

## **NOVEMBER 13, 2017, LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

8 a.m. Council Chamber. Members present: A. Hraban, B. Stoneberg. Others present: A. Christianson, K. Gorsegner, M. Hraban, K. Julien, M. Reynolds, D. Parker.

### **Call to Order:**

Committee Chair Stoneberg called the meeting to order and presided.

### **Appearances:**

Folks who were invited but did not appear to discuss yard cleanup orders likely didn't receive notices owing to no mail delivery on Saturday. They will be invited to next meeting tentatively slated for 5:15 p.m. on Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **Feral Cats:**

Mayor Reynolds called attention to a cat ordinance from Hornell, NY, which he found on line. As folks are expected to appear at this evening's Council meeting on this issue an attempt will be made to retype it as a starting point for a new ordinance for Ladysmith. Regardless, this issue will be on the next Legal Affairs agenda. Animal Shelter Manager Karen Welke will be invited to that meeting to see if she has any ideas on how to deal with this. In the meantime, those present are to review and consider contents of the NY ordinance.

A question was raised whether feral cats pose a safety issue for Head Start on E. 11<sup>th</sup> St. S. That property is surrounded by chain link fence.

It was noted feral cats help control rodents. On the other hand, food set out for feral cats might be what is attracting the rodents to begin with.

### **Bicycles, Skate Boards and Non-Motorized Scooters:**

LPD Chief Julien stated the following as reasons for not requiring bike registration:

- People don't bring bikes in to license them. There have probably only been 10-15 in the past decade.
- While bike thefts are rare, bikes are sometimes abandoned.
- Licensing is not deemed worth the paperwork.

In the view of the Chief's thoughts, as our expert, Mrs. Stoneberg withdrew her support for licensing.

A lively debate followed on the matter of whether skateboards and non-motorized scooters should be allowed on sidewalks in the downtown area. Both sides of this subject consider it a safety issue. Those who feel both toys should be allowed to be used on sidewalks indicate that is safer for users than riding them on the streets owing to conflicting vehicle traffic. Those who feel these toys should not be allowed on sidewalks cite danger to elderly pedestrians, in particular, who might not be able to hear the toys rapidly approaching and step into their paths.

### **Adjourn:**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.