City of Joplin City Council Agenda Item

REQUESTED COUNCIL MEETING DATE: APRIL 2 ND, 2018

ITEM: Council Bill No. 2018-605 amending the Dog Park Rules in the Joplin City Code of Ordinances

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
ATTACHMENT: Council Bill No. 2018-605; copy of Dog Park Rules

Parks Director:	Paul Bloomberg
Finance Director:	Leslie Haase
City Attorney:	Peter Edwards
City Manager:	Sam Anselm

INTRODUCTION:
This Council Bill looks to amend Chapter 86, Article VII, Section 86-252 of Joplin City Code to state under rules, "Director of Parks and Recreation has the authority to review and revise dog park rules as needed".

DISCUSSION:
In 2013, the City of Joplin established our first dog park at Parr Hill Park. The purpose was to allow dogs and their owners a green space in which to run freely without a leash. The "off-leash park area" requires owners to register their dog(s) with the Parks and Recreation Department. With this membership, owners must submit up-to-date vaccinations and the proper documentation to attend the park. With the new dog park, a set of rules were developed that each member is required to follow. We review rules on a yearly basis and at times there are rules that either need to be modified, added and/or deleted. Currently, if we need to make changes to the rules we have to come before, the City Council and have them amended each time. To make this more efficient we would like to add the following section to the rules, "Director of Parks and Recreation has the authority to review and revise dog park rules as needed".

RECOMMENDATION:
City Staff recommends this Council Bill be approved on first reading.

CITY OF JOPLIN, MISSIOURI
Dog Park Rules

1. Any dog within an off-leash park area shall not be under six (6) months of age, and shall be currently vaccinated against rabies, distemper, parvovirus and have a current City of Joplin license affixed or attached to the dog's collar or harness. All dogs are required to have a tag issued by City of Joplin Parks and Recreation Department at 3010 W. 1st Street.

2. An "off-leash park area" is an area within a City of Joplin park designated by the Parks & Recreation Board for the purpose of allowing dogs to roam without leashes.

3. All general Park Rules and City of Joplin ordinance must be obeyed.

4."Owner" means any person, firm or corporation in possession and control of or custody of a dog.

5. Any owner bringing a dog into an off-leash park area shall be responsible for complying with these rules and any other rule, regulation and ordinance necessary to protect the health, welfare and safety of park users.

6. An owner bringing a dog into an off-leash area is liable for and assumes the risk for the dog's conduct.

7. No person under 16 years of age shall be permitted to bring a dog into an off-leash park area.

8. For safety reasons, children must be at least 12 years old and supervised by an adult to use the dog park. Children must behave in a responsible manner: no running, chasing dogs, or petting dogs without the owner's permission.

9. Dogs must be under voice control of their handler and in view of their handler at all times. Handler must be in fenced area with dog at all times.

10. A dog within an off-leash park area shall be under the owner's immediate control. All patrons of the Dog Park must carry their leash with them at all times.

11. An owner of a dog creating a disturbance or not being properly controlled can be evicted from an off-leash park area. Upon leaving an off-leash park area, an evicted owner shall also remove his or her dog. If an owner’s dog is doing these things the owner is required to remove their dog themselves, without being evicted.

12. No person having been convicted of allowing a dog to bite, chase or attack any person or animal without provocation shall be permitted to bring a dog into an off-leash park area.

13. No dog which has not been spayed or neutered shall be permitted within an off-leash dog park.

14. No female dogs in heat and dogs with fresh wounds or disease shall be permitted within an off-leash park area.

15. Any excreta deposited in an off-leash park area shall be promptly removed and appropriately disposed by the dog's owner.

16. No dangerous or potentially dangerous dog, as defined by the City of Joplin Animal Code, shall be permitted within an off-leash park area.

17. Any dog left unattended within an off-leash park area shall be deemed "at-large" in violation of the City of Joplin Animal Code.

18. No dog weighing more than 30 pounds shall be permitted within an area designated for small dogs. Owners allowing their small dogs to enter a designated Large Dog Area do so at their own risk and assume responsibility for whatever damage or injury may result.

19. No food, treats, alcoholic beverages (soft drinks and water are allowed), smoking, squeaky toys, frisbees, dog toys or children's toys are allowed in the dog park. This is a recreation park for dogs accompanied by their owners.

20. Handlers must “scoop the poop” and dispose of waste in designated park provided container.

21. No professional dog trainer/behaviorist shall conduct any training or business activity within an off-leash park area.

22. No more than two dogs per person on any one visit.

23. Bicycles, rollerblades, roller-skates, skateboards, and strollers are prohibited. This is a recreation park for dogs accompanied by their owners. (Wheel chairs are allowed.)

24. Stop your dog from digging. Handlers must repair all holes and damage done by their dog under their control.

25. Choke, prong, pinch, and spike collars must be removed inside park area.

26. Park Hours of Operation 6AM to Sunset or 9PM whichever occurs first.

27. Handlers enter off-leash area at their own risk.

28. Dogs must be properly licensed, vaccinated and wear an owner identification tag.

29. Dogs must be leashed when outside fenced dog park areas.

30. No animals other than dogs are permitted in Dog Park.

31. Dogs acting in an aggressive fashion toward other dogs or people, such as charging in aggressive manner and growling, fighting with other dogs, etc. must be removed by their owner.

32. If your dog bites or scratches a person (where the skin is broken) it will be subject to existing city quarantine ordinances.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2018-605 ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE amending Section 86-252, Rules, of Article VII, Dog Parks, of Chapter 86, Parks and Recreation, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Joplin, by amending Section 86-252, Rules, to implement certain language changes.

WHEREAS, the City adopted the Dog Park Rules on May 6th, 2013 as set forth in Ordinance 2013-106; and,

WHEREAS, the City would like to amend the Dog Park Rules on Ordinance 2013-106; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Joplin, Missouri, as follows:

Section 1. That 86-252, Rules, of Article VII, Dog Parks, of Chapter 86, Parks and Recreation, be amended in Section 86-252, Rules, of Article VII, Dog Parks, of Chapter 86-252, Parks and Recreation, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Joplin be enacted to read as follows:

"Sec. 86-252. Rules.

…

The Director of Parks and Recreation shall have the authority to review and revise dog park rules as needed. The Director of Parks and Recreation shall cause all such rules to be posted at the entrance to any Dog Park in the City.

…"

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOPLIN, MISSOURI, this

_____day of _____, 2018.

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Michael L. Seibert, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Barbara J. Gollhofer, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Peter C. Edwards, City Attorney