Mayor Gary Wideman opened the public hearing and invited those present to state their names and share their thoughts and concerns pertaining to the proposed Feeding of Wild Animals Ordinance. The following citizens spoke:

Elizabeth Walters – against cat feeding restrictions, violation of their property rights, asks to abandon or remove feral cats

Craig Lindholm – against the ordinance, feels there are already ordinances that cover it, deer can be dangerous, do not feed animal signs at state parks, Ord. 14.32 covers running at large does not apply to domestic cats, already ordinance against feral cats, Ord. 14.35 says no person shall have care of prohibited wild animals

Wanda Kaufman – against feeding wildlife(deer), over-population damages crops and increases collisions, turns deer into pets, takes away natural instincts, cars become biggest predators, increases disease and parasites, loves wildlife and watching them, animals do not need human intervention to survive

Jill Flynn – asks Council to pass ordinance, only a matter of time before someone gets hurt with a collision

Linda Bettist – against ordinance, have trapped neutered and returned cats to their environment, let us take care of our homes and private property, stops wastefully use of taxpayer dollars

Pat Collins – agrees with Mrs. Walters, but knows it gets out of hand, has concerns that ordinance may be too broad, but not necessarily for or against, understands Delaware Springs problem, has 1000 acre ranch behind her, some properties in Burnet have wildlife exemption that means they have to feed, asks to consider not too many rules and regulations

Mickey Phair – against ordinance, ordinance because of Delaware Springs but effects entire city, has fed deer and birds at his office for many years, patients enjoy seeing wildlife, neighbor trapped 11 feral cats trapped and neutered and released, cats not a problem, loves the deer, grandchildren like to feed deer on holidays

Bill Flynn – in favor of ordinance, Delaware Springs deer population has exploded, fears someone will be hurt in accident, problem has gotten out of control, could be cause for lawsuit against City if someone gets hurt

Jim Kenyon – no problem with people feeding deer, has a problem with 15-30 deer crossing his yard and Delaware Springs Boulevard going to neighbors to eat, fears someone will lose their life or property damage

Dennis Frederick – opposed, loves having deer, turkey, rabbits and other wildlife that he could not see in Austin, opposed to ordinance, deer can create hazards but people should drive more aware in areas where we know there are a lot of deer, impact on businesses that sell deer corn and other feed for wildlife – restricts their business, will people that throw corn in their back yard be fined?

Paula Stickle – someone labeled a cat feral – why?, cats should be thought of as something other than feral, it's a community cat, stop the word feral

Debbie Kiser – cat lover, volunteers with Hill Country Cats, hauls cats to Austin Human Society to be spade neutered and returned, her and her husband had a colony at the golf course, she trapped them all and had them spade, neutered and returned, neighbor had them trapped and removed, still upset, asks Council not to pass ordinance, trap neuter and return is the best way to control population, has a study been done to determine if feeding increases deer population

Craig Woodward – opposed, a little amazed that we are having this meeting, can't believe we are considering telling people what they can do at their house, many people moved to Burnet to enjoy the wildlife, only feed on his property, how many ranches do not feed deer?, admits there are too many deer at Delaware Springs, Council should not tell him what to do at his house, where is the line - what is next, not going to solve any problem, will result in neighbor against neighbor, as a property owner he has the right to feed who he wants to at his house

Glenn Stickle – people are missing on the feral program that when these cats get trapped they get neutered spade and vaccinated, plenty of pet owners that are not responsible that do not get them fixed or shots, feral cat program controls the growth and cuts down on diseases amongst cats, can only be looked at as a good program, thinks it is wrong that the ladies neighbor trapped and got rid of her cats, cats are not necessarily wild, sometimes they are left pets looking for something to eat, what is wrong with someone feeding them and getting them fixed

Mayor Wideman closed the public hearing at 6:17 p.m., and stated that Council would take the comments presented under consideration.

Adjourn: There being no further business the workshop was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Gary Wideman, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kelly Dix , City Secretary