



**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF WEST JORDAN**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
**October 26, 2022**  
**Approved November 16, 2022**

Thomas M. Rees Justice Center  
8040 S Redwood Road • West Jordan, UT 84088

**COUNCIL:** Chair Kayleen Whitelock, Vice Chair Kelvin Green, Pamela Bloom, Chris McConnehey, David Pack, and Melissa Worthen

**STAFF:** Council Office Director Alan Anderson, Council Office Clerk Cindy Quick, Policy Analyst Cassidy Hansen, City Administrator Korban Lee, Mayor Dirk Burton, City Attorney Rob Wall, Administrative Services Director Danyce Steck, Public Services Director Isaac Astill, Public Works Director Brian Clegg, Community Development Director Scott Langford, Civil Litigator Attorney Paul Dodd, Economic Development Director Chris Pengra, Community Engagement and Government Affairs Manager Tauni Barker, Senior Management Analyst Jeremy Olsen, IT Support Manager Rodney Glore

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Whitelock began the meeting at 5:31 pm. She noted that discussion of both agenda items would be limited in time, with further discussion at a future meeting if necessary.

## **2. DISCUSSION TOPICS**

### **a. 2022 Drinking Water Master Plan Update**

Utilities Manager Greg Davenport reported that Bowen Collins was hired to consult on the Drinking Water Master Plan update. The last update was done in 2015. Mr. Davenport presented the proposed Drinking Water Master Plan. He showed the increase in tank storage in West Jordan since 1995, explained calculations used to estimate demand, and explained water storage requirements.

*Council Member McConnehey left the dais at 5:41 pm and returned at 5:45 pm.*

Mr. Davenport answered questions from the Council regarding water line breaks, water available from West Jordan wells, and possible treatment of aquifer contamination. He presented a summary of required system improvements. City Attorney Rob Wall commented that having a list of needed system improvements was key in negotiating with developers. He suggested the frequency of master plan updates should depend on the amount of change to the Future Land Use Map. Based on his experience, cities with as much growth as West Jordan should update data at least every three years. He pointed out that impact fees were calculated based on study data.

Vice Chair Green suggested the City should get in a cycle of analyzing the Future Land Use Map every 24 months for accuracy of data. Mr. Davenport emphasized it was up to the Council to decide how they wanted the City to develop. Chair Whitelock said the matter would be added to the next Council meeting agenda for further discussion.

### **b. Report from the Mayor and further discussion of parameters regarding small nuisance animals.**

Chair Whitelock provided a brief history of the feral cat/nuisance animal issue in West Jordan. She believed animals added to the quality of life for many individuals and were a high priority. She also believed animals and humans served different roles, and for her, the life of a human was a higher priority than that of an animal.

Chair Whitelock proposed changes to City Code to improve the nuisance animal problem:

- Create a permit process for the role of community cat caretaker.
- Impounded cats identified as feral/community cats in good health shall be returned to the area they came from. The animal care director or their designee would have discretion to refuse to release feral cats deemed to be carrying a disease or posing a threat to persons, property, or other domesticated animals.
- Individuals may not harbor or license more than four adult dogs or cats at any one residence.
- Participate in the Salt Lake County Urban Wildlife program through the USDA that assists in trapping skunk and racoon nuisance animals.

Vice Chair Green agreed with changes proposed by Chair Whitelock. He proposed the following additional changes:

- Regulate pet food placed outside. Vice Chair Green expressed the opinion that pet food should not be placed outside after 6:00 pm .
- Limit the number of adoptions per residence to four as suggested by Chair Whitelock.
- Follow the five-day holding period, and make sure the animal control officers' hands are not tied.

Vice Chair Green did not believe the Animal Welfare Act was designed to place human safety below cats. He said he believed human safety took priority over cats.

Council Member Pack was pro-pet. He acknowledged that something needed to be done about nuisance animals, and suggested the following:

- Language to address other nuisance animals such as voles, gophers, skunks, and racoons.

Responding to a question from Council Member Pack, Chair Whitelock clarified that the proposed limit per residence would allow up to four dogs and four cats at one residence. Council Member Pack knew there had been instances of family pet cats being caught and injured in traps meant for feral cats and having to be put down. He spoke for a needed balance.

Council Member Bloom researched other cities code and found a correlation between lowering the cost to spay/neuter personal pets and reduced community cat issues. She would like the City to help reduce spay/neuter costs to with the goal of reducing the community cat population.

Responding to a question from Council Member McConnehey, Mr. Etchel said there was not currently coordination between animal shelters to enforce the four dog/four cat limit. The Council discussed the many pet adoption sources and how difficult coordination would be. Council Member McConnehey suggested the City work with Salt Lake County to see if a level of coordination would be feasible County-wide.

Council Member Worthen agreed with the proposed amendment and liked the idea of lowering the cost to spay/neuter. Responding to a question from Council Member Worthen, Mr. Etchel anticipated that issuing feeding permits would be problematic. He knew other cities had placed limits on the number of adult cats allowed per residence.

It was Vice Chair Green's understanding that joining the Urban Wildlife Assistance program through the USDA would cost the City around \$30,000. Staff surmised that cost could even go down as more cities joined. Policy Analyst Cassidy Hansen briefly explained the trapping program. Council Member Worthen noted that 11 skunks were trapped last year between her property and her neighbor's property.

Council Member McConnehey wanted to see the City participate with the Urban Wildlife program and see the City offer additional help using facilities and personnel already available. Council Member McConnehey stated that he frequently walked on the Jordan River Trail and had seen three different people regularly feeding cats. He suggested the City could post signs requesting individuals not feed feral cats and educating the danger of doing so to the native birds along the Jordan River.

Council Members indicated in favor/not in favor for the following suggested changes:

- Create permitting process for community cat sponsors – four in favor
- Impounded cats deemed healthy/not a threat could be released – four in favor
- Four adult dogs and four adult cats allowed per residence – four in favor
- Participate in County program – unanimous (six) in favor
- Regulate pet food outside – two in favor
- Request staff bring back information regarding spay/neuter fees with sliding scale – unanimous (six) in favor
- Signage on trails or parkways in the City – four in favor

Vice Chair Green suggested looking at the spay/neuter fee and eliminating it completely if feasible. Council Member Bloom commented that some cities had found success offering free spay/neuter days. City Administrator Korban Lee commented that such changes would have a budget impact.

The Council discussed that none of the measures on their own would fix the problem, but together would help. Chair Whitelock emphasized success would require community effort. Vice Chair Green believed the proposed changes would bring the City back into compliance with State Statute regarding animal control authority. Vice Chair Green suggested the following change:

- Prohibit individuals from releasing more cats into a neighborhood – four in favor

Council Member Pack agreed with not allowing pet food outside at night. Council Member Bloom suggested making sure City Code prohibiting personal pet cats from roaming a neighborhood was clear. She did not know how the City would enforce a prohibition of pet food outside at night.

*Council Member Worthen left the meeting at 6:50 pm.*

### 3. ADJOURN

**Vice Chair Green moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole. Council Member Bloom seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote (5-0). The meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm.**

*I, Cindy Quick, hereby certify that the foregoing minutes represent an accurate summary of what occurred at the meeting held on October 26, 2022. This document constitutes the official minutes for the West Jordan City Council Meeting.*

Cindy M. Quick, MMC  
Council Office Clerk

Approved this 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2022