

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

JULY 18, 2017

PRESENT:

Bob Lucey, Chair
Marsha Berkbigler, Vice Chair
Vaughn Hartung, Commissioner
Jeanne Herman, Commissioner

Nancy Parent, County Clerk
John Slaughter, County Manager
David Watts-Vial, Deputy District Attorney

ABSENT:

Kitty Jung, Commissioner

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 10:34 a.m. in regular session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Clerk called the roll and the Board conducted the following business:

17-0591 AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.

The Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore said during his presentation at the TMFPD meeting he neglected to thank all of the County agencies and staff for their help during the wildfires. He said there were more people and agencies than he could thank. He stated the incidents would not have been managed as well without the support of the County and staff.

The following individuals spoke in opposition to the Wildcreek Golf Course sharing the same location with a proposed new high school: Ms. Liz Griffin; Mr. Wesley Griffin; Mr. John Hesse; Ms. Darlene Hesse; Ms. Paula Smail; Mr. Mike Brierley; and Ms. Kathleen Shupp. Mr. Wesley Griffin provided a document, which was placed on file with the Clerk.

The individuals listed above stated their concerns for the proposed changes at the Wildcreek Golf Course including: 2,500 children would be bussed to the school daily; area traffic would dramatically increase; the infrastructure was not sufficient to accommodate the school and the traffic; the property was located in a flood plain; costs to build the mega school were excessive; locals would lose a great golf course; and the changes would destroy animals and wildlife around the golf course.

Ms. Tammy Holt-Still thanked staff for the response she recently received regarding some issues. She was happy to announce the New Life Church received its first dumpster and the recovery process had started. She spoke regarding her concerns about future flooding at the church and hoped the County would take measures to ensure the property would not flood again. She sent an email to staff about waiving the District Health permits, but noted she did not receive a response. She was later informed the effected residents were contacted directly by the County. She requested a geomorphic study to be completed before any additional building took place. She stated she did not receive a response regarding the inconsistent information regarding Lemmon Valley that was being provided to residents. She said the County indicated repairs to Deodar Street would be completed before the Reno Championship Air Races, but another source stated no work would start at that location until next year. She noted there was less than three months until winter. She provided documents and photos, which were placed on file with the Clerk.

Mr. Danny Cleous introduced his granddaughter. He stated something needed to be resolved with cars speeding down his street. He said speeding cars almost hit his granddaughter and his puppy multiple times. He stated permanent speed bumps needed to be installed. He noted he had conversations with the Sheriff's Office related to speeding cars, but the Deputy Sheriff drove around the area at the wrong times of the day to witness any speeding. He hoped no one would be injured before the issue was resolved. He said more children were living in the neighborhood and it needed to be safer for them to play outdoors. He stated his homeowner's insurance had denied his flood damage claim for the fifth time and he did not know how to pay for his repairs. He noted many other residents' claims had also been denied.

Mr. Tim Stoffel spoke regarding the regulations involving animals. He stated this was another attempt from the County to regulate animal owners, which had been occurring for the past three years. He stated the Board should put a stop to the proposed regulation changes and direct the Animal Services staff to work with animal owners and breeders to create the Code changes. He said animals were a big part of many people's lives and the County had no right to regulate them so strictly.

Mr. Charles Albright spoke regarding the Truckee River. He stated the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) planned to remodel four dams upstream by turning them into rapids for fish to migrate. He said the fish ladders at the dams were not currently operable. He thought the money that would be spent on this project was illogical and said it could be resolved in a more efficient manner. He noted some of the dams were 100 yards wide and would have to be filled in. He thought it would be easier and more cost effective to remove the dam and decommission the powerhouses to allow fish to swim up a natural riverbed. He stated in years when precipitation was low, no water would be available for fish to swim upstream. He said bladder dams were concrete structures across the bottom of a river with a wall of neoprene or rubber attached to it. He explained when it was irrigation season the wall could be raised to control the water flow. He asked the Board to think like environmentalists and create useful solutions.

Ms. Chris Vaught spoke in opposition to the proposed animal Ordinance. She said the County had lost their way regarding animal ordinances and noted it was not the government's role to control her property or her animals. She stated she was not anti-government; she worked for the government for more than 20 years. She believed a certain amount of regulation was warranted where animal welfare was concerned. She said if the Ordinance passed, the Board would not be properly serving the people who voted them in to office.

Mr. Bill Maggiora stated he had been following the Animal Services regulation discussions for the past three years and the regulations were against animal keepers in the County. He said unnecessary requirements were proposed for animal sterilization. He explained the strict identification requirements could threaten the health of very small animals. He stated a Sidewinder was a Tier 3 animal and he had seen baby Sidewinders smaller than earthworms. He did not know how they could be identified. He said no exemptions were granted for animals that were not suitable to be permanently identified. He said he knew people who were grandfathered in under the old Ordinance, but many had been denied permits. He stated other jurisdictions allowed for grace periods before new Ordinances went into effect and he did not understand why the County was not allowing a grace period for the animal Ordinance. He thought the Ordinance was essentially a carefully orchestrated process to use animal welfare and public safety as an excuse for managing animals to extinction.

Ms. Ardena Perry addressed the health risk of early spaying and neutering. She stated the process put young animals at risk for life long effects including pancreas and liver damage. She announced she was getting a Newfoundland puppy, which would be her third dog. She indicated one of her Newfoundland dogs was old and she did not believe it would be alive much longer. She wanted to get two new puppies from the litter but that would put her in the position of having to spay or neuter all of her dogs. She feared this would put the puppies at risk and she was opposed to that. She provided documents, which were placed on file with the Clerk.

Mr. Jeff Church stated lower tax rates in other Counties would be lost tax revenue for Washoe County. He said automobile sales in Carson City increased by 20 percent, Lyon County increased by 47.6 percent, but Washoe County decreased by 8.6 percent. He explained the decrease in tax revenues was due to the Washoe County Question 1 (WC1) tax increases. He noted the population in the County had increased, but tax revenues were decreasing. He indicated he emailed Assistant District Attorney Paul Lipparelli regarding County departments and officials who were members of the Chamber. He was concerned the County Chamber members could be enriching themselves with benefits and discounts at the expense of taxpayers.

Mr. Sam Dehne spoke against Agenda Item 8, the Wildcreek Golf Course Project, and the *Reno Gazette-Journal*.

17-0592 **AGENDA ITEM 4** Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Hartung requested street racing on Silent Sparrow Drive in Spanish Springs to be added to the monthly dashboard. He played a voicemail from his cell phone and stated people were receiving hoax phone calls from an agency which stated a person could be arrested if they did not return the message. He stated some people did not understand these were hoaxes and he wanted to make people aware of them. He explained if someone received a call such as this, they should call the Washoe County Sheriff's Office to report it.

County Manager John Slaughter stated Agenda Items 5A1 and 5A2 were not part of the donations as the agenda indicated and would be heard separately.

17-0593 **AGENDA ITEM 5A1** Introduction of new Washoe County Employees.

County Manager John Slaughter asked the following employees to introduce themselves to the Board:

Autumn Foster, Social Services
Erick Lamun, Animal Services
Jennifer Martensen, District Attorney
Angela Mezger, Animal Services
Katie Proctor, Social Services
Emily Salas, District Attorney
Grace Thomas, Social Services
Jacqueline Valle, Justice Court

There was no public comment or action taken on this item.

17-0594 **AGENDA ITEM 5B2** Presentation of Excellence in Public Service Certificates honoring the following Washoe County employees who have completed essential employee development courses.

County Manager John Slaughter recognized the following employees for successful completion of the Excellence in Public Service Certificate Programs administered by the Human Resources Department:

Essentials of SAP for HR Rep

Alicia Agrella, District Attorney Office
Ramona Martino, Human Resources
Laura Rose, Community Service Department

Essentials of SAP for Financial Staff

Mayra Nolasco, Community Service Department

Essentials of Support Staff

Heidi Howden, Reno Justice Court

Essentials of Management Development

Stacy Ettinger, Assessor's Office
Kelli Goatley-Seals, Health Department
Stacey Jackson, Assessor's Office
Vanessa Madera, Comptroller's Office
Lora Zimmer, Assessor's Office

DONATIONS:

- 17-0595** **5B1** Accept a one-time donation of public safety equipment [\$1,250.00 value] from the Reserve Police Officers Association to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office to be used for the Reserve Deputy Program and Search & Rescue teams. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)
- 17-0596** **5B2** Approve the donation of seven decommissioned ballistic vests [approximate value \$0] to the State of Nevada, Peace Officer Standards and Training Academy from the Washoe County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)
- 17-0597** **5B3** Accept a donation of various K9 equipment [total value of \$16,471.92] from Washoe County K9 Partners to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office to be used by the Washoe County Sheriff's Office K9 Unit. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)
- 17-0598** **5C** Accept cash donations [\$320,000] from the Wilbur May Foundation: \$220,000 restricted for Fiscal Year 2017-18 general operating support of the Wilbur D. May Center, excluding all County overhead expense items; and \$100,000 restricted to support Fiscal Year 2017-18 temporary exhibits at the Wilbur D. May Museum. Community Services. (Commission District 3.)

There was no public comment on the donations listed above.

On motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Herman, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Items 5B1 to 5C be approved.

- 17-0599** **AGENDA ITEM 6** Recommendation to select and appoint a member of the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners to the Animal Services Advisory Board. Animal Services (All Commission Districts)

Animal Services Director Shyanne Schull briefed the Board regarding the background of the Animal Services Advisory Board. She explained the composition of

the Animal Services Advisory Board would include seven members: one member of the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners; one member of the Reno City Council; one member of the Sparks City Council; one Veterinarian; one real estate or business professional; one individual interested in promoting the health and safety of animals; and one individual representing a humane or rescue organization. She stated the goal was to conduct the first Board meeting in October of 2017. She said the intent of this Agenda Item was to appoint a Washoe County Commissioner to the Animal Services Advisory Board.

On call for public comment, Mr. Tim Stoffel recommended Commissioner Herman be appointed to the Animal Services Advisory Board.

Chair Lucey stated he was open to recommendations to appoint a member of the Board of County Commissioners to the Animal Services Advisory Board.

On motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Commissioner Herman be appointed to the Animal Services Advisory Board.

17-0600 **AGENDA ITEM 7** Recommendation to select and appoint members to the Animal Services Advisory Board to fill four positions: a veterinarian or veterinary technician (applicant includes Dr. Anette Rink); a real estate or business professional (applicants include Jennifer Linn, Melissa Nicholas, Judy Cook, James Dudzinski and Chesa Keane); a representative of a humane or rescue organization (applicants include Jill Dobbs, Denise Stevens, Karen Vigil, Lori Lotts and Patricia Abbey); an individual with an interest in promoting the health and safety of animals in Washoe County (all fifteen applicants include Irene Payne, Lori Lotts, Patricia Abbey, Leslie Mix, Brian Sooudi and Jaime Brown, Dr. Anette Rink, Jennifer Linn, Melissa Nicholas, Judy Cook, James Dudzinski, Chesa Keane, Jill Dobbs, Denise Stevens, Karen Vigil); to specify the seat of each appointed member and their term of service within the requirements of WCC 55.036(3). Animal Services (All Commission Districts)

Animal Services Director Shyanne Schull stated recruitment of Board members began on March 27th and ended on April 28th. She said 15 applications were received from people interested in serving on the Animal Services Advisory Board. She stated staff prepared a list of the applicants with background and experience along with the suggested position the candidate was most qualified to fill.

Chair Lucey clarified with staff that four positions needed to be filled.

County Manager John Slaughter stated some of the applicants were in the audience.

Deputy District Attorney David Watts-Vial recommended the applicants come forward and speak, the Chair to call for public comment and then the Board could vote on each of the positions.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) of Northern Nevada Executive Director Jill Dobbs she stated she was previously on the Board of the Humane Society of Truckee-Tahoe for 10 years and for six of those years she served as the Board's President. She said she had been involved with animal welfare, specifically with shelters for 12 years. She indicated she was an attorney licensed in California and Nevada but she was currently inactive in both states.

Commissioner Herman asked which position she would prefer to represent.

Ms. Dobbs stated she would prefer to be the representative for a humane or rescue organization since she was the Executive Director of the SPCA, although she could also be considered for the promoting health and safety of animal's position.

Ms. Irene Payne stated she applied for the representative for community member position because for most of her life she had volunteered to work with animals in the United Kingdom and in the United States. She stated she was very passionate about animal issues and had an understanding of how local government processes and local animal welfare organizations worked. She said she knew the importance of animal welfare in the community.

On the call for public comment, Mr. Tim Stoffel stated the Animal Services Advisory Board did not seem to reflect animal interests as it should. He noted the Board was comprised of politicians, a veterinarian, a humane advocate and a general advocate for animals. He stated the proposed Board had no representation from animal owners, exotic animal owners, animal breeders or livestock owners.

Mr. Bill Maggiora requested people who did not believe that particular classes of animals should be owned should be excluded from serving on the Board

Chair Lucey stated he would take one recommendation at a time.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Berkgigler, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Dr. Anette Rink be appointed to the Veterinarian position of the Animal Services Advisory Board.

On motion by Commissioner Herman, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Jennifer Linn be appointed to the Business Professional position of the Animal Services Advisory Board.

On motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Chair Lucey, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Jill Dobbs be appointed to the Humane and Rescue position of the Animal Services Advisory Board.

Mr. Slaughter stated another candidate had arrived.

Chair Lucey asked the candidate to introduce herself, provide her experience and the reasons she wanted to serve on the Animal Services Advisory Board.

Ms. Patricia Abbey stated her background involved animal welfare. She stated she assisted with animals during Hurricane Katrina. She said one issue she focused on was the feral cat population. She explained cities and counties had issues with feral cat populations due to growth and it created the displacement of feral cats. She noted she founded an organization about 15 years ago that was dedicated to helping bridge the issues between the cities, counties and home owners when feral cat displacement occurred. She said she was a business owner for 30 years and she had a significant interest in being involved with animals.

Deputy District Attorney David Watts-Vial stated the Board had a protocol for reconsidering prior motions if there was an interest in opening up the previous vote. He also said since there was an additional speaker it would be advisable to allow another public comment opportunity.

Chair Lucey re-opened public comment although no additional people requested to speak.

Commissioner Hartung asked whether there was an alternate position for this Board.

Ms. Schull indicated there was not an alternate position. She noted when information was presented previously to the Commissioners regarding an alternate position on the Board, a discussion occurred regarding the needed experience and knowledge of animals. She stated it was determined a board could only be so large before it lost momentum and the ability to be highly functioning. She explained the seat that encompassed someone of general interest was designed to represent someone of any background, breeder or otherwise, with an interest in serving on the Animal Services Advisory Board.

Commissioner Hartung stated all boards had alternative members who would serve in the event that a member could not attend a meeting.

Chair Lucey explained that not all blended boards had alternates and this particular Board was compiled with Elected Officials and appointed positions.

Commissioner Berkbigler stated she knew Irene Payne well and she thought it would be beneficial to have someone on the Animal Services Advisory Board

who was interested in all animals, but also had significant public relations and communications experience. She thought Ms. Abbey would do a good job, but stated Ms. Payne had the communication experience that was important.

On motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Irene Payne be appointed to the health and safety of animals in Washoe County position of the Animal Services Advisory Board.

Chair Lucey agreed Ms. Payne would bring a wealth of information regarding government relations and the processes of how board's operate. He thought her experience was essential for this position on the Animal Services Advisory Board.

17-0601 **AGENDA ITEM 8** Introduction and first reading of an ordinance amending Washoe County Code Chapter 55 by vacating the animal control board; by labeling the existing permit to keep more than three adult dogs and/or seven adult cats within the congested areas of the county a “variance” permit; by amending provisions related to the application for a variance permit, the processing of a variance permit, the requirements of and conditions imposed upon a variance permit, the approval or denial of a variance permit, the revocation of a variance permit, and the appeal process; and by modifying containment requirements for keeping more than three adult dogs and/or seven adult cats, and all other matters properly relating thereto; and if supported, set the public hearing for second reading and possible adoption of the ordinance on August 8, 2017. Animal Services. (All Commission Districts.)

The Chair opened the public hearing by calling on anyone wishing to speak for or against adoption of said Ordinance.

Jan Galassini, Chief Deputy County Clerk, read the title for Bill No. 1785.

Shyanne Schull provided background information about the proposed Ordinance from the staff report.

On the call for public comment, the following individuals spoke in opposition to the proposed Ordinance amending Washoe County Code Chapter 55: Mr. Tim Stoffel; Ms. Vicky Maltman; Ms. Diane Young McCormack; Ms. Glenna Elrod; Ms. Marcia Sherman; Ms. Chris Vaught; and Ms. Ardena Perry.

The individuals listed above stated their concerns regarding the proposed amendments to the Washoe County Code Chapter 55 including: changes would affect breeding regulations; animals would become extinct without breeding; it would eliminate the rights of animal owners and breeders; purebred dogs would no longer exist; being grandfathered in would only protect current animals; many breeders did not obtain a

kennel permit; some misleading information was being provided; and the changes would affect the breeders of K-9 dogs.

Ms. Anne Katona was called to speak, but was not present.

Commissioner Berkbigler stated she had an issue with the language of the proposed Ordinance. She said the language clearly stated that all dogs or cats were required to be spayed or neutered. She was concerned that animal owners could not ever breed their animals. She noted the current Commissioners would change and the language was not clear enough to guarantee that new Commissioners could interpret the Code differently. She stated it was inappropriate to put people out of business and any language that went into the Ordinance that had the potential to interfere with businesses should be removed. She stated she would not support the proposed changes.

Commissioner Hartung stated he had a number of issues regarding the proposed Ordinance changes. He asked if the proposed Code changes would require all dogs and cats to be spayed or neutered and if that meant in the future horses and other animals would be required to be spayed or neutered. He wondered how the number of three dogs and seven cats was determined for Code requirements. He stated his dog was a rescue animal and he would breed her if he could, but since she was a rescue animal she was spayed. He was concerned about the containment requirements to keep dogs or cats in a secured kennel if it was required by Animal Services. He thought that language would allow Animal Services more authority than necessary. He asked what the process was for an administrative hearing. He stated he could not be supportive of the changes to the Code.

Ms. Schull explained the administrative hearing process as stated in the staff report.

Commissioner Herman stated she was not supportive of the proposed changes to the Code.

Commissioner Hartung said he feared these proposed changes would create unintentional criminals out of law-abiding citizens. He asked for a definition of the congested areas of the County.

Ms. Schull stated it was her understanding congested areas of the County closely mirrored the congested shooting areas and noted the guidelines were listed on the Animal Services website.

Commissioner Berkbigler stated the proposed Code changes would apply to the entire County and contained a number of issues that concerned the Board. She recognized the amount of time spent to create the proposed changes was extreme, but she thought the Code changes were not appropriate as written.

County Manager John Slaughter stated the Board could continue, introduce the first reading as written and schedule the second reading or allow Animal Services to take the direction provided and bring changes back to the Board at a future meeting.

Chair Lucey agreed that Animal Services received the direction needed for changes to be made. He stated the spay and neuter aspect needed to be removed and detailed language needed to be added. He indicated the Board was not ready to introduce the first reading as written.

Bill No. 1785 was not introduced.

17-0602 **AGENDA ITEM 9** Introduction and first reading of an ordinance amending Washoe County Code Chapter 55 by separating exotic animals into a three-tiered classification system; by exempting tier 1 exotic animals from the exotic animal permit process; by requiring persons wishing to possess tier 2 or tier 3 exotic animals to obtain an exotic animal permit; by amending provisions related to the application for an exotic animal permit, the processing of an exotic animal permit, the requirements of and conditions imposed upon an exotic animal permit, the approval or denial of an exotic animal permit, the revocation of an exotic animal permit, and the appeal process; by modifying minimal structural enclosure requirements for primates, felines, canines, reptiles, bears, hoofed animals, marsupials and raptors; by amending provisions related to the impoundment of exotic animals; and by adding and revising various definitions, and all other matters properly relating thereto; and if supported, set the public hearing for second reading and possible adoption of the ordinance on August 8, 2017. Animal Services (All Commission Districts)

The Chair opened the public hearing by calling on anyone wishing to speak for or against adoption of said Ordinance.

Jan Galassini, Chief Deputy County Clerk, read the title for Bill No. 1786.

Animal Services Manager Bobby Smith stated this was the first reading to divide exotic animals into a tiered system. Tier one would be the exotic animals seen in pet stores and some were prohibited without a permit. He stated staff was trying to get those specific animals out of the Code completely. He indicated some of the tier two animals would require a permit and the all tier three animals, which were more inherently dangerous or invasive species, would require a permit. He stated this was not a prohibition Code, this worked hand-in-hand with zoning in the local jurisdictions. He said a person who applied for a permit, for example to own a tiger, would be subject to zoning restrictions or conditions within each local jurisdiction.

The following individuals spoke in opposition of the proposed changes to Washoe County Code Chapter 55 regarding exotic animals: Mr. Tim Stoffel, Mr. Bill Maggiora; Mr. Jimmie Martin; Ms. Elle Douglas; Mr. Samuel McCall; Ms. Vicky Maltman; and Ms. Tammy Holt-Still. Mr. Martin provided photos, which were placed on file with the Clerk.

The individuals listed above stated their comments and concerns for the proposed changes to the Washoe County Code Chapter 55 which included: exotic animals should be considered on a case-by-case basis; insurance premiums and restrictions were based on the tiered system; changes could make exotic animals extinct; some animals were incorrectly classified as more dangerous than they were; staff needed more education about exotic animals; a request to allow exotic animal owners to assist with writing the changes to Code; some exotic animal owners completed required training courses to own their animal; more injuries occurred with domestic animals compared to exotic animals; and the changes would affect the Animal Ark and Sierra Safari Zoo.

Commissioner Herman stated many issues were not resolved with the proposed changes. She thought the Animal Control Board should be convened to assist with changes and resolutions to the ongoing issues. She did not believe the Animal Services Advisory Board had the experience needed to resolve the issues as of yet. She thought the issue needed to go back to the drawing board.

Commissioner Berkbigler said she understood desert tortoises were not an issue as an exotic animal.

Mr. Smith confirmed that desert tortoises were not included as exotic animals.

Chair Lucey stated in the tier three exotic animals, all marsupials were included except the sugar glider. He thought clarifying marsupials individually instead of stating all marsupials, except the sugar glider, could clarify the Code. He was not certain that all marsupials should be considered tier three exotic animals. He stated he knew the intent was not to exclude all animals in the County because a person could raise most any exotic animal with a permit. He thought the proposed changes were written with good intentions, but were still missing the needed clarification and definitions.

Mr. Smith stated the tier system was written in conjunction with State Veterinarians and the Department of Wildlife. He indicated the reason the sugar glider was excluded from tier three was that it was currently a common pet store animal.

Commissioner Hartung talked about Animal Ark and he wondered if they would be forced to spay or neuter the animals that came to them. He said the facility was a drop off point for animals that needed to be rehabilitated.

Mr. Smith stated he spoke with the Animal Ark owners and the changes would not affect their business.

Commissioner Hartung stated he was not opposed to requiring permits to own a large cat. He noted large cats did not kill people often, but it was known to happen. He explained he did not want to restrict exotic animal ownership to the point that it would force people to keep animals illegally. He thought the ownership of large quantities of venomous snakes should be controlled and regulated. He asked whether the State had requirements for some of the exotic animals.

Mr. Smith replied the requirements would fall under the County restrictions.

Commissioner Berkgigler said she understood the County was not attempting to eliminate any animals, it was only to require the owners to obtain permits for said animals.

Mr. Smith stated that was correct; no animals were being restricted.

Commissioner Hartung asked about spaying, neutering and microchipping exotic animals and he wondered if that was possible for all exotic animals.

Mr. Smith stated the identification was left to the discretion of the owner; whether it was a tattoo, microchip or other permanent identification. He stated every animal could be microchipped. He noted there were exceptions to the spay and neuter requirements, which included: reptiles, a letter from a veterinarian stating it would be detrimental to the health of an animal; and being registered with the nationally recognized programs to ensure pure genetics.

Chair Lucey stated this was a first reading and introduction. He thought there were some changes that could be resolved after the first reading.

Deputy District Attorney David Watts-Vial read NRS 244.100 subsection 1. He indicated a first reading was on the agenda for introduction. He stated the options were to introduce the first reading as written and schedule the second reading or to allow Animal Services to take the direction provided and bring changes back to a future meeting.

Commissioner Hartung stated a brand new Animal Services Advisory Board was established and they had not dealt with any of these issues. He thought the new Board should be given the opportunity to provide feedback.

Chair Lucey stated the bill would not be introduced, but would be sent back with direction.

Bill No. 1786 was not introduced.

1:28 p.m. Commissioner Berkbigler left the meeting

17-0603 AGENDA ITEM 10 Public Comment.

Mr. Tim Stoffel commended the Board for not introducing the proposed changes to the Code. He hoped it would provide Animal Services more opportunities to resolve the citizen's and Commissioner's concerns. He indicated some of the concerns included high insurance premiums and breed determination. He asked the Board to work with animal owners to resolve the issues.

Ms. Ardena Perry thanked the Board for their consideration and for thinking of the animals. She said she received more than 45 emails from people that had experienced delays with the issuance of kennel and variance permits. She stated she had documentation of eight cases that took more than seven months to be approved. She said to deny the permits would trigger a convening of the Animal Control Board. She asked the Board to reinstate the Animal Control Board until the Animal Services Advisory Board was functional.

Ms. Cathy Brandhorst spoke about matters of concern to herself.

17-0604 AGENDA ITEM 11 Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Hartung said there were many breeders in his neighborhood and they were great people, responsible and respectful. He stated it would be wise to have someone who represented breeders on the Animal Services Advisory Board. He suggested to add a breeder position and an alternate position to the Animal Services board.

Chair Lucey concurred with Commissioner Hartung and said breeders played a large role with animals in the community.

Commissioner Herman stated if those positions were added to the Animal Services Advisory Board, the exotic animal people could be left out.

Chair Lucey asked for the Animal Services staff to work on the changes and bring them back to the Board.

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1:33 p.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

BOB LUCEY, Chair
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

NANCY PARENT, County Clerk and
Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

*Minutes Prepared by:
Doni Gassaway, Deputy County Clerk*