



**MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
COUNCIL INITIATIVE WORKSHOP**

A Murray City Council Initiative Workshop was held on Tuesday, July 1, 2014 in the Murray City Center, Conference Room #107, 5025 South State Street, Murray, Utah.

Members in Attendance:

Brett Hales	Council Chairman
Dave Nicponski	Council Vice Chairman
Blair Camp	Council Member
Diane Turner	Council Member
Jim Brass	Excused

Others in Attendance:

Frank Nakamura	City Attorney	Janet M. Lopez	Council Administrator
Tim Tingey	ADS Director	Ted Eyre	Mayor
Craig Burnett	Police Chief	Blaine Haacke	Power Gen. Mgr.
Kim Fong	Library Director	Doug Hill	Public Services Director
Justin Zollinger	Finance Director	Janet Towers	Exec. Asst. to the Mayor
Russ Kakala	Public Services	Beverly Crangle	Resident
George Katz	Resident	Sally Hoffelmeyer-Katz	Resident

Chairman Hales called the Council Initiative Workshop to order at 4:45 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. He excused Council Member Jim Brass.

Discussion Item

City Dog Limit per Residence- Dave Nicponski

Mr. Nicponski stated that every year the Utah Humane Society, located in Murray, has difficulties placing every capable dog that comes to the shelter. A capable dog means that the dog isn't violent and is able to get along with people.

The philosophy of the municipality limiting the number of dogs makes it even more difficult. Currently, the Murray City ordinance allows a resident to have two dogs. Mr. Nicponski would like to discuss the possibility of allowing three dogs.

Ms. Turner stated that she has received feedback from her constituents and it has been overwhelmingly negative. She stated that she lives in a condo and has some concerns about allowing more than two dogs, and her neighbors also have given her negative feedback about increasing the number of dogs allowed.

Chairman Hales said he has heard from three constituents and the responses have also been negative about allowing more than two dogs. He has heard from residents that are concerned that existing dogs are not on leashes and not being taken care of properly.

Mr. Camp stated that he has not had positive feedback either. He is concerned that Murray is getting more and more condensed with more multiple family dwellings and smaller lot sizes and isn't sure this is the proper direction to move towards. He said he would have a hard time supporting the increased number allowed.

Mr. Nicponski said he wanted to bring it up because he has heard from his constituents, but has heard some negative comments also.

Mayor Eyre asked if the main reason for the discussion was to limit the number of dogs at the kennel and to reach the zero kill point. Mr. Nicponski said that was the main reason to help participate in the placement of those surplus dogs. He stated that many cities allow three dogs, and he wanted to explore the issue. Mayor Eyre said that if the decision is made to keep the number allowed to two, then possibly a commitment could be made to improve the facility. The facility in Murray is one of the only ones in the entire County that houses dogs and cats together. Mayor Eyre said the Murray facility recently received a bid to build an adjacent facility to house the cats separately. He said the cats are traumatized from being housed with dogs and therefore less likely to get adopted. The adoption rate in Murray is very low and the Mayor would like the City to do what they can to improve the facility. The employees at the facility do a great job and are currently overwhelmed because they receive so many animals in the summer. Mr. Nicponski asked if a tour of the facility could be arranged. Mayor Eyre said if the goal is to keep dogs from being euthanized, then an improved separate facility would help immensely. He said the staff has stated that they believe they could get to nearly a zero kill ratio if they had a better facility.

Mr. Nicponski stated that he would love to tour the facility, and said that would be a great option. It was decided that no one wanted to move forward with the proposal to increase the number of dogs allowed, but would look into improving the facility.

Chairman Hales adjourned the meeting.

Council Office Administrator II
Kellie Challburg