

Legislation Text

File #: 18-5351, **Version:** 1

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LONGVIEW, WASHINGTON AMENDING LMC 13.01.120 RELATING TO PARK USE REGULATIONS TO PROHIBIT DOGS RUNNING LOOSE IN CITY PARKS.

COUNCIL STRATEGIC INITIATIVE ADDRESSED:

Address quality of place issues.

CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW: REQUIRED

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

On January 25, 2018, Council approved a motion to direct the City Attorney to draft an ordinance containing changes to LMC 13.01.120 specifically addressing dogs running loose.

The motion at the meeting approved the change to LMC 13.01.120 (6) removing the designation of a female dog or other animal during mating period to a requirement that all dogs and other animals are mandated to be on a leash not more than six feet (6') in length and physically controlled. Permitting such a dog to be unleashed shall be considered a violation of this chapter. This provision shall not apply to the Gerhart Gardens off-leash dog park.

At the February 8th meeting, additional discussion occurred about possible amendments to the original motion that may come forward. Councilmember Wallis has recommended a proposed amendment to the original motion to exclude 7th Avenue Park, John Null Park, and Roy Morse Park. Council choose to not exclude 7th Avenue Park. The exclusion does not alter LMC 13.01.110 to where animals are prohibited at all times in certain areas such as public beaches, fountains, organized athletic areas, sports fields, playgrounds, or golf courses except in areas designated as "pet areas". This section also shall not apply to dog guides, service animals, or dogs performing law enforcement activities. After review of the Ordinance and the proposed amendments to the Ordinance, Council moved to send the topic back to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for a further recommendation to bring back on March 8.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board discussed the Leash Law at the February 26 meeting. The board recommended amending the current Ordinance to include a leash law requirement at all parks excluding any areas officially designated by the City as "off leash dog areas" and to remove that a leash length requirement and add that the dog must be under physical control by the handler.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Motion to accept the recommendation by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to approve Ordinance No. 3372 as amended.