



City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

Office of the City Manager

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Kurt D. Hodgen
City Manager

TO: Mayor Reed and Members, Harrisonburg City Council
FROM: Kurt Hodgen, City Manager
DATE: July 6, 2017
RE: Consider acceptance of Anicura proposal at the "conceptual stage" for provision of animal services for the City of Harrisonburg.

Summary: The City has received a PPEA proposal from Anicura to provide animal services to the City in accordance with the requirements of Section 3.2-6546 of the Code of Virginia. Such services are currently provided to the City and Rockingham County by the Rockingham Harrisonburg SPCA under a three-party contractual agreement.

Background:

For a number of years, there has been disagreement between RHSPCA and other groups on RHSPCA operations, euthanasia rates, etc., even though RHSPCA operations are in compliance with State Code requirements and facility inspection requirements. The "other" groups have been advocating for higher performance standards relative to the provision of animal services (including a desire that both City and County adopt a "no kill" policy) to both City Council and the Board of Supervisors. Essentially, compliance with State Code requirements and facility inspection requirements have been the only "performance standards" placed on RHSPCA by either the City or County during the course of the existing contract.

In 2015, a study was undertaken by an independent consultant to review the operations of the RHSPCA and make recommendations on potential improvements. Both governing bodies received said study and held a public meeting to solicit further public input. To date, no formal action has been taken by either governing body to establish further performance standards, adopt a "no kill" policy, or direct that specific recommendations from the study be implemented.

Key Issues:

- During the PPEA process, the City reserves the right to accept or reject any proposals at any time for any reason.
- Acceptance of the proposal at the conceptual stage will require that a 45-day notice be published, opening up the PPEA process to competing proposals.
- The City must keep in mind that the current agreement with SPCA requires one-year termination notice to be given if the City decides to make a change.

- Is it City Council's desire to adopt a "no kill" policy and more specific performance standards relative to its obligations under Section 3.2-6546 of the Code of Virginia?

Environmental Impact:

N/A

Fiscal Impact:

The Anicira proposal suggests that, if accepted, costs to the City will be no greater than the FY 17-18 RHSPCA cost to the City and will likely be less.

Prior Actions:

Noted in "Background" section above.

Alternatives:

- A. Take no action at this time.
- B. Accept the Anicira proposal at the conceptual stage, which begins the 45-day notice.
- C. Consider issuance of a "traditional" request for proposals (RFP) process for providing animal services to the City or issuance of a joint RFP on behalf of the City and County.
- D. Consider revisions to the existing contract with RHSPCA

Community Engagement:

Recommendation:

City Council to date has not adopted any formal policies or taken any specific positions as a body relative to animal services performance standards and "no kill" policies. RHSPCA is meeting the requirements of Section 3.2-6546 of the Code of Virginia on behalf of the City. Pending further action by Council relative to consideration and adoption of formal policies, standards, etc., staff is recommending that no action be taken at this time.

Attachments:

Anicira proposal (w/out attachments)

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