

**City of Taylorsville**  
**Work Session**  
*Minutes*

**Wednesday, November 9, 2011**  
**Council Chambers**  
**2600 West Taylorsville Blvd., Room No. 140**  
**Taylorsville, Utah 84129**

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**Attendance:**

Mayor Russ Wall

**Council Members:**

Chairman Jerry Rechtenbach  
Vice-Chairman Larry Johnson  
Council Member Dama Barbour  
Council Member Bud Catlin  
Council Member Morris Pratt

**City Staff:**

John Inch Morgan, City Administrator  
John Brems, City Attorney  
Cheryl Peacock Cottle, City Recorder  
Jessica Springer, Council Coordinator  
Del Craig, Chief of Police  
Mark McGrath, Community Development Director  
John Taylor, City Engineer  
Scott Harrington, Chief of Finance  
Donald Adams, Economic Development Director  
Tessa Kohl, Victim Advocate

**Others:** Kristie Overson, Israel Grossman, Julene Inskip, Charles Christopher, RoxAnn Jeppesen, Hank Greenwood, Jessica Almeida, Caitlin Lisle, Dave Ballou, Geneva Facemyer, Ernest Burgess

Chairman Jerry Rechtenbach called the Work Session to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. City Recorder Cheryl Peacock Cottle conducted a Roll Call, wherein all Council Members were present.

**1. Quarterly Report, West Valley Animal Control – Kelly Davis**

18:30:32 Kelly Davis, of West Valley Animal Control Services, reported on animal control activities in Taylorsville. Mr. Davis reviewed a table outlining current activities versus past activities and discussed trends that have emerged.

18:32:41 Council Member Catlin asked if “park” refers to just the Dog Park. Mr. Davis confirmed that this is just in reference to the Dog Park.

18:33:49 Council Member Catlin followed up with a question regarding the response time for vicious dog attacks. Mr. Davis responded that the response time is anywhere from 16 minutes to one hour. He explained that calls before 8:00 a.m. are routed to Valley Emergency Communications Center (VECC) and then Animal Control is paged; during business hours, calls go directly to the Animal Shelter. He noted that if there is an in-progress bite or dog fight, the calls are responded to more quickly than with a normal not-in-progress animal control call.

18:36:49 Council Member Johnson asked whether West Valley City calls are responded to more quickly than Taylorsville calls because West Valley is a larger city. Mr. Davis responded that both cities are considered to be of the same importance. He relayed that Taylorsville has two dedicated officers based on size; however, call response is also based on circumstances and officers are pulled from other areas if needed.

18:39:03 Council Member Pratt asked about dispatch coverage and whether there are times when the phones are not manned during business hours. Council Member Pratt referenced a specific incident when a resident was unable to reach a live person during business hours. Mr. Davis explained that there is an automated operator system that answers initially and then the caller is given several options and can press 0 to get to an operator who will address a particular issue. He noted that there are times when the phones are very busy and the call is routed to a voicemail.

18:42:12 Council Member Barbour questioned whether a resident can call 911 for response if there is an in-progress occurrence. Mr. Davis responded that a resident can always call 911 for in-progress issues and an animal control officer will be dispatched.

18:43:52 Mr. Davis reviewed administrative procedures in dealing with two city jurisdictions.

18:44:30 Mr. Davis referenced the three Pit Bull incidents that have occurred recently in Taylorsville and detailed enforcement events leading up to these incidents. Mr. Davis clarified that there is not necessarily concern over a specific breed, but rather over certain behavior. He relayed his understanding that concerns have been specifically expressed over Pit Bulls, but said that the issues are really related to behavior in general.

18:47:05 Chairman Rechtenbach cited the difference between an aggressive small dog and an aggressive larger dog and questioned whether these two sizes of aggressive dogs should be treated similarly. Mr. Davis responded that there are levels of response based on the severity of the injury or attack. Chairman Rechtenbach followed up by asking whether Taylorsville's current ordinance covers response methods after an incident. Mr. Davis confirmed that the City's ordinance does cover handling an incident after the fact.

18:50:03 Council Member Pratt asked whether West Valley Animal Control keeps track of the breed of dogs involved in an attack and whether there are an abundance of Pit Bulls or German Shepherds, etc. Mr. Davis relayed that tracking of attacks has shown that Pit Bulls are the highest, followed by Labs, then German Shepherds, and then Chihuahuas.

18:51:24 Council Member Johnson observed that every dog can be mean if not maintained by its owner.

18:54:33 Council Member Johnson asked about a specific call regarding a Pit Bull that was contained once the officer arrived and whether a citation was issued anyway. Mr. Davis answered that dog owners can be cited whether they are contained when Animal Control arrives or not, based on the original complaint and the circumstances involved.

**2. Discussion Regarding K9 Breed Specific Restriction**  
**– Layne Morris, West Valley City, Community Preservation Director**

18:55:33 West Valley City Community Preservation Director Layne Morris presented information on breed specific bans and explained that this has been an issue for residents and officials in West Valley City, as well. Mr. Morris cited the topic of Pit Bulls and whether they need to be addressed as a specific breed or not. Mr. Morris illustrated a Power Point Presentation regarding the history of bull baiting, selective breeding, the history of bans regarding baiting, cruelty to animals, and breed specific bans. He reviewed a timeline of dog baiting, ratting, and dog fighting progression. Mr. Morris expressed his belief that there is definitely a predisposition factor for aggression with Pit Bulls. He said that due to 1000 years of breeding fighting-specific Pit Bulls, these tendencies can be inherent in Pit Bulls. Mr. Morris went over three studies that have been done regarding violent attacks involving dogs, i.e. a CDC Study, Animal People News Study, and Dogsbite.org Study. Mr. Morris noted that to be fair some sites do not like Pit Bulls, so they tend to be more negative toward Pit Bulls. Mr. Morris also stated that there are different definitions and specifications for identifying a Pit Bull and this can skew statistics. Chairman Rechtenbach clarified that there are issues with definition and specifications for any breed, not just Pit Bulls. Mr. Morris relayed that in court cases, experts in the field are often brought in to determine whether a dog is actually a Pit Bull, rather than paying for a DNA test to determine breed.

19:10:28 Mr. Morris went on to reference Taylorsville specific dog bite statistics with a percentage of 32% licensed dogs in Taylorsville. He noted that, based on these numbers, Pit Bulls are not the largest breed reporting dog bites in the City. He cited statistics for behavior and impound rates in West Valley and Taylorsville.

19:14:52 Mr. Morris explained that the numbers are based on the number of dog licenses sold, the number of actual dog bites, impounds, and complaints. He noted that the number of dogs listed in a specific breed as being located in Taylorsville is not an accurate number because many dogs are not licensed as they should be.

19:18:01 Discussion ensued regarding specific numbers and calculations that were used to determine specific percentages referenced in the presentation.

19:19:51 Council Member Barbour and Council Member Johnson both stated that they believe it would be helpful to have Taylorsville-specific information regarding licensing, impounds and complaints relating to Pit Bulls.

19:20:44 Mayor Wall clarified that Administration invited Mr. Morris to talk about the philosophical approach regarding breed specific bans and not to provide information on Taylorsville specific issues.

19:21:51 Mr. Morris stated that, based on research and data compiled, it is generally considered that Pit Bulls and Chihuahuas have the most irresponsible owners over any other breeds.

19:22:55 Council Member Johnson asked for clarification on the number of dogs in Taylorsville versus the licensed dogs in the City. Mayor Wall responded that, based on census information, there are approximately 13,000 dogs in the City but only approximately 2800 dogs are actually licensed.

19:23:50 Council Member Catlin observed that it is irrelevant to analyze revenue or other data based on licensing statistics because of the different licensing requirements, i.e. senior citizens who are not required to pay fees, etc.

19:25:06 Mr. Morris continued his presentation with current environment statistics and what other jurisdictions are doing world wide and locally. Included in the presentation were statistics on Pit Bull attacks or other breed attacks versus death by other means not involving dogs or specifically Pit Bulls. Mr. Morris then detailed options that are available and have been used elsewhere.

19:29:37 Council Member Barbour thanked Mr. Morris for the information provided and stated her belief that the issue is more about irresponsible dog owners than with the dogs themselves.

19:33:43 City Administrator John Inch Morgan suggested that, because of the amount of data and comments presented, this information should be given to the Ordinance Review Committee. He recommended that the committee be asked to examine data and make recommendations as to how Taylorsville should handle these situations going forward and whether current regulations are strong enough to handle future issues that may arise.

19:33:59 Several Council Members rendered opinions regarding Pit Bulls and breed-specific bans, based on personal experience and other statistics.

### **3. Discussion Regarding Police Department Staffing – *Chief Del Craig***

18:02:35 Taylorsville Police Chief Del Craig addressed the Council regarding questions that were brought up in a previous Council Meeting addressing traffic citations, scheduling and staffing issues. Chief Craig went over numbers regarding traffic citations in the City. He relayed that staffing has remained consistent, four officers are assigned to patrol; two exclusively to traffic full time, with the other two assigned to traffic and patrol. The Chief stated that more detail will be presented during the Strategic Planning Process, as to the direction of the Police Department and what is being looked at for the future.

18:06:56 Council Member Larry Johnson asked about the recent new officer allocations and whether they will assist with traffic. Chief Craig confirmed that they will be helping out with traffic, as well as other areas.

18:08:49 Council Member Catlin asked about whether two officers are enough for traffic and whether that number should be increased. Chief Craig answered that, as of now, two officers have been adequate because of the staggered schedules. He explained that officers work four 10-hour days, which provides an overlap of schedules.

18:16:21 There were no further questions for Chief Craig.

### **4. Discussion Regarding the Strategic Planning Process – *Mark McGrath***

18:16:56 Community Development Director Mark McGrath reviewed the upcoming schedule for the City's Strategic Planning Process via a Power Point Presentation. The presentation included information on the philosophy behind a strategic planning process, 10 initiatives that Taylorsville specifically looks at, prioritization of categories and projects, budget timelines, and the City Council Retreat.

18:23:19 Council Member Johnson asked about last year's planning process and related projects and whether the things that were tabled from last year will now be reconsidered in case priorities have changed. Mr. McGrath confirmed that everything will absolutely be brought forward and

all areas will be reconsidered in light of changed circumstances as new priority goals are established.

18:26:43 It was determined that the City Council Retreat will be held on November 19, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. and will include an introduction, staff presentations from the six department heads, Council discussions, and wrap up.

**5. Discussion Regarding Chapters 26, 29 & 30 of the Proposed *Land Development Code* – *Mark McGrath***

19:43:01 Council Member Johnson opened up the discussion by asking for clarification regarding fencing in a chapter that was discussed last week. Council Member Johnson determined that he will e-mail Mr. McGrath his specific question for discussion offline.

19:44:54 Chairman Rechtenbach apologized for not being prepared for this agenda item and asked about postponing this discussion until a future Council Meeting because he wasn't able to review the chapters sufficiently. Council Member Barbour agreed and apologized for the lack of preparation.

Discussion was held regarding signs for bus benches. Clarification was given by City Administrator John Inch Morgan on revenue that comes in from bus kiosks. He explained that no revenue is currently received from bus benches.

19:46:32 Council Member Larry Johnson **MOVED** to table discussion on Chapters 26, 29 and 30 of the Development Code until the next Council Meeting. Council Member Bud Catlin **SECONDED** the motion. All Council Members voted in favor, and it was agreed to table this item for the next Council Meeting.

**5. Other Matters**

19:47:05 Chairman Rechtenbach recommended that only two City Council Meetings be held in December due to the Christmas holidays. It was determined that regular Council Meetings will be held on December 7<sup>th</sup> and December 14<sup>th</sup> and the Work Session for December will be cancelled. The City Recorder agreed to notice the meeting schedule change accordingly.

19:48:14 Council Member Johnson asked about events scheduled for the lawn in front of City Hall and whether the area is open for other groups to reserve. John Inch Morgan relayed that Administration will bring this matter back to the Council for discussion at the November 16, 2011 City Council Meeting.

## 6. Adjournment

Council Member Pratt **MOVED** to adjourn the City Council Work Session. Council Member Johnson **SECONDED** the motion. Chairman Rechtenbach called for discussion. There being none, he called for a vote. The vote was as follows: Johnson-yes, Pratt-yes, Catlin-yes, Barbour-yes, and Rechtenbach-yes. **All City Council members voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.



Cheryl Peacock Cottle, City Recorder

Minutes approved: CC 12-07-11

*Minutes Prepared by: Jessica Springer, Deputy Recorder & Cheryl Peacock Cottle, City Recorder*