Midway City Council
22 August 2018
Regular Meeting

Ordinance 2018-22 /
Control of Varmints and Predators

Memo

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Date: August 22, 2018

To: Midway City Council

From: Michael Henke

Re: Ordinance 2018-22 / Control of Varmints and Predators

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The City would like to review and discuss the possible amendment of Section 5.02.140 that regulates the discharge of weapons and the control of varmints and predators. The current code reads as follows:

> *A. It is unlawful for any person to discharge any firearm within the limits of Midway City, provided that this Section shall not apply to peace officers in the pursuit of official duties, persons acting in self defense, or residents residing in the RA-1-43 zone protecting their property, livestock and poultry from predators such as dogs, coyotes, rock chucks, and skunks, provided that use of such weapon shall be limited to shotguns when such discharge does not endanger persons or damage to buildings or vehicles. This Section shall not apply to persons hunting with shotguns during regularly scheduled hunting seasons, provided that any person so hunting must strictly comply with state laws and regulations concerning carrying loaded firearms and distance requirements from roads, vehicles and buildings.*
> *B. A violation of this Section is a class B misdemeanor.*

The code allows for residents of the RA-1-43 zone to protect their property from varmints. There are properties in the City that are farmed or grazing that are not located in the RA-1-43 zone and the control of varmints has become an issue. The City should analyze the current ordinance and decide if any amendments would be in the best interest of the community. Safety is at the utmost concern and any amendment to the code should have safety as the highest priority. Staff would like to hear from the City Council about their thoughts on the current ordinance and if a change should be considered regarding the current language.

Please contact me if you have any questions about this item.
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