

**CITY OF COVINGTON
Planning Commission Minutes**

June 4, 2015

City Hall Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Judd called the regular meeting of the Planning Commission to order at 6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Krista Bates, Jennifer Gilbert-Smith, Bill Judd Jim Langehough, Paul Max and Alex White

MEMBERS ABSENT – Ed Holmes

STAFF PRESENT

Salina Lyons, Principal Planner
Brian Bykonen, Associate Planner and Code Enforcement Officer
Richard Hart, Community Development Director

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- **1. Commissioner White moved and Vice Chair Max seconded to approve the May 21, 2015 minutes and consent agenda. Motion carried 6-0.**

CITIZEN COMMENTS – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

PUBLIC HEARING

2. Public Hearing on Proposed Changes to Animal Control Regulations

Associate Planner and Code Enforcement Officer, Brian Bykonen provided an overview regarding the current Animal Control Regulations and the need for proposed changes. The City Council has directed the Planning Commission and staff to review the current regulations which have been in place since being adopted in 1997, with few, if any changes. Staff recommends repealing the current chapter and has proposed a new chapter and associated code sections. The proposed new chapter has simplified the regulations and is written for clarity. A SEPA Determination of Non-Significance is being issued on June 5, 2015.

Chair Judd opened the Public Hearing.

Ms. Iris Lerner, Covington resident since 1985:

She likes chickens and she is in favor of rules. She thanked staff for the work put into the proposed regulations.

Ms. Lerner asked at what age does an animal count toward the allowed number of animals? When a litter of puppies is born, would they have to immediately be taken to the pound? She would like to see the regulations include details on the baby animals and at what point they would count toward the allowed number of animals.

If five indoor/outdoor animals are allowed, but only four chickens are allowed, please consider making the total number allowed consistent.

Regarding the setbacks for a structure or confinement area, she would like the regulations to be consistent for all animals.

Ms. Dustine Wilde

It appears the entire section related to small animals is being deleted and re-written. It appears that anyone with coops, fowl or poultry will be grandfathered in under the current regulations. She does not agree with allowing four animals and shared that everyone in her neighborhood has more than the allowed number. She is unclear whether the proposed number of four small animals includes dogs and cats. Under the proposed regulations, roosters and pea fowl are not permitted. She feels the new regulations will cause confusion and asks that the Planning Commission reconsider the proposed regulations. She feels that the changes do not make sense.

Chair Judd declared the Public Hearing closed.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Discussion and Recommendation to City Council on Proposed Animal Control Regulations

Chair Judd asked staff for clarification on puppies. Mr. Bykonen explained that they would use the best available science to determine when an animal is considered adult which is consistent with most other cities of comparison.

Mr. Hart explained that the problem with putting an age or day limit on the age of an animal makes for a difficult enforcement issue.

Mr. Hart also shared that there are definitions of fowl included in the proposed code changes. Roosters are also addressed in the new code.

- **Commissioner White moved and Vice Chair Max seconded to recommend the Proposed Animal Control Regulations to City Council.**

Commissioner White asked about the number of fowl allowed. Mr. Bykonen responded that under the proposed regulations a property of 16,000 square feet or less would be allowed 4 fowl. For each additional 4,000 square feet of property, an additional fowl would be allowed. This number does not include domestic animals.

- **Vice Chair Max moved and Commissioner White seconded to amend the Proposed Animal Control Regulations to increase the allowed number of fowl from four to five. Amendment passed 5-1 with Commissioner Gilbert-Smith dissenting.**
- **The amended motion passed 6-0.**

Mr. Hart shared that the proposed Animal Control Regulations will go before the City Council on Tuesday, July 14, 2015.

ATTENDANCE VOTE –

- **Commissioner Gilbert-Smith moved and Commissioner Langehough seconded to excuse the absence of Commissioner Holmes. Motion carried 6-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

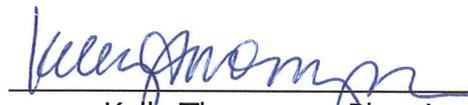
COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

Mr. Hart shared that the June 18, 2015 and the July 2, 2015 Planning Commission meetings will be cancelled. The next regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting will be held July 16, 2015.

ADJOURN

The June 4, 2015 Planning Commission Meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly Thompson, Planning Commission Secretary

