

City Council – Action Request Form

Date: August 12, 2024

To: Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

From: Lori Sykes, Senior Assistant City Attorney

Council Action Requested:

Ordinance Amending Chapter 38, Article I, Section 38-10(i) Entitled "Possession and Discharge of Firearms" of the Code of the City of Winston-Salem to allow State and/or Federal Wildlife Officers to Discharge Rifles for the Purpose of Eliminating Deer and Wild Turkeys Within the Boundaries of Smith Reynolds Airport until August 19, 2025.

Strategic Focus Area: Safe and Secure Community

Strategic Objective: No

Strategic Plan Action Item: No

Key Work Item: No



Summary of Information:

In 2019, Airport Director Mark Davidson made a presentation to the City on the presence of wildlife, and particularly deer, inside the boundary fencing and in the runway area of Smith Reynolds Airport, which presence posed a threat to the health and safety of those using the Airport's services. Director Davidson also advised the City that in 2012, the Airport partnered with USDA Wildlife Officers to assess and address this issue. City Ordinance 38-10, which generally prohibits the discharge of firearms within the City limits, was amended as a result of this presentation such that USDA Wildlife Officers were authorized, for a one-year period, to eliminate deer on airport grounds using rifles. The ordinance has continued to be amended to extend this authorization for additional one-year periods and to allow Wildlife Officers to also eliminate wild turkeys also present on the airport property. The airport is currently requesting an extension of this authorization to and through August 19, 2025. The Airport will continue to provide notification of upcoming activity by USDA officers to area residents.

Committee Action:

Committee	Committee of the Whole 8/12/2024	Action	Approval
For	Unanimous	Against	

Remarks: