

TITLE 3

ANIMAL CONTROL AND PROTECTION

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CHAPTER 3-01

GENERAL PROVISIONS

3-01-01. Definitions. In this title unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires:

1. "Unaltered dog or cat" shall mean an unneutered male dog or cat or an unspayed female dog or cat.

2. "Animal" means every living animal except the human race.

3. "Cruelty" or "torture" means every act, omission or neglect whereby unnecessary or unjustifiable pain, suffering or death shall be caused or permitted.

4. "Dangerous animals" means animals which, because of their poisonous bite or sting, their size, or their propensity to viciousness or aggressiveness would constitute a hazard or threat to the safety of the citizens of Bismarck.

5. "Dog" or "cat" means both the female and male of the species.

6. "Domestic fowl" means chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, pigeons or other domestic fowl.

7. "Owner" means any person, firm, association, corporation or combination thereof keeping or harboring an animal, dog or domestic fowl.

8. "At large" means the animal is off the premises of the owner and is not securely confined in a vehicle or other enclosure or effectively restrained with a chain, leash or cord not more than six feet in length except that a supervised dog may be at large in any Parks and Recreation District property that the Board of Park Commissioners has designated for off leash activities.

(Ord. 4591, 03-29-94; Ord. 5418, 05-24-05)

3-01-02. Restrictions of the Keeping and Raising of Animals and Fowl.

1. The raising and keeping of animals is hereby prohibited except: As permitted in the zoning ordinances of the City; at zoos; at schools, clinics or laboratories for recognized educational, scientific or research purposes; and, one pair of animals commonly kept as pets and not prohibited by this chapter or city ordinance, providing the keeping of them does not create a public health or safety problem. The keeping of dangerous animals is prohibited.

2. A person may not keep or raise domestic fowl, livestock or non-traditional livestock, within the City of Bismarck except as permitted in the A Agricultural District, as defined by zoning ordinances. Domestic fowl when kept as permitted may not be kept within 150 feet of any dwelling unit other than that of the owner of such fowl. All fowl must be kept within a secure enclosure and it is unlawful to allow confinement areas of fowl to cause

unpleasant odors, or to permit fowl to create noise or attract vermin which may affect the health and well being of persons living nearby. The restrictions concerning where fowl may be kept do not apply to young domestic fowl being kept temporarily in business places for sale.

3. It is unlawful to keep animals or fowl in the city which have been bred or trained for fighting for sport or exhibition.

(Ord. 4591, 03-29-94)

3-01-03. Sale of Turtles Restricted. The sale of, or offering for sale, of live turtles or all animals of the order Testudinata class Reptilla with a carpace length of less than four inches or viable turtle eggs is hereby prohibited; except for bona fide scientific, educational or exhibitional purposes.

3-01-04. Cruelty to Animals. It is unlawful for any person to:

1. Overwork, overload, torture, cruelly beat, neglect, or unjustifiably injure, maim, mutilate or kill any animal, or cruelly work any animal when unfit for labor.

2. Fail to provide any animal in his charge or control with necessary food, water or shelter.

3. Leave a dog, cat, or other small animal unattended in a standing or parked motor vehicle in a manner that endangers the health or safety of the animal. A city police officer or animal control officer may use reasonable force to remove the animal from the motor vehicle. A city police officer or animal control officer removing an animal from a motor vehicle under this section shall not be held civilly or criminally liable for any damage caused by the removal of the animal from the motor vehicle.

4. Keep any animal in any enclosure without exercise or wholesome change of air.

5. Abandon any animal or cause such act to be done.

6. Unjustifiably administer or expose any known poisonous substance or noxious drug, whether mixed with food or not, which may be eaten by any domestic animal.

7. Carry or transport any live animal in any vehicle, cage, railroad car, or by any other means that does not permit adequate ventilation and space for the

reasonable comfort of the animal, nor carry or transport an animal in any other cruel manner.

8. Willfully frighten, shoot at, wound, kill, capture, ensnare, net trap or in any other manner molest or injure any song bird or insectivorous bird; or in any manner to molest or injure the nest eggs or young of any such bird; or to have in possession the nest eggs, young or body of such bird.

9. This section does not apply to the eradication by lawful and safe methods, of rodents, including rats, mice, gophers and moles.

Reference: NDCC Chapter 36-21.1

(Ord. 4149, 6-23-87; Ord. 5709, 03-24-09)

3-01-05. Impoundment of Animals. It is the duty of any police officer or animal warden of the City to take and impound any animal declared to be a nuisance or at large and in violation of any of the provisions of this chapter, or abandoned, unjustifiably exposed to the elements, or not properly fed and watered. Any impounded animal must be kept until the owner or some person for the owner pays to the City any expense, fees, costs and charges as provided in this title or until such animal is sold in accordance with Section 3-01-08. A fee as set by the city commission must be assessed when any animal is impounded. All of the fees relating to the keeping of pets are as determined from time to time by the city commission and on file in the office of the city administrator. An additional fee as set by the city commission must be charged for each day or fraction thereof of impoundment for feeding and caring for such animal. The provisions of this section, and Sections 3-01-06, 3-01-07 and 3-01-08, do not apply to the impoundment of dogs and cats, which is subject to the provisions of Chapter 3-03.

(Ord. 4591, 03-29-94; Ord. 4867, 09-09-97; Ord. 5559, 11-14-06)

3-01-06. Redeeming Impounded Animals. The owner of the animal impounded must be notified, in writing, by the police department. If the owner is unknown, notice may be given by posting notice and a description of the animal at the pound or police department and city hall, or by publication in the legal newspaper of the city. The notice shall inform the owner that the animal will be sold or disposed of if the animal is not redeemed within five days after receipt of the notice or posting of the notice or after publication, and that the owner may, within three days of notice of posting or publication of notice, request, in writing, a hearing before the municipal judge. The hearing must be held within seven (7) days of the receipt of the request. Following the hearing the municipal judge may order that the animal be returned to its owner, sold or otherwise disposed of, and shall order payment of expenses and costs

accordingly. If a timely request for a hearing is filed, the animal may not be sold or disposed of except by order of the municipal judge. This section does not apply to wild animals, including muskrats, weasels, beavers, deer and other wild animals that are impounded.

(Ord. 4159, 6-23-87; Ord. 4867, 09-09-97; Ord. 6000, 09-10-13)

3-01-07. Lien on Impounded Animal. The city has a lien on each animal impounded for the full amount of fees and expenses in keeping the animal and any fine imposed.

Reference: NDCC Sec. 40-05-01(47).

3-01-08. Disposal of Impounded Animals. If the lien is not discharged and satisfied by the owner within five days after notice to the owner, posting of notice or publication the chief of police may apply to the municipal court for an order to sell the animal to discharge the lien. Upon order of the court the chief of police may sell the animal at a public sale to pay off the lien, and the title to the animal shall pass with the sale. The court may award costs and reasonable attorney's fees and the remainder of proceeds, if any, must be paid over to the owner. If the owner is not known, the remainder must be deposited in the city's general fund. If no purchaser is found, or if the animal is not offered for sale, it may be offered for adoption or disposed of by the police consistent with state law and other provisions of this code.

Reference: NDCC Sec. 40-05-01(47); 36-21.1-06(2)

(Ord. 6000, 09-10-13)

3-01-09. Breaking into the Pound. It is unlawful for any person to damage, injure or break open any pound, or to aid or assist, abet or advise any person to do so, and no person shall let out or rescue or aid or assist or abet in letting out or rescuing any animal which may be impounded. It is unlawful for any person to aid or assist, abet or advise, any person to take from any other person any animal being taken or driven to any pound.

3-01-10. Animals at Large. It is unlawful for any person to allow or permit any animal owned by or under his control to run at large within the city. This section does not apply to dogs and cats, which are subject to the provisions of Chapter 3-03.

CHAPTER 3-02

RABIES CONTROL

3-02-01. Reports; Isolation or Destruction of Animals.

1. Any person who has knowledge that any person or animal has been bitten or injured by a dog or other animal

infected or suspected of being infected with rabies, or of a case of rabies or suspected rabies in animals, shall immediately report that fact to the state department of health and consolidated laboratories.

2. Any domestic animal that bites a human where the skin is broken or any domestic animal suspected of having rabies must be confined and observed for a period of ten days and evaluated by a licensed veterinarian, at the owner's expense, at the beginning of confinement, at the first sign of any illness during confinement, and prior to release from confinement. If an animal warden or veterinarian so determines, the warden or veterinarian may order that the animal be impounded and evaluated. If the animal shows clinical signs of rabies during the period of isolation, it must be humanely destroyed immediately in a manner that preserves the brain intact, and the brain tissue shall be examined for rabies.

3. Any stray or unwanted domestic animal or wild animal that bites a person must be humanely destroyed in a manner that preserves the brain intact, and the brain tissue must be examined for rabies. A domestic animal will be presumed to be stray or unwanted if the owner has failed to claim the animal within three days of the seizure of the animal.

4. Any domestic vaccinated animal that is bitten or scratched by a rabid animal or exposed to a rabid animal in a manner that reasonably indicates a bite or scratch may have occurred, must be re-vaccinated immediately and observed by the owner for ninety days. If the animal shows clinical signs of rabies during the period of observation, it must be humanely destroyed immediately in a manner that preserves the brain intact, and the brain tissue must be examined for rabies.

5. Any domestic, unvaccinated animal that is bitten or scratched by a rabid animal or exposed to a suspected rabid animal in a manner that reasonably indicates a bite or scratch may have occurred, must be destroyed immediately, or, at the owner's expense, be placed in strict isolation under the observation of a licensed veterinarian for six months and vaccinated one month prior to being released. If the animal shows clinical signs of rabies during the period of isolation, it must be humanely destroyed immediately, in a manner that preserves the brain intact, and the brain tissue must be examined for rabies.

6. Specimens collected for examination for rabies must be packaged and forwarded as required by health Department regulations.

7. If whether or not an animal has been vaccinated for rabies is unknown, the city and any impounding authority will comply with an order from a medical authority to destroy the animal and preserve the brain intact.

8. Any domestic animal which bites a human where the skin is broken and the animal is unvaccinated or it is unknown whether or not the animal is vaccinated, the animal will be taken into custody by the animal warden and quarantined at the city pound for ten (10) days.

(Ord. 4186, 1-19-88; Ord. 4262, 5-23-89; Ord. 4295, 10-03-89; Ord. 4591, 03-29-94; Ord. 4867, 09-09-97)

3-02-02. Duty of Owner to Surrender Animal. The owner or other person in charge of any animal, upon demand by a police officer or animal warden must surrender any animal which has bitten a human, or domestic animal, or which is suspected as having been exposed to rabies, to city or state officials or to a licensed veterinarian as directed by city or state officials. All expenses of any required period of isolation or observation must be paid by the owner before the animal may be returned to the owner. It is unlawful for an owner or other person in charge of an animal to fail or refuse to surrender any animal as required by this chapter. Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, any animal that has bitten a human or domestic animal, or that is suspected of having rabies, may be seized by a police officer or animal warden.

(Ord. 4186, 1-19-88)

CHAPTER 3-03

LICENSING AND CONTROL OF DOGS AND CATS

3-03-01. License Required. It is unlawful for any person within the city to keep, maintain or have in custody or under control any dog or cat over the age of six months which is not licensed and inoculated against rabies.

(Ord. 4159, 6-23-87)

3-03-02. License Application, Fee and Renewal.

1. Any person desiring to keep, maintain or have in custody or control any dog or cat over the age of six months shall make application to the city or designee for a license. The application must be in writing stating the name, sex, color and breed or other distinguishing characteristics of the animal and the name and address of the applicant. The license must be renewed for so long as the animal is kept within the city by payment of the fee as set by the city commission. All of the fees relating to the keeping of pets are as determined from time to time by

the city commission and on file in the office of the city administrator.

2. Before any license may be issued the applicant shall furnish a certificate of vaccination issued by a licensed veterinarian evidencing that the dog or cat for which the license is desired has been vaccinated against rabies. A license issued under this chapter may not exceed the duration of the rabies vaccination.

3. A license fee as set by the city commission must be paid at the time any dog or cat is first licensed. The license is valid for the duration of the rabies vaccination under which it is obtained. Licenses must be renewed for so long as the animal is kept within the City of Bismarck. The license fee for any period of less than one year shall be prorated by the month.

4. A refund may not be made on any license fees because of the death of an animal or because the owner of the animal leaves the city before expiration of the license period. A license is not transferable. If an animal is sold or given to another, the new owner must obtain a new license for the animal.

5. In addition to the initial and ongoing license fee there is a fee as set by the city commission for any unaltered dog or cat. An applicant who wishes to avoid payment of the additional fee for an unaltered dog or cat shall upon application for a license furnish a certificate signed by a veterinarian or the owner evidencing that the animal for which the license is desired has been spayed or neutered. The certification is valid for the life of the animal.

6. A license issued under this chapter shall expire at the date when the last rabies vaccination for the animal expires.

7. The City shall design the license certificate and suitable license tag and shall issue same to licensed veterinarians. The license tags shall designate the name of the city and the year, in addition to any other wording or identification as, from time to time, may be deemed practical or appropriate.

8. If the license is issued by the designee, who is not an employee of the city, who the city has deputized to issue licenses, they may keep as compensation one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) for the work involved in issuing the license.

9. The total number of dogs and/or cats permitted per location shall be governed by Chapter 14 (Zoning Ordinance).

10. In addition to the number of dogs and/or cats allowed in residentially-zoned areas by City Ordinance 14-03-06, the City may grant a special license to an applicant granting the authority to keep additional dogs or cats in a residential area subject to the following:

a. The applicant must file an application with the Bismarck Public Health Department, Environmental Health Division which states specifically the number of dogs and cats to be kept, a description of each and the address of the location where they will be kept. A non-refundable fee as set by the city commission must accompany each application.

b. No resident may keep more than three unaltered dogs or cats at any one residential location.

c. The special license shall state the number of dogs or cats allowed at the location. In reaching this decision, the Public Health Department, Environmental Health Division may consider:

i. The size, age, breed and dispositions of the applicant's dogs and cats.

ii. The location, size, facilities and proximity to neighbors of the applicant's residence.

iii. The general health, welfare and safety of the citizens of Bismarck and the impact of the applicant's request.

d. After a license is granted, it may be revoked by the Director of Public Health upon 10 days' notice for any of the following reasons:

i. Dog(s) and/or cat(s) kept at the premises are habitually at large.

ii. Offspring from the breeding of dogs and/or cats kept at the premises are habitually at large.

iii. Noise or odors from premises are offensive or a nuisance.

iv. Unsanitary or unhealthy conditions exist at the premises.

v. The dog(s) and/or cat(s) kept at the premises are unlicensed.

vi. There are more than three unaltered dogs and/or cats at the premises.

vii. The applicant has failed to redeem an impounded dog or cat kept under the special license.

viii. The applicant has committed cruelty to animals as defined by Section 3-01-04.

e. A special license granted under this section shall be valid only for the specific location listed on the license, and for the number of dog(s) and/or cat(s) allowed. A special license shall not be granted to any kennel, dog or cat boarder or any other commercial dog or cat facility. A person granted a special license has 10 days from the granting of the license in which to license the dogs and cats listed in the special license.

f. A licensee under this section may replace a dog or cat that has died or has been relocated, within the restrictions of the license. A licensee must inform the Public Health Department, Environmental Health Division of any change in the animals covered by the license. An applicant wishing to increase the number of dogs and/or cats must reapply under section a.

g. Denial or revocation of a special dog and/or cat license is subject to appeal to the Board of City Commissioners upon written notice of appeal filed with City Administration within 10 days of denial. If no appeal is filed within the time specified, the action of Director of Fire and Inspections shall be final.

h. Upon receipt of a notice of appeal, the Board shall set a date for a hearing within 15 days of receipt of the notice of the appeal. Notice of the time and place for the hearing must be served upon the applicant by mailing notice to the address contained in the application at least five days before the hearing. The board shall hear such testimony and other evidence as it deems necessary and expedient and thereupon make its findings and decision, which shall be final.

3-03-03. Tag Issuance. The issuance and use of license tags issued under this chapter is governed by the following provisions:

1. It is the duty of the city or its designee, at the time of the issuance of a license under this division, to furnish and deliver to the applicant for the license a tag for the animal for which the license is issued, upon which tag must be stamped or engraved the number of the license and the year for which the license is issued.

2. It is the duty of the owner of the animal licensed to place a collar around the neck of the animal on which collar must be securely fastened the tag furnished by the city or its designee.

3. In the event of the loss of any tag issued under the provisions of this division, the city may issue a duplicate tag upon payment of a replacement fee, upon application being made thereof, and upon satisfactory proof that such tag has been lost.

4. A license tag may not be transferred from one animal to another.

(Ord. 4743, 12-12-95; Ord. 4867, 09-09-97; Ord. 5559, 11-14-06)

3-03-04. Impoundment. Notwithstanding the provisions of Chapter 3-01, the following provisions govern the impoundment and disposition of impounded dogs and cats:

1. Any dog found at large may be seized and impounded by any police officer or animal warden. Impoundment may be in any animal shelter designated by the board of city commissioners or chief of police.

2. Any cat found at large may be seized and impounded by any police officer or animal warden with reasonable cause to believe the cat is without proper care and control, lost, abandoned, or upon reasonable cause to believe the cat is a public nuisance, as defined in Section 3-03-06.

3. The owner of any impounded dog or cat shall be notified within 48 hours that the dog or cat has been impounded if the owner's identity and location can be obtained by reasonable means. The notice shall inform the owner that if the dog or cat is not redeemed within five days following notice, the dog or cat will be put up for adoption or disposed of. The owner may, within five days, request in writing a hearing before the municipal judge, in

which case the dog or cat may not be disposed of pending the hearing. Following the hearing, the municipal judge may order that the dog or cat be returned to the owner or otherwise disposed of, and shall order payment of expenses and costs accordingly.

4. A fee as set by the city commission must be assessed whenever any dog or cat is impounded. A fee as set by the city commission must be assessed whenever any dog or cat over the age of six months which is licensed, is impounded. An additional fee as set by the city commission must be charged for each day, or fraction thereof, of impoundment for feeding and caring for such dog or cat.

5. The owner of any impounded dog or cat which has not been vaccinated in accordance with this chapter, upon satisfactory proof of ownership, may redeem the dog or cat upon payment of all fees and expenses and be allowed 24 hours to get such dog or cat vaccinated and licensed. If the owner fails to procure a certificate of vaccination and license within 24 hours, the dog or cat shall again be seized and impounded.

6. If the owner of any dog or cat impounded fails to redeem the dog or cat within three days after notice to the owner if the owner can be located through reasonable means, any other person may, upon complying with the provisions of this chapter, redeem the dog or cat from the pound and be the lawful owner of the dog or cat thereafter. No person may act as the agent or on behalf of the owner in order to redeem a dog or cat to avoid the impound and care fee. Any other person redeeming a dog or cat must agree in writing to procure a certificate of vaccination and license within 72 hours of redeeming the dog or cat.

7. Dogs or cats impounded for which an owner cannot be located and that are not claimed within five days or which have not been redeemed or purchased as authorized by this chapter within five days of such impoundment or, if the owner is known within five days after notice to the owner, may be disposed of in a humane manner, unless a written request for a hearing has been filed with the municipal judge by any person in accordance with the procedures set forth in paragraph 3.

(Ord. 4159, 06-23-87; Ord. 4295, 10-03-89; Ord. 4591, 03-29-94; Ord. 4867, 09-09-97; Ord. 5559, 11-14-06; Ord. 5709, 03-24-09; Ord. 6000, 09-10-13)

3-03-05. Running at Large Prohibited - Wastes.

1. It is unlawful for any owner or keeper of a dog to allow the animal to be at large. No intent or knowledge

by the owner or keeper of a dog is necessary to prove a violation of this ordinance.

2. Every owner or person having control of a dog or cat shall collect and properly dispose of the dog's or cat's solid waste when eliminated.

(Ord. 4159, 06-23-87; Ord. 4231, 11-08-88)

3-03-06. Public Nuisance.

1. Every dog or cat that has committed any of the following acts is deemed to be a public nuisance:

a. At large on more than one occasion.

b. Chases any person or vehicle.

c. Disturbs the peace by barking, howling or fighting.

d. Bites any person off the premises of the owner or any person lawfully on the premises of the owner.

e. Attacks and injures, without provocation, any domestic animal or bird or other animal protected by law.

f. Approaches any person, off of or lawfully on the premises of the owner, in a vicious or terrorizing manner or in an apparent attitude of attack.

2. Upon complaint made by the city attorney before the municipal judge and notice to its owner, or, if the owner is unknown, after ten days' notice by publication and a hearing, the municipal judge, upon a finding that a dog or cat is a public nuisance, shall:

a. Order the confinement of such animal within a building or secure enclosure, said animal not to be removed from such building or enclosure without being effectively restrained by chain or leash not exceeding six feet in length and/or properly muzzled; or

b. Order the surrender of such animal to the humane society or other animal placement organization or chief of police for purposes of placement outside the city or humane destruction; or

c. Issue such other order as may be necessary to abate the nuisance.

3. The municipal judge may assess costs and expenses to the owner or keeper of the dog or cat.

Reference: NDCC Chapter 42-03

(Ord. 5709, 03-24-09); Ord. 6089 – Amended, 12-23-14)

3-03-07. Prohibited Dogs. Section 3-03-07 relating to Prohibited Dogs is hereby repealed.

(Ord. 4162, 06-30-87; Ord. 4591, 03-29-94; Ord. 5709, 03-24-09)

CHAPTER 3-04

BISMARCK ANIMAL ADVISORY BOARD

3-04-01. Bismarck Animal Advisory Board; Purpose. There is hereby created and established a body to be known as the Bismarck Animal Advisory Board. The purpose of the Animal Advisory Board is to advise the Bismarck Police Department on companion animal policies, promote collaboration between the City and private citizens, institutions, and agencies interested in or conducting activities relating to companion animals in the city, to identify proactive, creative approaches to engage and facilitate communication and education within the companion animal community and to foster and assist the development of companion animal programs in the community. The Animal Advisory Board may study, advise, and report on policy recommendations it deems effective to promote outcomes consistent with City goals and objectives as outlined by the Police Department and the City Commission. For the purposes of this chapter, "companion animal" shall mean a dog or cat.

(Ord. 6219, 08-23-16)

3-04-02. Membership - Terms - Filling Vacancies. The Bismarck Animal Advisory Board shall consist of seven members, who will serve without pay. The make-up of the Bismarck Animal Advisory Board shall consist of one member of the board of city commissioners, or his or her designee, and six citizens who shall reside in or own property in the City of Bismarck. Members shall be nominated by members of the Board of City Commissioners and subject to confirmation by a majority of the Board of City Commissioners. It is the intent of this chapter for the Animal Advisory Board to be made up of a diverse membership from an array of companion animal businesses and organizations. This may include, but is not limited to; Small Animal Veterinarian; Large Animal Veterinarian; Animal Shelter; Animal Rescue; Attorney; Zoo; Large Animal organization; and a member at-large. City employees, whose chief function is to handle animals and enforce City Ordinances on a daily basis may staff the Animal Advisory Board as non-voting, technical advisors at the discretion of their departments. Of the initial appointees, three shall serve for three year terms and four shall serve for two year terms. After expiration of each

initial term, all terms shall run for three years. After the initial terms, no Board Member may serve on the Bismarck Animal Advisory Board more than an unexpired term plus two full terms. Appointees to the Board should promote companion animal welfare and represent the citizens and animals of the City of Bismarck.
(Ord. 6219, 08-23-16)

3-04-03. Board President - Meetings - Records to be kept. The Bismarck Animal Advisory Board shall elect its President for a term of one year from among its members and shall hold regular meetings. The Bismarck Animal Advisory Board shall keep a record of its findings and determinations and all records shall be public records unless otherwise provided by North Dakota law. The Bismarck Animal Advisory Board may appoint such subcommittees from among the appointed members as may be necessary for its work.
(Ord. 6219, 08-23-16)

3-04-04. Powers and Duties of Board. The Bismarck Animal Advisory Board shall:

1. Report to the Bismarck Police Department regarding the activities of the Bismarck Animal Advisory Board.

2. Recommend to the Bismarck Police Department action and programs within the authority of the City in furtherance of the purpose of the Bismarck Animal Advisory Board as described in this Chapter.

3. Consult with and advise public officials and agencies and with private individuals and organizations to provide education regarding companion animals.

4. Assist by offering information and referral guidance and services as a forum for discussion.

(Ord. 6219, 08-23-16)

3-04-05. Bismarck Animal Advisory Board Advisory in Nature. The Bismarck Animal Advisory Board shall be advisory in nature and shall submit all reports and recommendations to the Bismarck Police Department.
(Ord. 6219, 08-23-16)