

**23-449**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING REPORT**  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024 @ 6:00 P.M.**

Attendees: Councillor Emily Lazzaro, Committee Chair; Councillor Justin Tseng, Committee Vice-Chair; Councillor Anna Callahan; Council Vice President Kit Collins; Councillor Matt Leming; City Clerk Adam Hurtubise; other participants as noted in the body of this report.

Chair Lazzaro called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on March 12, 2024 in the Medford City Council Chambers and via Zoom. The purpose of the meeting was to address a resolution to draft a wildlife feeding ordinance (Paper **23-449**).

Chair Lazzaro thanked participants for attending. The item on the agenda is a proposed wildlife feeding ordinance offered by Vice President Collins.

Vice President Collins said that the idea for the ordinance resulted from some outreach with constituents about overfeeding of wildlife in some of Medford's more densely populated areas.

She said the intent is to give the Board of Health and Code Enforcement some tools and potential fines as enforcement mechanisms. She said that the language is based on several other communities' ordinances. She read definitions, purpose, and intent. She said that the emphasis is on feeding that has an adverse effect on neighbors. She detailed prohibitions on feeding wildlife on public property and on certain private property. She said nothing in the ordinance would prohibit feeding of pets, but pet food would need to be stored so it cannot be accessed by wildlife. Enforcement would range from a written warning to a fine of \$100.00. She said that the goal is to provide a recourse for when things are going wrong. She said that this is supposed to be a deterrent.

Chair Lazzaro said that a person could lose a cat or dog and try to lure the pet back. She suggested adding language about this and whether cats and dogs are considered wildlife. She said she would also like to hear from the Animal Control Officer about feral cats in the city, and we might want to include language to consider on this.

Councillor Tseng thanked Vice President Collins. He said that the ordinance doesn't say how soon seed debris must be collected. He said it is not clear for code enforcement. He said that the Board of Health could create a standard for this. He said it would also be helpful to disseminate best practices.

Councillor Callahan said she thinks that the idea of a lost cat is already accounted for as an exception for the feeding of pets. Only if the pet food is determined to be the source of wildlife feeding might there be an issue.

Vice President Collins said her initial reaction is that as Councillor Callahan said, this might be covered, but she would like to have the Animal Control Officer and legal counsel take a look at this. She said she would also like to see the Medford-based Kitty Connection get a copy of this.

Vice President Collins moved to refer this version of the ordinance to KP Law for legal review prior to our next meeting on the topic (Councillor Callahan second)—approved on a roll call vote of five in favor and zero opposed.

Vice President Collins moved to have the City Clerk recirculate this document to the relevant city staff along with the relevant questions, and further moved to keep this paper in committee (Councillor Callahan second)—approved on a roll call vote of five in favor and zero opposed.

Councillor Tseng moved to adjourn at 6:24 p.m. (Councillor Callahan second)--approved on a roll call vote of five in favor and zero opposed.

Chair Lazzaro adjourned the meeting at 6:24 p.m.