

CITY OF CLYDE
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
April 26, 2022

The regularly scheduled work session of Clyde City Council was held on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room, Clyde City Building, 222 N. Main Street, Clyde, Ohio 43410 for a discussion on feral and stray cats in the Clyde community.

Roll Call.

Present: Mayor Brent Stanley
Vice Mayor Chris Shay
Council Member Scott Black
Council Member Steve Keegan
Council Member Doug McCauley
Clerk of Council Janet R. Dickman (Not voting)
Deputy Clerk of Council Jackie Hoppe (Not voting)
IT Administrator Justin LaBenne
Solicitor Zak Selvey

Absent/

Excused: City Manager Paul H. Fiser (Not voting)

Visitors:

Visitors signing in can be referenced in the record book supplement.

Dr. Ryan Zimmerman, Veterinarian – Neuter Voucher Program

Dr. Zimmerman has been through this with a couple other communities in the past. Results will be based on commitment. It would take about three years to see an improvement in a reduction of “nuisance” cats. In this program, cats that are trapped are brought in to be neutered (their ears would be tipped to signify they are neutered); if the cat is deemed inappropriate for surgery for any reason it would be euthanized. Cats will stay anywhere that food is available. It is unknown the costs that could be associated with this program. The City would develop vouchers (\$58 for males and \$78 for females) that residents could use to take the cat to the veterinarian. As vouchers are redeemed, the veterinarian would forward the vouchers to the City for payment. He does not have past experience with another City the same size as Clyde to offer a cost estimate. They could neuter four cats per day, and offer this service a day or two a week. This program would address the breeding issue, but would not address nuisance cats who urinate or cause other problems on properties. Human behavior would need to be addressed to not feed the nuisance cats. From experience, Dr. Zimmerman sees most cats having some type of respiratory distress. There is also the possibility of cat diseases transmitting to humans.

Marcia Nicely spoke regarding a neighbor who feeds many feral cats and outlined the many problems this causes her property and the neighborhood. In the past, this neighbor has gone to court for violating an Ordinance designating that she has too many cats. Mr. Selvey noted violation of this Ordinance is not a criminal violation; a possible fine could be levied but is difficult to appropriately prosecute. Ms. Nicely has also contacted the Health Department, with

no results. The Humane Society may intervene if they feel they need to protect the health of the cats.

Mr. Selvey feels the City could address the concerns with outside cats better than we could address regulating the number of inside cats a person has. He acknowledged the City could adopt licensing requirements for cats, similar to dogs, but it would be difficult to enforce.

Terese Joseph – Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) Program.

She promotes spay and neuter for cats (and dogs). She feels people would continue to feed the cats, no matter what type of Ordinance is adopted. She is in favor of a voucher program for spay and neuter. The Humane Society and other organizations have no room to take in stray cats, as they are full. She recommends to help the people who want to feed the cats, by offering the vouchers.

Mr. Selvey feels the City needs to employ more than one way to address this issue. He recommends using a law/ordinance that other communities have had success with. He highly recommends that City employees would not trap the feral cats, only volunteers would do this.

Ms. Joseph has seen many scenarios where people want to do the right thing to spay/neuter kittens, but they do not have the money. Another scenario is when a person gets a kitten, usually free, because it's "cute" but as the cat grows it becomes a nuisance, so they let it out. Most people do understand the need to spay/neuter, but they just do not have the resources.

A very rough estimate could be \$17,000 the first year. Ideally, the number of cats to be trapped would decrease each year, thus the voucher expense should also decrease. If a cat would be deemed to be euthanized, the City would also incur a cost but that cost would be exponentially lower than the spay/neuter cost.

Traps to catch feral cats would need to be checked every couple of hours, cats should not remain in the trap overnight. The issue of feral cats needs to be managed and controlled, but feral cats will not be eliminated. Every shelter is overrun with cats; it would be highly unlikely to find a shelter that would guarantee they could take some of these cats.

Norwalk has recently started a program, and they are similar size as Clyde. Mr. Selvey would like to know the priorities of Council, to assist him if he is asked to develop any new legislation. Enforcement of any legislation would also be a key point.

This seems to be a city-wide concern, and concerns were voiced that the issue is getting worse the past couple of years. There is also a wildlife issue, with cats killing birds.

Ms. Nicely shared all of the negative effects at her property, related to the high number of cats at a neighbor's residence.

Mr. Selvey can bring draft legislation to Council for their review and input at the second Council meeting in May. It was noted a Council work session can be held at any time, with twenty-four hours notice.

Dr. Zimmerman suggests that Council also have a plan to address residents who try to use the voucher program for their personal indoor cats.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Stanley announced the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.



Brent Stanley, Mayor



Janet R. Dickman, Clerk of Council

CITY OF CLYDE

COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Tuesday April 26, 2022 Work session

Visitors – PLEASE SIGN IN:

1. Gayle Beames

2. Bin Brown

3. Gary Smith

4. Terese Joseph

5. Ryan Zimmerman

6. Marcia Nicely

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____

14. _____

15. _____

