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MEDIA RELEASE

Date: October 6, 2017

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Branson Aldermen Discuss Animal Ordinance Amendments Public Hearing Postponed as Board Considers Proposed Changes

The Branson Board of Aldermen briefly discussed proposed changes to the City's Animal Ordinance at the study session held this past Thursday. The board subsequently postponed a scheduled public hearing set for October 13 to provide citizens the opportunity to hear about draft changes to the ordinance.

The Taney County Health Department has put cities in the county on notice they will stop providing animal control services effective at the end of this year. "We took this opportunity to move forward with reviewing our current Animal Control ordinances that were last revised in 2009," stated Branson's Interim City Administrator Stan Dobbins. A committee was established three years ago including former alderman and retired veterinarian Dr. Patrick Parnell, former alderman Rick Todd who serves as Senior Vice President of Enterprise Risk Management for Herschend Family Entertainment, and Alderwoman Cris Bohinc. "This committee brings a lot of professional strength to bring forward proposed changes and improvements to our animal control ordinances designed to promote animal health, public safety and overall safety of the community," added Dobbins.

During their discussion in the study session, the Board recognized information provided to the public through media and social media resources has raised concern, confusion and misunderstanding. "This feedback from the public sent a strong message to our Board that we have more ground work to do before bringing proposed amendments to the existing animal code for public comment," stated Mayor Karen Best. For now, the existing animal ordinance remains in effect as the committee and board work to correct issues identified in the ordinance. All ordinances may be found on the City's web site at www.branstonmo.gov and use the link Municipal Codebook link.