

JANIGUO

ORIGINAL



CITY COUNCIL NOVEMBER 9, 2015
WORK SESSION 6:30 PM MINUTES
City Hall, 1001 Bridge St. Vernonia OR 97064

Mission Statement

The City of Vernonia pledges to be an ethical and responsive government using community collaboration to foster leadership and a vision for civic improvement while providing a safe, peaceful, economically viable community.

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Parrow

Mayor Parrow called the Work Session to order at 6:33 p.m.

In attendance: Mayor Parrow; Councilors Seager, Tierney, Hult and McNair

2. Additions or Removal of Agenda Items.....p. 1

Councilor Hult made a motion to accept the agenda with the addition of Item 4, B: City Council Workshops Prioritization. Councilor Tierney seconded the motion, motion passed.

3. Mayor Report

A. Letter from Stuart Potter, Esq. with recommendations for Farm Animals Ordinance.....p. 2

4. Unfinished Business

A. Farm Animal Ordinance Revisited.....p. 3-7

Councilor Tierney asked where the definitions came from. City Administrator Mitchell replied that she had gotten them from the City of Rainier's Ordinance. The table of required open space and the allotment of 1 cubic yard of waste maximum was from the City of Hillsboro. Councilor Hult asked about the table and the lot sizes. City Administrator Mitchell responded that the sizes are similar to Rainier but are presented in the table format from Hillsboro. Councilor Tierney said that the numbers of allowed animals presented were much more generous than Hillsboro's. City Administrator Mitchell said that they were more similar to Rainier's guidelines.

Councilor Tierney asked whether there was a stipulation on how far from the house a chicken coop should be. City Administrator Mitchell stated that the outline she presented required the same setbacks as were used for other buildings.

Definitions: Councilor Tierney asked why rabbits are considered miniature livestock. City Administrator Mitchell said it was due to not requiring as much space as larger livestock. Mr. Costley suggested that poultry should be separated by definition from larger fowl like emus, ostriches or peafowl. They should be considered a miniature livestock. An audience member suggested that it might be best to not treat geese the same as other poultry due to issues with containment and noise. Perhaps they should be treated as a miniature livestock rather than poultry. Mr. Costley suggested that more aggressive and/or larger domesticated fowl such as peafowl, ostriches, and emus should be allowed under special use permits only. Council consensus was that small poultry would be defined as: turkeys, guinea hens, ducks and chickens.

Council consensus was that rabbits be put under a separate category. If you are raising them for meat, rabbits are usually slaughtered at 3 months old. Therefore, people could be expected to bring the number of rabbits back down to the normally allowed number within 6 months. The normally allowed number would be not to exceed 5-6 adult rabbits per 5,000 square foot lot and not to exceed 10 adult rabbits for a 10,000 square foot lot (treat them similarly to small poultry; add "hatched" to Section 2 where it addresses "birth").

City Administrator Mitchell asked whether Council wanted to allow the maximum numbers of each category on a single property. For example, would Council allow the maximum number of small poultry, the maximum number of rabbits, plus the maximum number of allowed miniature livestock? There was a suggestion to address this via a cumulative total per square feet available for the each animal. Need to add rabbits to page 5 number permitted limitations. City Administrator Mitchell asked Council to specify what they were thinking on numbers permitted and how they related to categories.

Hillsboro's "Miniature Livestock" definition includes miniature cows, miniature horses, miniature pigs (Vietnamese Potbellied up to 95 pounds), miniature sheep, miniature donkeys, ponies, pygmy goats.



Council discussed counting poultry as separate from livestock; count the maximum number of adult Rabbits as 1 of the allotted Miniature Livestock not to exceed these numbers... 6 (5,000 square feet) or 12 (10,000 square feet) adult Rabbits. Not to exceed 12. Councilor McNair pointed out that on 5,000 square feet 3 miniature livestock might be too much.

Council consensus was to allow peafowl, ostriches, emus, miniature horses, miniature cows, ponies, sheep, llamas, and standard goats by special permit only on 5,000 square foot lots. Miniature Livestock allowed without a special permit would be limited to: Vietnamese potbellied pigs under 95 pounds, pygmy goats; maximum number of rabbits and/or small poultry.

Council consensus was to limit to a maximum of 3 miniature livestock for a 5,000 square foot lot and the maximum number of small poultry and/or rabbits are each counted as one miniature livestock.

Mr. Costley suggested separating aggressive species from other miniature livestock in the permitting process. If you have less than 10,000 square feet you need permit for the following miniature livestock: miniature horses, cows, ponies, llamas and sheep. No matter what lot size you have you always need permit for peafowl, ostriches, and emus. No matter what size lot you have you need to meet the minimum square footage space requirement dedicated to each animal.

Dimensional Requirements: Council Tierney discussed that Multnomah County requires that buildings used for raising animals should be 15 feet from buildings used for human habitation not including the owners' in addition to setbacks listed in document. Current City code requires that the setback for buildings is 5 feet from each side and 10 feet from the back property line. Councilor Seager pointed out that North Plains requires a setback distance for domesticated fowl buildings of 20 feet from all residences except the owners'. Mayor Parrow suggested a requirement of a 10 foot set back from any property line. Councilor McNair pointed out that that might be prohibitive in the case of lots that don't have neighbors on both sides. He suggests using a setback from other people's dwellings rather than the property line. Councilor Tierney agreed. City Administrator Mitchell pointed out that that standard still could be prohibitive and that it would cause a double standard in that they would be permitted to build a shed in a place where they wouldn't be permitted to build a chicken coop. This poses a question of whether it would be legal to limit the development of their property beyond the current Development standards. The City Administrator will investigate this topic.

Numbers Permitted: change small poultry and rabbits allowed according to chart. Council consensus was to allow roosters, but establish a procedure for dealing with unreasonable disturbance due to roosters. Rooster removal is warranted by 2 separate complainants within a 6 month period.

Slaughtering: Council consensus was to only allow slaughtering within the City limits out of view and hearing of the general public. The Ordinance should address proper disposal of slaughter waste by burial or garbage after slaughter. Include slaughter waste by definition as "other waste material." Councilor Tierney suggested checking with Chip Bubl at OSU Extension Services to see if he has any language to address this. Also need to strike out the language that states that firearms may be used to slaughter if Animal Control Officer is notified.

Bees Councilor Tierney suggested that prospective beekeepers should be required to notify their neighbors of their intent to raise bees and that the neighbors should have the ability to block beekeeping based on allergies. City Administrator Mitchell pointed out an issue with that principle: honey bees aren't necessarily aggressive, and wasps are abundant and people never know where they will be exposed to yellow jackets. Councilor McNair pointed out that honey bees are much less aggressive than wasps and that honey bees are in crisis right now. He thinks it is imperative that we encourage honey bees. Councilor seemed to be in favor of requiring notification of neighbors of intent to keep bees and that City Administrator Mitchell should check with local beekeepers on whether it would be a good idea to limit hives to 1 hive per 5,000 square foot lot.

Control and Confinement: Strike out Item H.

Violation: Fix the numbering. Councilor McNair thought that a \$500.00 fine was excessive.

Grandfather Clause: Council consensus was to allow a 6 month grace period for existing non-compliant residents.

B. City Council Workshops Prioritization

1. January 25th Healthy Cities
2. February 8th Airport Vision
3. February 22nd Alleyway/Open Courtyards
4. March 14th Open Space/Forest Management

Council consensus was to have a Council Workshop on visioning for the Airport.

City Administrator Mitchell asked for clarification on Action Item from last Council Meeting of scheduling a meeting with committees for budgetary meetings. Profit/loss budget sheets will be prepared by Finance Director in time for December or January Committee meetings (depending on when the Committee will have their budget meetings) for Council Committee liaisons.

Council talked about the need to schedule an Airport Committee Meeting in January so they can determine their budgetary needs.

City/County Dinner in Rainier – Councilor Hult and City Administrator Mitchell will attend this.

The Mayor will be absent from the City Council meeting on January 4th, 2016.

City Administrator Mitchell wants to know if there is any Council opposition to a no-host open bar at the Christmas Party. Council consensus was that would be fine. They set the date for the Christmas Party as the 10th of December.

5. New Business

No New Business was presented.

6. Action Items Summary – City Administrator

City Administrator will research legality of requiring 15 foot setback from habitable structures other than the owner's home.

City Administrator will check with Chip Bubl on wording on slaughter waste.

City Administrator will check with local beekeepers on spatial guidelines for hives.

Staff will send revised Ordinance before Thanksgiving Holiday via email, and bring this item back to Council with a permitting process at December 7th, 2015 Council Meeting.

Staff will send out reprioritized Workshop list with dates.

Finance Director Handegard will prepare profit/loss budget sheets in time for December/January Committee meetings for Council Committee liaisons.

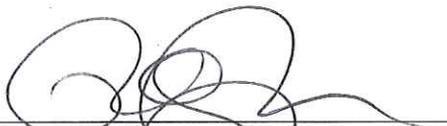
Adjournment

Mayor Parrow adjourned the meeting at 9:22 p.m.

These minutes were approved at the November 16th, 2015 City Council meeting.



Nicholas D. Welch, Interim City Recorder



Randall J. Parrow, Mayor

