

TOWN OF DAVIE
PUPPY MILL ORDINANCE WORKSHOP MEETING
MAY 7, 2014

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

Present at the meeting were Mayor Paul, Vice-Mayor Hattan and Councilmembers Caletka, Luis and Starkey. Also present were Town Administrator Lemack, Town Attorney Rayson and Town Clerk Roig recording the meeting.

3. PUPPY MILL ORDINANCE

Mr. Rayson provided a Power Point presentation describing the problem of puppy and kitten mills. He stated there were three pet shops operating in the Town: Pet Land, Dynasty Dogs and Honey Pets and there were allegations that some animals for sale in Davie were from pet mills. Mr. Rayson informed Council that Phoenix, Arizona had passed an ordinance declaring that only dogs and cats from rescue organizations or humane societies could be sold. A pet shop had brought suit and the federal judge in Phoenix had issued an injunction halting enforcement of that ordinance. Mr. Rayson remarked it was important for the Town to monitor the outcome of this case.

Mr. Rayson described the legal options. The Town could enter a Zoning in Progress and table the issue until the legal questions were further clarified; this would result in a moratorium on issuing any new business tax receipts for pet shops. Alternately, the Town could move forward with an ordinance.

Mayor Paul did not want to “water the ordinance down” but felt it would be prudent to enter a Zoning in Progress and see what happened in Phoenix. In the meantime, they should educate the public about pet mills.

Councilmember Starkey was concerned that the ordinance did not differentiate between “pet mills” and “commercial pet suppliers.” She also wanted information about fines imposed against breeders. Councilmember Starkey agreed they should impose a moratorium until they could study these issues.

Councilmember Luis agreed they should wait to see the outcome of the Phoenix lawsuit. He referred to an opinion he was concerned about from the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council stating that a pet retail ban would indiscriminately target responsible pet stores and owners.

Councilmember Caletka used an analogy of a car dealership that continued to sell defective vehicles and asked Mr. Rayson if the Town would be able to revoke the business tax receipt from a pet store that continued to sell sick pets. Mr. Rayson stated this would need to be specified in an ordinance. Planning and Zoning Manager David Quigley informed Council that they could maintain a Zoning in Progress for 12 - 18 months without legal challenge. Mr. Rayson believed the Phoenix case would be settled by August. Councilmember Caletka agreed with Mayor Paul regarding the Zoning in Progress.

Vice-Mayor Hattan wondered of the ordinance would be effective on puppy mills that were located out of state. She agreed with the Zoning in Progress until they received additional information.

Mayor Paul liked Councilmember Caletka’s idea of revoking business tax receipts if there was a history of abuse by any business. She confirmed the Town would implement a Zoning in Progress for up to 18 months. Council agreed Mr. Rayson should look into the business tax receipt revocation idea. Mayor Paul requested the item be withdrawn from Council’s May 21 agenda.

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

MAY 7, 2014

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss and no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Approved_____

Mayor/Councilmember

Town Clerk