

Animal Care Advisory Committee  
November 14, 2025

A regular meeting of the Animal Care Advisory Committee of the City of Waxahachie, Texas was held in the Hatchet Conference Room at the Charles Beatty Municipal Services Building, 408 S. Rogers, Waxahachie, Texas on Friday, November 14, 2025, at 12:02 p.m.

Members Present:     Dustin Deel, Senior Director of Administrative Services  
                                 Tiki Smith  
                                 Brian Burks  
                                 Jennifer Favia Connor

Members Absent:     Cherie K. Batsel

**1.     Call to Order**

Dustin Deel called the meeting to order. Mr. Deel noted that Cathy Le was no longer with the City of Waxahachie.

**2.     Invocation**

Sheila Wood gave the invocation.

**3.     Public Comments**

Chris Wright (as resident), 808 W. Marvin, Waxahachie, Texas mentioned Dr. Menser's recent passing. He suggested reaching out to Dr. Tabitha Garner at A.C.T.S. in Waxahachie to see if she might have any interest in being on the board.

Patrick Souter (as resident), 700 W. Main Street, Waxahachie, Texas, discussed another Veterinarian Group of 4 to 5 veterinarians will be coming to Waxahachie in 2026 and are currently practicing in Plano.

Johnna Wallace, 3305 Sanger Creek Way, Waxahachie, Texas introduced herself on behalf of the Ellis County Pet Coalition and noted the excitement to have Mr. Deel on board.

Sheila Hood, 3841 Black Champ Road, Waxahachie, Texas, welcomed Mr. Deel and gave a brief introduction.

Vanessa Voldan, 301 Cynisca, Waxahachie, Texas, introduced herself and talked about her extensive background in animal advocacy.

Brenda Mavridis, 5 Sargent Place, Waxahachie, Texas, introduced herself and talked about her work on the Ellis County Pet Coalition Board noting she helps provide food for pets in Ellis County.

**4.     Consider approval of minutes of the Animal Care Advisory Committee meeting of July 18, 2025**

**Action:**

*Brian Burks moved to approve the minutes of the Animal Care Advisory Committee meeting of July 18, 2025. Motion was seconded by Jennifer Favia Conner and carried unanimously (4-0).*

## 5. Animal Services Staff Report

Mr. Deel reviewed the State Requirements of the Animal Care Advisory Committee, Chapter 823.

- Complying with codes.
- Following State laws.
- Training for staff.
- Updating the committee and the community.

Leadership changes – the responsibility of the animal shelter has been moved from the Police Department to Administrative Services, under Dustin Deel. Cathy Le, the shelter manager, resigned shortly after this transition took place. We also have a new Animal Control Officer from the City of Lancaster, Jacob Worley. We are in the process of changing the department name to Animal Services to more accurately describe all the services the shelter offers. The Animal Control Manager position has been reclassified to a Director level position to better compensate for the full responsibility of this position. Interviews have been underway and we recently offered the position to the most qualified candidate so by the next meeting, we will have that position filled.

Mr. Deel took some time to introduce himself and go over his animal services experience and his current goals for the City of Waxahachie Animal Services.

He gave a presentation to highlight short/long term goals.

- Getting the director position filled.
- Getting the vacant Board position filled.
- Establish partners and create a community spay and neuter program.
- Establish medical and food supply vendors.
- Audit the drug logs. Working with Midlothian Emergency Vet for any necessary euthanasia.
- Establishing policies (intake, vaccinations, photos for social media).
- Pest Control (mice) issues with the shelter's warehouse. We're currently getting weekly service and once under control service will be monthly. The staff did a great job of cleaning the warehouse out.
- Intake photos to get animals adopted.
- Three microchip readers to be located around the City.
- Establish a sub-committee for a new animal shelter to identify needs for new facility.  
*Patrick Souter mentioned that anything the group has heard about monies budgeted is not factual. This is the purpose of the sub-committee – to move us in the direction of right-sizing and identifying our true needs.*
- We've estimated that if we were servicing all animal demand in our area, that we should be taking in about 1,250-1,500 animals a year, but we only took in about 250 in 2025.
- Taking part in more adoption events. Will have a float in the Christmas Parade to try and get some adoptions.
- Adoption Trailer – ETA at the beginning of January 2026.

**6. Set next meeting date and time of the Waxahachie Animal Care Advisory Committee**

The next meeting is set for January 9, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.

**7. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Crystal Strickland  
Executive Assistant