BILL 2014-21

****** First Reading ******

AGENDA ITEM

To: Cameron City Council
Fr: Clyde Han
Dt: Tuesday, May 13, 2014
Re: Animal Tethering

A request was made to Council to adopt an Animal Tethering ordinance.

Tethering: Fastening an animal to a stationary object or stake as a means of keeping the animal under control. Tethering does not refer to the periods when an animal is walked on a leash.

A committee was formed to review the request and determine if there was a need from a public safety standpoint. The committee consisted of Councilwoman: Jerri Ann Eddins, City Manager: Mark Gaugh, Police Chief: Rick Bashor, Animal Control Officer: Kathy Turner and myself.

The committee discussed;

- Public safety issues and 13 past incidents over the last few years where tethered animals have bitten kids and adults. Approximately 30% of the cases resulted from the animal breaking the tether before biting.
- More "Public" education regarding animal awareness.
- Enforcement issues
- Issues associated with a tethering ordinance
    - Pros: Less dog bites, fewer barking complaints, more responsible pet ownership, fewer barren yards
    - Cons: Fences, expense to owners
        - Allow 6 months to comply (1/1/15)

The committee requested Planning and Zoning develop an ordinance that addresses the tethering of animals.

Planning and Zoning met to discuss the tethering issue on April 14, 2014.
Planning and Zoning directed a Public Hearing notice be published in the Cameron Citizen Observer on April 24, 2014, to hold a public hearing and review the proposed tethering ordinance on Monday, May 12, 2014.

The Public Hearing was held on May 12, 2014; Planning and Zoning voted to recommend approval of the tethering ordinance to Council.

City staff also recommends approval of the tethering ordinance.

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AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF CAMERON, CLINTON AND DeKALB COUNTIES, MISSOURI ADOPTING A NEW SECTION 5-105 TETHERING; OF DIVISION 2. DOGS OF ARTICLE IV. ANIMALS IN CHAPTER 5. HEALTH AND SANITATION OF THE CITY OF CAMERON CODE

WHEREAS, the City of Cameron has determined that in the interest of public safety and animal welfare an animal shall not be tethered for extended periods of time; and

WHEREAS, Public notice was published on April 24, 2014 in the ***Cameron Citizen Observer*** regarding tethering of animals; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cameron Planning and Zoning Commission conducted a Public Hearing on May 12, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cameron Planning and Zoning Commission and City Staff recommend approval of the tethering regulations; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cameron tethering regulations would not go into effect until January 1, 2015.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAMERON, CLINTON AND DeKALB COUNTIES, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Sec. 5-91. Definitions. of Division 2. Dogs of Article IV. Animals. all in Chapter 5. Health and Sanitation of the City of Cameron Code are hereby amended to include Tethering as follows:

Sec. 5-91. Definitions.

Tethering means the fastening of an animal to a stationary object or stake as a means of keeping the animal under control. Tethering does not refer to the periods when an animal is walked on a leash.

Section 2. Sec. 5-105 Tethering. of Division 2. Dogs of Article IV. Animals. all in Chapter 5. Health and Sanitation of the City of Cameron Code are hereby adopted as follows:

Sec. 5-105 Tethering.

1) Animal cannot be tethered unless an adult is home.
2) Animal cannot be tethered between the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
3) Animal must be attached to tether by a leather or nylon collar or harness.
4) Collar must be circumference of animal's neck plus one inch.
5) No choke or pinch collars.
6) Tether must be designed for animals – no log chains.

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7) Tether cannot weigh more than 1/8 of animal's weight.
8) Tether must be at least 12 foot long.
   (a) Tether must be unbroken and free of tangles.
9) Tethered animals must be placed where the animal cannot be in danger of being strangled or hung.
10) Placement of a tethered animal must be in an area free of debris and obstacles.
11) Tethered animal must be able to reach water, shelter and dry ground.
12) Tethered animal must not be out in extreme weather such as extreme heat, freezing temperatures, tornados, hail or thunderstorms.
13) Each tethered animal must be tethered in separate areas so as not to become entangled.
14) Any tethered animal shall not be allowed to reach within six (6) feet of;

a. Public Right-of-ways
b. Public access to the structure
   i. sidewalk to the structure
   ii. any door that may be accessed by the public or emergency services
c. Neighboring property lines

Section 3. The Mayor is authorized to sign this ordinance.

Section 4. The City Clerk is directed to attest to the Mayor signature.

Section 5. This ordinance, when passed and approved, shall be in full force and effect January 1, 2015.

Passed and approved on first reading this 19th day of May 2014.
Passed and approved on second reading this _____ day of _____ 2014.
Passed and approved on third and final reading this _____ day of _____ 2014.

_____
Mayor Dennis M. Clark

ATTEST:

_____
City Clerk/Finance Clerk

First Reading