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**R2019-16: RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE CITY OF MYRTLE BEACH COYOTE RESPONSE PLAN.**

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**Applicant/Purpose:** Staff/ to respond to the proliferation of coyotes in the City.

**Brief:**

- Coyote sightings in urban areas have become common-place, including in the City.
- While there have been no documented reports of attacks on humans in Myrtle Beach, there have been several documented cases of attacks on pets (although no attacks of pets controlled on a leash), & residents have expressed concern.
- The proposed response plan is a mix of City action steps & recommended steps that citizens may take to make for a safer environment.

**Issues:**

- Council recognizes the actual & perceived threat represented by coyotes & commits to managing these threats through both public education & action.
- The proposed Coyote Response Policy includes:
  - Six City action steps:
    - Ongoing public education efforts.
    - Documentation of coyote encounters.
    - Working w/ our legislators for increased funding for SCDNR.
    - Inspecting for potential food sources.
    - Establishing a cost sharing program in which the City may reimburse \$75 of the cost of a wildlife removal professional for removing trapped coyotes from private property (up to \$5K).
    - Allocate emergency funding in the amount of \$10k to allow the City to flexibly respond to exigent circumstances.
  - Six recommended citizen action steps:
    - Keep your dogs on a leash that is 6' long or less.
    - Become familiar w/coyotes' food sources & eliminate what you can.
    - When walking your dog:
      - Take a stick capable of rendering a blow.
      - Take an air horn (or other noise making device). Use the noise maker to scare it away & let others know a coyote is nearby.
    - Report coyote encounters through the City's website.
    - Call 911 to report conflicts between a person & a coyote where the coyote exhibits behavior creating an unsafe situation.

**Public Notification:**

- A public education session was held on January 30.
- Normal meeting notification.

**Alternatives:**

- Amend the proposed response plan.
- Deny the proposed response plan.

**Financial Impact:**

- \$5k for reimbursing citizens w/ a portion of the cost of hiring a wildlife protection specialist to remove trapped coyotes.
- 410 for dealing with emerging exigent circumstances.

**Manager's Recommendation:** I recommend approval.

**Attachment(s):** Proposed resolution.

CITY OF MYRTLE BEACH  
COUNTY OF HORRY  
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE CITY OF  
MYRTLE BEACH COYOTE RESPONSE PLAN.

WHEREAS, coyote sightings in urban areas across this country, have become a common-place experience, including in the City of Myrtle Beach; and

WHEREAS, while there have been no documented reports of attacks by these animals on humans in the City of Myrtle Beach: and

WHEREAS, there have been several documented cases of attacks on pets (although no attacks of pets controlled on a leash); and

WHEREAS, the most effective deterrent to the prevalence of these nuisance animals is a partnership between citizens acting in concert with local government.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. City Council recognizes the actual and perceived threat represented by coyotes within the City limits of the City of Myrtle Beach, and is committed to the task of managing these actual and perceived threats through both public education and action.
2. City Council hereby adopts the attached City of Myrtle Beach Coyote Response Policy which includes the following:
  - a. City action steps:
    - Ongoing public education efforts.
    - Documentation of coyote encounters.
    - Working with our legislators to support increased funding for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.
    - Inspecting for potential food sources.
    - Establishing a cost sharing program whereby the City may reimburse \$75 of the documented cost of the services of a wildlife removal professional for removing trapped coyotes from private property locations (with a \$5,000 total limit).
    - Allocate emergency funding in the amount of \$10,000 to allow the City to flexibly respond to exigent circumstances involving coyote issues.
  - b. Recommended citizen action steps:
    - Do not let pets run loose, especially at night. Keep your dogs on a leash that 6' long or less.
    - Become familiar with coyotes' food sources. Eliminate what you can near your home.

- When walking your dog, take a stick capable of rendering a blow (note: coyotes sense that a pet owner carrying a weapon presents a greater danger than one who does not).
- When walking your dog, take an air horn (or other noise making device). If you encounter a coyote, use the noise maker to scare it away and let others know a coyote is in the area.
- Report coyote encounters through the City's website.
- Call 911 to report conflicts between a person a coyote where the coyote exhibits behavior creating an unsafe or aggressive situation.

SIGNED, SEALED and DATED, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2019.

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BRENDA BETHUNE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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JENNIFER STANFORD, CITY CLERK