



## Staff Report

*February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Regular Council Meeting*

### **Amendments to Inter-local Agreement with City of Washougal for Animal Control Services**

Staff Contact	Phone	Email
Mitch Lackey, Chief of Police	360.817.1502	<a href="mailto:mlackey@cityofcamas.us">mlackey@cityofcamas.us</a>

**INTRODUCTION/PURPOSE/SUMMARY:** The City of Camas contracts with the City of Washougal for Animal Control services, which includes expenses for the operation of the dog kennel located in the Port of Camas/Washougal Industrial Park. While the City owns the building, they lease the property where the building sits from the Port. The City of Washougal also has a contract with the West Columbia Gorge Humane Society to help operate the dog kennel and facilitate and care for dogs impounded from the City of Camas. The West Columbia Gorge Humane Society also functions to help adopt out unclaimed dogs to new homes.

Several recent events have led the City of Washougal to conclude that they need to change some of these contractual arrangements and modify the Inter-local Agreement with the City of Camas.

First, the City of Washougal hopes to surplus and then sell their dog kennel facility, which is located on leased property in the Port of Camas/Washougal, in the near future. Their intent is to try to sell it to the West Columbia Gorge Humane Society so that the City of Washougal is no longer responsible to operate a dog kennel. This move would eliminate the need for the City to be responsible for any maintenance and repair issues at the kennel facility. It would also eliminate in all cases, except for emergencies and after hours, any involvement in decision making for the medical care of sick or injured animals.

In 2019, the Humane Society for Southwest Washington entered into an agreement with the West Columbia Gorge Humane Society. That agreement calls for the WCGHS to operate as a sub-contractor to the HSSW and directs that they will continue to operate the dog kennel facility to receive and care for impounded dogs.

The City of Washougal desires to enter into a new agreement with the Humane Society of Southwest Washington (HSSW) to be the primary contractor for animal sheltering services. It is expected that HSSW will provide general oversight for the program and financial and administrative services. As the primary contractor, the HSSW would perform that function using the services of the WCGHS as the kennel sub-contractor. Key to understanding this relationship, the City of Washougal would only be contracting with the HSSW going forward. There would no longer be any contractual relationship between the City of Washougal and the WCGHS. In order to establish this new contractual relationship with the HSSW, the City of Washougal needs the old inter-local agreement with Camas modified to grant them permission to enter into said contracts.

While the agreement with HSSW calls for most dogs impounded to be cared for in the kennel on the Port property, there is also an understanding that the HSSW facility on NE 192<sup>nd</sup> Avenue can be used as an over-flow facility or back-up.

This new arrangement will see costs go up for the services that are provided under the agreement with the HSSW.

The Washougal City Council has already reviewed and approved these changes and authorized the City Manager to sign the agreement.

The February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, Staff Report had some of the details about the proposed changes incorrect – as an example, that the Washougal Kennel was being declared surplus and closed. In fact, it will be sold but not closed. Also, it did not adequately explain the new sub-contractor relationship between the two humane societies. Information is this staff report more accurately explains those issues.

**BUDGET IMPACT:** These changes will have a budget impact. The fees and expenses that are associated to shelter services increase under HSSW agreement. They move away from the old “per dog” fee of \$120.00 to a flat rate for each year. Additionally, the new arrangements allows the HSSW the ability to charge the municipality for a stray dog that is dropped off at their facility by a citizen, who indicates that it was picked up within the city limits.

It is anticipated that each year the total fee charged for operating sheltering services will escalate. It will be \$31,500.00 in 2020, \$34,000.00 in 2021 and \$38,000.00 in 2022. The HSSW has a target goal of around \$52,500.00 (today’s dollars) that they hope to get to in a series of incremental steps. Of course, this total fee is split between the two cities, per the Inter-local Agreement.

**RECOMMENDATION/RECOMMENDED ACTION/ACTION REQUESTED:** Staff recommends the Council authorize the Mayor to sign the modified Inter-local Agreement for Animal Control with the City of Washougal.