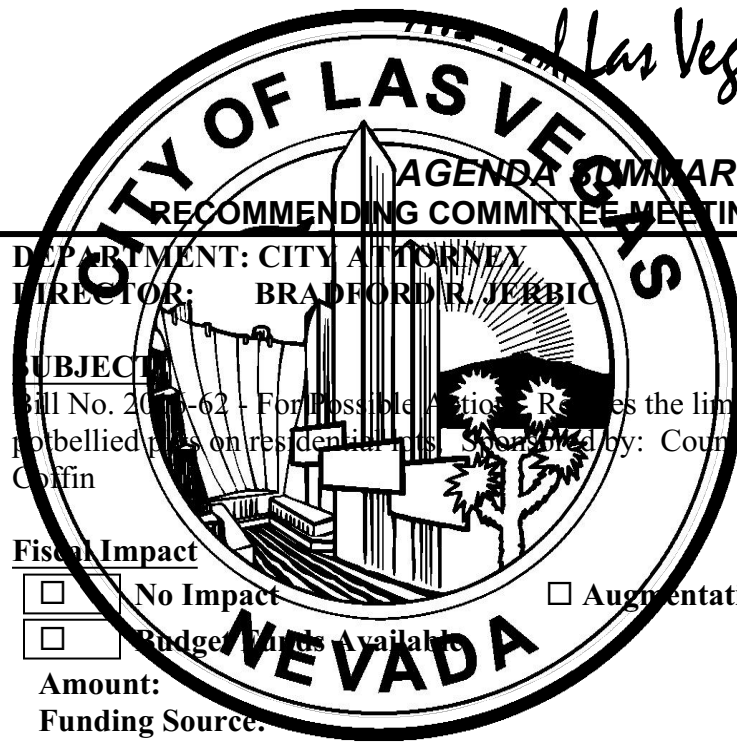




AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE

RECOMMENDING COMMITTEE MEETING OF: OCTOBER 3, 2016

DEPARTMENT: CITY ATTORNEY
DIRECTOR: BRADFORD R. JERBIC

☐ Consent ☒ Discussion

SUBJECT:

Bill No. 2016-62 - For Possible Action: Removes the limitations pertaining to the keeping of potbellied pigs on residential lots. Sponsored by: Councilman Bob Beers and Councilman Bob Coffin

Fiscal Impact

☐

No Impact

☐ Augmentation Required

☐

Budget Funds Available

Amount:

Funding Source:

Dept./Division:

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

Current City regulations regarding the keeping of potbellied pigs on residential lots restrict the maximum allowable height and weight of pigs and allow only one pig per lot. This bill will revise the regulations by 1) removing the height and weight limitations and 2) allowing additional pigs per lot, depending on lot size.

RECOMMENDATION:

This bill should be submitted to a Recommending Committee for review, hearing and recommendation to the City Council for final action.

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

Bill No. 2016-62

Motion made by BOB COFFIN to Approve as Do Pass as First Amendment

Passed For: 3; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 0

RICKI Y. BARLOW, STAVROS S. ANTHONY, BOB COFFIN; (Against-None); (Abstain-None); (Did Not Vote-None); (Excused-None)

Minutes:

COUNCILMAN BARLOW declared the Public Hearing open.

CHIEF DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY VAL STEED stated that the proposed ordinance revises the limitations pertaining to the keeping of potbellied pigs on residential properties. The current ordinance has a weight and height limitation and, in addition, requires such pigs to be vaccinated and spayed/neutered. Additionally, there is a one pig limit in a detached, single-family residence. He noted that the proposed ordinance would align the City's regulations to those of the County, which included removing the weight and height limitation, restricting the use of the

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pig to those who reside on the premises as well as provide a sliding scale for the amount of pigs allowed on a residential lot depending upon the square-footage.

The bill is cosponsored by COUNCILMEN COFFIN and BEERS, and COUNCILMAN COFFIN explained that the bill came to light when a resident in COUNCILMAN ROSS' ward came into violation from too many animals on her property. The resident had two pigs and, as pigs are social creatures that require companionship, the Councilmen desired to sponsor a bill to allow the two pigs to be kept together. COUNCILMAN BEERS added additional text to the bill to match the County's.

COUNCILMAN BARLOW and CHIEF DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY STEED discussed the verbiage regarding amount of pigs allowed per square-footage of a lot. CHIEF DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY STEED confirmed for COUNCILMAN COFFIN that the square-footage amounts come from the County.

VICKI OZUNA, Code Enforcement Supervisor, reported that staff does receive complaints on regular R-1 (Single-Family Residential) properties pertaining to odor and noise. Staff hoped that the Committee would review the effects the pigs have on surrounding neighborhoods and mentioned staff's concerns pertaining to odor, the effects on neighborhoods and there being no visible restriction to keep pigs out of apartment buildings or condominium complexes. She denied that she was taking a position on the bill and added that since the approval of the Community Cats program staff has had about six new cat hoarder cases that they have had to address.

COUNCILMAN ANTHONY wondered how large potbellied pigs can grow to. MS. OZUNA was unsure but believed it to be up to 200 lbs. With the current ordinance, the weight can not to exceed 120 lbs. Based off of research done, TIM SHATTLER, Deputy Director of Public Safety, stated that 175 lbs. is the typical weight. Department of Public Safety staff recommends a weight restriction be added to the proposed ordinance.

CRYSTAL KIMHAN, Vegas Pig Pets, clarified that the average potbellied pigs can weigh from 100 to 250 lbs. and grows for five years. She showed an image on her cellular phone of a 250 lbs. pig to the Committee. COUNCILMAN BARLOW wondered how many times a year a pig can reproduce to which MS. KIMHAN said that they can have three litters a year and up to 12 babies each time. She explained that pigs grow at a rapid rate and a 120 lbs. restriction would be unrealistic. The height of a pig can differ, as well. MS. KIMHAN wondered about licensing requirements pertaining to Chapter 7.38.042 of Title 7.

CHIEF DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY STEED confirmed that the licensing requirements would not change. MR. SHATTLER added that the code requires a license within 30 days after the potbellied pig attains the age of four months or first brought into the city.

MS. KIMHAN stated that with licensure in the past, there used to be a required property inspection. She hoped this could be removed as she believed the City to be understaffed and has

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had a pig returned to her organization because of the time it took for staff to conduct an inspection. MR. SHATTLER clarified that the proposed ordinance does not call for an inspection that he could see. She also addressed concerns about odor and noise and explained that pigs are vegetarian and if fed properly, their feces has minimal odor. They also do not bark.

MR. SHATTLER commented that staff was working to get the City's ordinances as close to the County's when it pertains to animal control. Staff wished to keep the proposed ordinance as it read.

COUNCILMAN ANTHONY questioned what single-family residential meant under the proposed ordinance. CHIEF DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY WEEB replied that the pigs are only allowed on single-family residential lots. An apartment is multi-family, and he did not believe it to qualify as a single-family residential lot. He believed this should be specified within the proposed ordinance if the Committee was concerned. COUNCILMAN COFFIN requested the proposed ordinance be amended to differentiate between types of family residential lots but to leave the text pertaining to weight.

COUNCILMAN BARLOW declared the Public Hearing closed.

