



Municipal Code Updates

January 4, 2021

City Council Study Session

City Staff Representatives:

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Purpose

- To inform and solicit councils approval for amendments to the Brighton Municipal Code, Chapter 6 Animals and Chapter 8 Health and Safety.

Strategic Focus Area

- Safe, Active and Engaged Community
- Recognizable and Well-Planned Community
- Strong Regional Relationships and Partnerships



Background

- Community Services Staff began working on changes in late 2019.
- Eliminate confusion citizens had regarding animal control and code enforcement officer duties and responsibilities. Formally codify this for issues which may arise in court.
- Remove confusing rabies vaccination language.
- Bring microchipping into accordance with surrounding jurisdictions and Adams County Shelter procedures.
- Address concerns about puppy mills within the city & dogs being tethered unsafely and inhumanely.
- Address citizen concerns regarding weeds, storage of items outside of residences.

Suggested Amendments

- Sec. 9-4-170 – Code Enforcement Officers
 - Define the Community Services Officer position and authority under the municipal code.

Suggested Amendments

- Sec. 6-4-100. – Rabies vaccination required.
 - Adds potbellied pigs to required animals.
 - Removes the month and year requirements for remaining current and simplifies this by stating *vaccinations must remain current*.
 - Adds it is unlawful to have an unvaccinated potbellied pig.

Suggested Amendments

Sec. 6-4-230 (e) Microchipping

- Adds microchipping to the municipal code. There is no current microchip code.
- Reduce the need to impound animals which are frequently running at-large.

Suggested Amendments

Sec. 6-4-440. – Accumulation of Animals

- Changes the accumulation of animals to reflect animals included in the count are those 3 months or older vs. 4 months or older. Animals weaned at 8 weeks and we are allowing an additional 4 weeks to find a home for the weaned animals.
- Adds no more than 2 litters per household or 1 litter per female in a 12 month period. This would address if a household was running a 'puppy mill'.

Suggested Amendments

Sec. 6-4-500. - Improper treatment of animals (c) Tethering

- Sets clear standards for tethering animals which are consistent with the American Kennel Club recommendations.
- New standards are more humane for the animals.
- Desired effect is reduction in cruelty to animal calls for service but when handling these calls clear guidelines have been written into code.

Suggested Amendments

- Sec. 6-4-600. – Impoundment; disposition; fees.
 - Adds language which states animal owner is responsible for the microchipping fees as part of the impoundment fees.
 - Language is consistent with our agreement with Adams County Animal Shelter.

Suggested Amendments

- 8-8-30. – Weeds – unlawful growth
 - Currently land owners can state land is agricultural and allow weeds to accumulate and blow throughout the neighborhoods with no requirement in the code to cut them back other than around the perimeter.
 - Modifies the language to state it is currently being used for agricultural purposes.
 - Eliminates the loophole stating the land is agriculture so it does not need to be cut.

Suggested Amendments

- 8-6-40. – Weeds and grass – notice to cut weeds and grass
- 8-6-60. – Notice to maintain landscaping.
- Currently notices issued to property owners indicate 7 days from date of notice to bring the property into compliance.
- Change would allow property owners 10 days to bring property into compliance which is consistent with our abatement of nuisances time lines.

Suggested Amendments

- 8-8-150. Outdoor Storage of Materials (**not currently in the code**)
 - Not currently addressed in code as the current code addresses trash, rubbish and debris.
 - Addresses the issue of front porch's, yards being used to store materials which do not fit under the definition of trash, rubbish or debris..

Summary

- Recommended changes reflect the most common issues/complaints which the Community Service Officers have to address.
- All of these recommendations reinforce the Strategic Focus of Council and the City.
- Changes here reflect best practices within the surrounding jurisdictions and or agreements with them.

Options for City Council

- Move forward with an amendment to the Municipal Code based on the parameters suggested in this presentation
- Move forward with an amendment to the Municipal Code but with modifications to the parameters suggested in this presentation
- Do not move forward with an amendment to the Municipal Code