

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 6, 2018
TO: Mike Geisel, City Administrator
FROM: Chief Ray Johnson
SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Public Health and Safety (PH&S) Committee met on Monday, March 5, 2018. Those in attendance included Chairperson Barry Flachsbart Councilmember - Ward I, Councilmember Guy Tillman, Ward II, Councilmember Michelle Ohley, Ward IV, Councilmember Barb McGuiness, Ward I, Chief Ray Johnson, City Administrator Mike Geisel and Erin Shank of the Missouri Department of Conservation. Several citizens were also in attendance

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 PM by Chairperson Barry Flachsbart.

I. Approval of Minutes – July 17, 2017

Councilman Tillman motioned and Councilmember Ohley seconded to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2017 meeting. The motion carried 3-0.

II. White Buffalo Inc. Deer Distance Sampling Population Survey

The Committee reviewed information provided in a summary report from White Buffalo to plan for any future action to control the deer population in the City of Chesterfield.

Councilmember Flachsbart noted the ongoing problems of deer/vehicle interactions and also the issues of property destruction associated with the deer population. The White Buffalo report estimated the deer population to be 40 deer per square mile. Erin Shank of the Missouri Department of Conservation commended the City on the survey and informed those present that the reported number of deer per square mile does not indicate overpopulation at this time and that archery is the recommended hunting solution in residential areas. She continued to report that sharp shooting is more efficient, but access to property is a problematic issue.

Councilmember Flachsbart suggested topography to identify an area for access for sharpshooting. Erin Shank agreed.

The Committee further discussed the possibility of additional counting methods including drones. Although the technology is available, there are FAA restrictions on the utilization of drones.

Councilmember Tillman noted that although trustees of subdivisions in Chesterfield were contacted regarding archery hunting on common ground, the contact was made without data. At this time, perhaps it would be time to solicit the trustees again with the presentation of the data now available. A citizen present asked if baiting would be allowed on properties that are currently approved in Chesterfield. Erin Shank replied that

it would require a special permit and a proposal to the Department of Conservation would be required.

It was also suggested that a three year deer census is needed for comparison. A count of those deer involved in vehicular accidents and also a count of dead deer on all roadways would help. Chief Johnson noted that vehicular accidents involving deer are already counted and agreed to have officers report dead deer found on the roadway.

A citizen present noted concerns regarding safety of residents when hunting on common ground. Councilmember Flachsbart reported that the overpopulation of deer destroys their own habitat and vehicular accidents involving deer are extremely dangerous. Another citizen asked for a more objective and exact numbers of deer to be culled from the herds.

Councilmember Flachsbart noted that the City of Chesterfield has a deer population problem but not a severe problem at this time.

Councilmember Flachsbart motioned to direct staff to identify deer population problem areas. Councilmember Tillman seconded.

During discussion, Councilmember Ohley asked how the staff could identify problem areas. City Administrator Geisel that the aerial topographical maps along with the report from White Buffalo would be the best way to determine the areas of over population. After discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

Councilmember Tillman motioned to direct staff to develop a process to maintain a yearly informational survey of the deer population along with recommendations and/or options for deer control. Councilmember Ohley seconded.

Chief Johnson asked for clarification of whom would be doing the yearly population survey: City staff, White Buffalo, or another vendor. Councilmember Flachsbart directed Chief Johnson to meet with Erin Shank and recommend the actual logistical process for an annual count. After discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

III. Metal Detectors

Councilmember McGuinness asked Chief Johnson how the recently installed metal detectors were working. Chief Johnson replied that they were working well, no problems noted.

IV. Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM.