

Pre-Council Minutes
November 6, 2006

Members Present: Patte Newman, Annette McRoy, Ken Svoboda, Dan Marvin, Robin Eschliman, Jon Camp

Staff Present: Bruce Dart, Judy Halstead, Dana Roper, Tonya Skinner, Mark Bowen, Rick Hoppe, Elaine Severe

Others Present: Coby Mack

Dr. Dart provided an update to the City Council on the kennel contract and the Capital Humane Society's decision to no longer provide services to the City of Lincoln. He reviewed a timeline noting our last formal contract was in 2003-2004. The Humane Society has agreed to provide services on a month to month basis until August, 2008.

Dr. Dart noted the Department and Mayor's Office have worked very hard to work out a contract with the Capital Humane Society. The Capital Humane Society has noted their mission has changed and they will no longer be able to provide services to the City and Animal Control. He noted the City will now have to look at operating its own kennel. Mr. Marvin asked whether adoption services would be part of a kennel operation. Dr. Dart stated adoption services are part of the public's expectation for an animal shelter. Adoption of animals would also generate revenue.

Ms. Newman noted if the City operated a kennel, we would be in competition with the Humane Society. Mr. Svoboda stated the City would have to provide adoption services otherwise we would be looked at as an "All Kill Shelter".

Ms. McRoy asked about the increase in costs and whether we know what the cost will be in August, 2008. Dr. Dart replied no amount has been set. He did report we are now taking 20% fewer animals to the Humane Society because we are delivering animals to their home instead of taking them to the shelter and we also did a pilot Trap, Neuter & Release program which did show us that spaying/neutering does help keep numbers of animals down.

Mr. Svoboda asked about the August, 2008 date for termination of services and whether we have that in writing. Ms. Halstead said the information has been verbal and was in an e-mail. We will ask for the termination date in writing.

Mr. Camp asked about we can 1) work out something with the Capital Humane Society; 2) how can the City afford to operate its own shelter - too expensive; and 3) reviewing the issue of micro-chipping all animals and increasing the spaying/neutering of animals.

Dr. Dart and Ms. Halstead stated the Department and Mayor's Office have talked with the Humane Society on numerous occasions. Mr. Marvin stated he and Ms. McRoy recently met with the Humane Society regarding co-location. Dr. Dart stated the Humane Society was looking

at sites in southeast or south Lincoln for a new facility. The Department would prefer a site in north Lincoln as most of the animals picked up are in these locations.

Ms. Eschliman asked about the Department's discussions with the Nebraska Humane Society in Omaha and what their costs would be. Ms. Halstead stated the City would still have to provide a facility as the Nebraska Humane Society will only provide services and not the facility. Their proposal also includes operating the animal control program. Their proposals have been approximately \$200,000 more than what we have budgeted.

Council members suggested increasing animal control fees, micro-chipping, mandatory spaying/neutering, etc.

Mr. Camp asked staff to look at and provide information to the Council on 1) mandatory spay/neuter legislation; 2) adoption statistics and euthanasia statistics; and 3) any other pro-active changes.

Mr. Svoboda asked about the RFP the Department is preparing. Dr. Dart stated they are preparing an RFP to be very broad and very open to solicit information and proposals for building, lease/buy, renovate, etc. Ms. Halstead stated we prefer to issue the RFP to determine who might be interested in working on this project and what they would be willing to do.

Council Members thanked Dr. Dart and Ms. Halstead for their information.