June 28, 2019

Re:  Wildlife Management – Request for Provision to City Code

Dear Neighbor:

As Council Member of the Northeast Ward, a concern about managing wildlife on airport property for increased safety has been brought to my attention. Over the past couple years, the deer and turkey population has been increasing at Smith Reynolds Airport, and it has become a major safety concern.

To combat the issue, the County has been communicating with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Wildlife Services. Airport staff is requesting a modification to the existing city code to allow USDA trained personnel to use suppressed rifles. The current code allows shotguns and archery to take wildlife.

The County has submitted the request to change the code to the City Council’s Public Safety Committee. A presentation was made on April 8, 2019 and can be viewed on the City’s web page. The City’s Public Safety Committee will address the issue again at the August 12 meeting.

If you have any concerns regarding the change to address wildlife at the airport, please contact Mark Davidson, Smith Reynolds Airport Director, before July 31, 2019 at 336-767-6361 or send an email to mark.davidson@smithreynolds.org. Concerns can also be recorded by contacting City Link by calling 311.

Sincerely,

Vivian H. Burke
Mayor Pro Tempore
Council Member – Northeast Ward

pc: Mayor Allen Joines
City Council Members
Lee D. Garrity, City Manager
Mark Davidson, Smith Reynolds Airport Director