

**City Council Memorandum  
19-244**

December 31, 2019

TO:           Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM:       William L. Sorah, City Manager

SUBJECT:    Ordinance 19-13  
              Proposed Amendment to Animal Control Ordinance – (Chapter 10)

Ordinance 19-13 amends Chapter 10 of the City's Code of Ordinances as it relates to the tethering of animals. The amendment creates a new subsection to Section 10-46 prohibiting the tethering of dogs between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. This prohibition may be waived by permit under the condition that the owner demonstrates a need for relief from the tethering prohibition due to their current work schedule. The permit will designate a specific eight-hour period during each twenty-four hour period in which the owner is unable to tether the dog. In addition, during the November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, Ordinance 19-13 was amended to include an exception for hunting and sporting dogs. This exception would also be administered through the permit process. The tethering prohibition will become effective July 1, 2020.

Ordinance 19-13 was approved on first reading at the November 5, 2019 City Council meeting and was presented to Council on second reading at the December 3, 2019 City Council meeting. The matter was tabled to the January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting to allow for all members of Council to be present for the second reading of the ordinance.

  
William L. Sorah

**Ordinance No. 19-13**

**An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 10 (Animals) of the Code of Ordinances by Prohibiting Tethering of Dogs between Certain Hours Unless Otherwise Permitted**

WHEREAS, the City currently has in place regulations on the tethering of dogs that limit the conditions under which a dog can be tethered by its owner; and

WHEREAS, Council has reviewed issues related to tethering of dogs, and believes that round-the-clock tethering of dogs does not benefit the citizens of Bristol or the welfare of dogs; and

WHEREAS, Council believes that appropriate regulation of tethering should include a prohibition on tethering dogs during the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., when dogs tethered outside are most likely to be disruptive to neighboring residents; and

WHEREAS, Council recognizes that such a time limit may cause detriment to some residents of the City because of their work schedules, and Council desires to make provision for such residents to be able to tether their dogs within those hours; and

WHEREAS, the exception for work schedules should not operate to allow such residents to tether their dogs for twenty-four hours straight; and

WHEREAS, Council believes that such a time limit will provide residents and law enforcement officers with clear guidance as to what conduct is prohibited under the City's Code of Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, Council finds that such changes to Chapter 10 (Animals) will improve public health, safety and welfare.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the City of Bristol, Tennessee, that Chapter 10 (Animals), Article II (Dogs and Cats) of the Code of Ordinances, is hereby amended as follows:

A. A new subsection (c) shall be added to section 10-46, as follows:

(c) (1) *Beginning July 1, 2020, no dog shall be tethered between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., unless the owner of the dog has obtained a permit from the City Manager that allows tethering between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.*

(2) *Such a permit may be issued*

*(i) to an owner who demonstrates a need for the permit based on their current work schedule. This permit will designate a specific eight-hour period in each twenty-four hour day when the dog owner is unable to tether the dog.*

*(ii) to an owner of sporting or hunting dogs, actually used (or intended to be used) to hunt game under a valid hunting license during the then present year or the year previous, when training or*

*hardening toward such activity requires that the dogs be kept outside during the hours of 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.*

*(3) The City Manager is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations necessary to make effective the provisions of this section.*

B. The City Manager is directed to publicize the change to the Ordinance so that residents are aware of these changes prior to July 1, 2020.

This Ordinance shall take effect seventeen (17) days from and after its final passage, the welfare of the city requiring it.

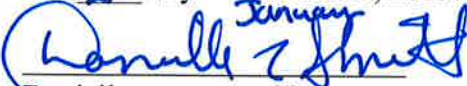
WHEREUPON, the Mayor declared the Ordinance adopted, affixed a signature and the date thereto, and directed that the same be recorded.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Margaret Feierabend, Mayor

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tara E. Musick, City Recorder

Approved as to Form and Legality  
this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of ~~November~~ <sup>January</sup>, ~~2019~~ <sup>2020</sup>



Danielle L. Smith, City Attorney

Passed on 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: \_\_\_\_\_  
Passed on 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: \_\_\_\_\_