

The West Branch Animal Control Commission met on December 12, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Members present were Ashley Olson, Red Provine, and Alan Beyer. Absent were Leesa Johnson and Amy Lynch. Also present were Sgt. Hanna and Redmond Jones.

Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved.

Old Business:

The Urban Chicken ordinance was presented to the city council and it passed on its first reading but failed on the second reading. Concerns expressed at the council meeting included disposal of dead or old chickens and concerns of being a good neighbor.

Three options were presented for the animal control commission. First, the ordinance could be considered dead. Second, it could be represented to the new city council when it convenes in January. Third, the ordinance could be tabled for now until members of the community express interest in having chickens. The third option was chosen.

The Indian Creek Nature Center in Cedar Rapids was contacted about their classes for people interested in urban chickens. They are in the process of deciding whether to do presentations in outside communities rather than at their place as has been done in the past.

There was no other old business.

New Business:

Police report: Sgt. Hanna reported that the dog bite incident that occurred last month has been resolved and the offending dog has been classified as dangerous. Also, he said the fox population in town is down to one and this one appears to be healthy.

Breed specific legislation: A handout from an AVMA Journal was presented which discussed the history and effectiveness of breed specific laws. Iowa is a state where BSL's are enforced, and there are no state laws prohibiting BSLs. General feeling of the commission was that behavior rather than breed should be the deciding factor in local ordinances.

There was no further new business.

Next meeting will January 9, 2018.

Meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.