

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES
JULY 24, 2007**

The Health & Human Services Committee met on Tuesday, July 24, 2007 in the Committee Room, located on the second floor of the Administration Building beginning at 2:05 p.m. Mr. Carrigg, Committee Chairman presided.

Members Attending:

John W. Carrigg, Jr., Chairman
Debra B. Debbie Summers
William B. Banning, Sr.

Johnny W. Jeffcoat, V Chairman
Bobby C. Keisler
William C. Billy Derrick

Also attending: Katherine Hubbard County Administrator; Larry Porth, Finance Director/Assistant County Administrator; other staff members, citizens of the county and representatives of the media.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda was sent to radio and TV stations, newspapers, and posted on the bulletin board located in the lobby of the County Administration Building.

Animal Identification Procedures – The Committee discussed issues concerning identifying pets in Lexington County and keeping track of the data. Proposed Ordinance 07-10 - A Proposed Ordinance to Determine the Number of Pets Located in Lexington County was presented for consideration. Discussion also included two additional items of concern; 1) A request from Project Pet to help them build a facility and, 2) A pet license fee for reimbursement of funding for the Project Pet facility. The proposed ordinance would enable the County to compile and review the data collected and assess the possibility of a pet license fee. The Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) currently has a form for veterinarians to submit pet information which includes identification numbers which County Animal Services utilizes to contact owners of animals they encounter.

Per Joe Mergo, Director of Solid Waste Management, Project Pet submitted details of what they would provide for Lexington County in their budget submission. They would provide a facility to provide low cost spay and neuter for individuals who cannot afford to do so, a method to identify those individuals who meet that criteria, a one stop shop to publicize adoptions in hopes of reducing the pet population, programs in schools, and education center. They are offering to adopt a certain number of animals specified through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from the County, which they already do with the County, and pay for the animals that they adopt from County Animal Services. Project Pet is committed to creating a Midlands environment of a no kill society where animals can be adopted.

Executive Session/Legal Briefing – A motion was made by Ms. Summers, seconded by Mr. Keisler to go into Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Carrigg reconvened the meeting in open session.

Supplemental Appropriation for Project Pet - Project Pet is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to end killing of adoptable animals in local shelters and has indicated they would be able to take the County's animal shelter's cats and dog and save the County money. They have requested a proposed private/public partnership between Project Pet, Richland County and Lexington County for a 25,400 square foot regional Adoption and Outreach/Spay/Neuter Center. Project Pet previously secured seven acres of land from Lexington County on Bower Parkway to construct this regional facility. The Committee directed staff to secure documentation to contract this plan with Project Pet.

A motion was made by Mr. Jeffcoat, seconded by Ms. Summers to recommend that full Council move forward with a \$1.5 million supplemental appropriation to enter into a private/public partnership with Richland County, Lexington County and Project Pet.

In Favor:	Mr. Jeffcoat	Ms. Summers
	Mr. Carrigg	Mr. Banning

Opposed:	Mr. Derrick	Mr. Keisler
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Ordinance 07-10 – A Proposed Ordinance to Determine the Number of Pets Located in Lexington County - The proposed ordinance would require that all pet veterinarians who have a place of business within the County to provide Lexington County Animal Services Department within 30 days of the effective date of the ordinance with the following information: A) name, sex, breed, age, weight, color, and whether the pet has been spayed or neutered and whether the pet has had a rabies shot; and B) name, address and telephone number of owner. This will affect the unincorporated areas of the county and any incorporated area that is under the jurisdiction of the Lexington County Animal Control Ordinance.

A motion was made by Mr. Banning, seconded by Ms. Summers to recommend that full Council proceed with first reading of Ordinance 07-10 - An Ordinance to Determine the Number of Pets Located in Lexington County at the August 28 Council meeting.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Approval of Minutes - Meeting of June 12, 2007 – A motion was made by Mr. Derrick seconded by Mr. Banning to approve the June 12, 2007 minutes as submitted.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Old Business/New Business – None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy R. Busbee
Assistant to the Clerk

John W. Carrigg, Jr.
Chairman

Diana W. Burnett
Clerk