

**ORDINANCE NO. 851**

**“Community Cat Advisory Committee”**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRANITE SHOALS, TEXAS TO CREATE A COMMITTEE OF AT LEAST 5 AND NO MORE THAN 9 PERSONS TO CONSIDER AND STUDY THE DESIRABILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF MANAGING THE FERAL CAT POPULATIONS WITHIN THE CITY OF GRANITE SHOALS; AND AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE 3, DIVISION 6 (WILDLIFE COMMITTEE) TO CLARIFY ITS PURPOSE TO CONSIDER WILDLIFE WITHIN THE CITY; AND PROVIDING FOR THE FOLLOWING: FINDINGS OF FACT; A SAVINGS CLAUSE; SEVERABILITY; REPEALER; EFFECTIVE DATE; AND PROPER NOTICE AND MEETING**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Granite Shoals, Texas (the “City”) desires to provide for, protect and improve the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the City and to foster a sense of civic pride; and,

**WHEREAS**, when humans and wildlife live close to one another, an increase in human-wildlife conflict occurs; and

**WHEREAS**, a substantial population of feral cats live within the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the City desires to compassionately and humanely manage the population of the feral cats within the City in order to prevent suffering and damage from animal-vehicle collisions, minimize disease transmission, and mitigate ecological impact on landscaping and the City’s natural environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the City values its relationship with the Hill Country Humane Society and desires to solicit its input and assistance in humanely managing the feral cat (and other animal) populations within the City; and

**WHEREAS**, section 8.01 of the City Charter provides the Council with the authority to create, establish, or appoint such boards, commissions and committees as it deems necessary to carry out the functions and obligations of the City; and

**WHEREAS**, section 8.01 of the City Charter provides that the Council shall, by ordinance or resolution, prescribe the purpose, composition, function, duties, accountability and tenure of each board, commission and committee where such are not prescribed by law or the Charter; and

**WHEREAS**, the creation of the Community Cat Advisory Committee is necessary to study the feral cat population within the City, and to recommend and advise the City Council on humane policy and methods to manage the population of feral cats within the City.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRANITE SHOALS, TEXAS:**

## SECTION I. FINDINGS OF FACT

All of the above premises are hereby found to be true and correct legislative and factual findings of the City of Granite Shoals and are hereby approved and incorporated into the body of this ordinance as if copied in their entirety.

## SECTION II. COMMUNITY CAT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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### A. COMMITTEE CREATED:

Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 8.01 of the City Charter, the City Council hereby amends Article III, Division 9 of its Code of Ordinances to create a Community Cat Advisory Committee. This committee will serve in an advisory capacity only and will have no powers to establish policy, regulations, or procedures for the city.

### B. DEFINITIONS:

1. A feral cat is any member of the species *felis catus* that is undomesticated, wild, homeless, untamed, or otherwise unaccustomed to human interaction. Other common names include stray cat, barn cat, or community cat.
2. A domestic animal is an animal that is a product of human domestication and care, not a wild animal, and includes livestock, caged or penned fowl, pigeons, and normal household pets such as, but not limited to, dogs, cats, cockatiels, parrots, macaws, ferrets, hamsters, guinea pigs, gerbils, rabbits, fish, or nonpoisonous reptiles.

### C. PURPOSE:

The Community Cat Advisory Committee is established to accomplish the following purposes:

1. Study the desirability and feasibility of managing the feral cat population within the City of Granite Shoals consistent with the laws and regulations of the State of Texas.
2. Conduct public hearings and surveys to obtain a consensus of the citizen's position on feral cat management.
3. Study and determine the feral cat population within the City.

4. Consider and study humane approaches to feral cat management, recognizing the advantages and disadvantages of each approach.
5. Partner with reputable organizations such as the Hill Country Humane Society to develop and implement humane approaches to feral cat management.
6. Develop and implement both a short-term and long-term strategy to managing the feral cat population within the City.
7. From time to time, prepare and present reports and recommendations regarding policy and available programs to the City Council, City Manager, and City staff.

**D. MEMBERS, ORGANIZATION AND MEETINGS:**

1. The Community Cat Advisory Committee shall consist of no fewer than 5 and no more than 9 property owners or residents who are appointed by the City Council. No more than one member of the City Council, or any employee of the City or person holding a compensated appointive position with the City, may be appointed to the Community Cat Advisory Committee, and will serve only in a non-voting advisory capacity.
2. Members appointed by the City Council shall serve indefinite terms. The appointed members serve at the pleasure of the City Council and may be appointed or removed at the discretion of the City Council.
3. Members of the Community Cat Advisory Committee shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for actual expenses with prior approval by the City Council.
4. The Community Cat Advisory Committee will adopt rules to govern its proceedings that are consistent with this ordinance, the City Charter, and state law.
5. The Community Cat Advisory Committee will elect from the appointed members a Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary.
6. All committee meetings will be open to the public and shall be posted and conducted in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.
7. A quorum of the Community Cat Advisory Committee is four members who are physically present at the posted venue for the committee's meeting. Members attending by Zoom or other teleconference technology may be recorded as present, may participate in discussions, and may vote, but attendance via teleconference shall not contribute to a quorum for the meeting.

8. All members present, including the Chairman, shall vote on every motion. A member who abstains from a vote, with or without cause or conflict, shall have their vote recorded as “abstained” but no vote will be counted for or against the motion as though that member were not present.
9. The Committee shall keep minutes of its proceedings which shall be filed with the City Secretary within fifteen (15) business days of the meeting.

**SECTION III. AMENDING CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 2  
(ADMINISTRATION), ARTICLE III (BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES),  
DIVISION 6 (WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE)**

**“Sec. 2-82.21 Committee created.**

Pursuant to article VIII, section 8.01 of the City Charter, the city council hereby creates a Wildlife Advisory Committee. This committee will serve in an advisory capacity only and will have no powers to establish policy, regulations or procedures for the city.

**Sec. 2-82.22 Purpose.**

The Wildlife Advisory Committee is established to accomplish the following purposes:

- (1) Study the desirability and feasibility of managing the wildlife populations, with emphasis on white-tailed deer, feral hogs, and coyotes, but not including feral cats or other domestic animals, as that term is defined in Article III, Division 9 of this Code of Ordinances, within the City of Granite Shoals consistent with the laws and regulations of the State of Texas.
- (2) Gather information from and review documents and articles prepared by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), the Texas Agrilife Extension Service, and other organizations knowledgeable in wildlife and wildlife management in Texas.
- (3) Conduct public hearings and surveys to obtain a consensus of the citizen’s position on wildlife management with priority and emphasis on the management of white-tailed deer, feral hogs, and coyotes, but not including feral cats or other domestic animals, as that term is defined in Article III, Division 9 of this Code of Ordinances.
- (4) Estimate and monitor the wildlife populations of animals studied, particularly white-tailed deer, feral hogs, and coyotes, but not including feral cats, or other domestic animals, as that term is defined in Article III, Division 9 of this Code of Ordinances
- (5) Consider alternate approaches to wildlife management recognizing the advantages and disadvantages of each approach.
- (6) Develop both a short-term and long-term strategy to managing white-tailed deer, feral hogs, coyotes, and any other particular wildlife animal, excluding feral cats, or other domestic animals, as that term is defined in Article III, Division 9 of this Code of Ordinances

(7) From time to time, prepare and present reports and recommendations to the city council, city manager, and city staff.

**Sec. 2-82.23 Members, organization, and meetings.**

(a) The Wildlife Advisory Committee shall consist of no fewer than five and no more than nine property owners or residents who are appointed by the city council. No more than one member of the city council may be appointed to the Wildlife Advisory Committee in a non-voting advisory capacity as a council liaison.

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(c) Members of the Wildlife Advisory Committee shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for actual expenses with prior approval by the city council.

(d) The Wildlife Advisory Committee will adopt rules to govern its proceedings that are consistent with this ordinance, the City Charter, and state law.

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**SECTION III. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

The repeal of any ordinance or part of ordinances effectuated by the enactment of this ordinance shall not be construed as abandoning any action now pending under or by virtue of such ordinance or as discontinuing, abating, modifying or altering any penalty accruing or to accrue, or as affecting any rights of the City under any section or provisions of any ordinances at the time of passage of this ordinance.

**SECTION IV. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE.**

If any provision, section, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance, or the application of the same to any person or set of circumstances is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, void, invalid, or unenforceable, the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance or its application to other persons or sets of circumstances shall not be affected thereby, it being the intent of the City Council of the City of Granite Shoals in adopting, and of the Mayor in approving this ordinance, that no portion thereof or provision or regulation contained herein shall be come inoperative or fail by reason of any unconstitutionality or invalidity of any other portion, provision or regulation.

**SECTION V. REPEALER CLAUSE.**

The provisions of this ordinance shall be cumulative of all other ordinances or parts of ordinances governing or regulating the same subject matter as that covered herein, provided, however, that all prior ordinance or parts of ordinances inconsistent or in conflict with any of the provisions of this ordinance are hereby expressly repealed to the extent that such inconsistency is apparent. This ordinance shall not be construed to require or allow any act which is prohibited by any other ordinance.

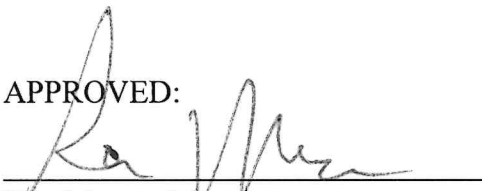
**SECTION VI. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This ordinance shall take effect immediately from and after its passage and publication as may be required by governing law.

**SECTION VII. NOTICE AND MEETING CLAUSE.**

It is hereby officially found and determined that the meeting at which this Ordinance was passed was open to the public and that public notice of the time, place and purpose of said meeting was given as required by the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

Passed and approved this 13<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024.

APPROVED:  
  
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Ron Munos, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Dawn Wright, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
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Joshua Katz, City Attorney

