

Livestock bill moves to Senate

BY JACKIE KINEALY
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A Missouri bill that would cement existing regulations in the livestock industry for facilities already in operation is one step closer to becoming a law. It bumped up into the Senate for its first read Tuesday after it passed in the House last Thursday.

House Bill 1324, or the "Right to Raise Livestock Bill," which Rep. Tom Loehner, R-112, sponsored, would mean that existing livestock operations would abide by the laws regulating practices like waste disposal and animal care that are on the books as of August 28, 2012. The livestock operations would not be required to adapt to future changes to industry regulations. New operations would follow the regulations set at the time they open.

Critics of the bill include Tim Gibbons, the Missouri Rural Crisis Center communication director. He said the bill privileges industrial-scale meat producers, which degrade surrounding farms' land value through air and water pollution, by exempting them for future attempts to crack down on the industry.

"What it does is that it severely hampers the democratic process [and] also elected officials' ability to respond to corporate agribusiness — holding them accountable

to the vast majority of family farmers and property owners in Missouri," he said.

He said the bill is short-sighted and could have unintended consequences in the event of contagious outbreak in which the state needs to take action to get the outbreak under control.

"We don't know what the future holds, but at some point our elected representatives may need to hold them accountable to the citizens of the state of Missouri," he said.

But Loehner said his intention is not to protect big-business meat producers by letting them skate past state regulations — the bill's language mentions nothing about the size of operations.

He introduced the bill in the House, he said, to protect all livestock producers in the state from frivolous regulations supported and passed by people and lawmakers who don't understand that certain practices — for example castration and using gestation crates for hogs — are necessary for a secure and inexpensive food source in Missouri.

"[Livestock producers] have built their operations and done everything they're supposed to according to every law on the books, and then if we change the rules on them how are they supposed to comply?" he said. "That's where the problem comes in."

He offered a hypothetical example of a health ordinance requiring

The "Right to Raise Livestock" Bill

Existing livestock operations will follow laws that are in place as of August 28, 2012.

Any future livestock operations will follow the laws that are in place at the time that they open for business.

*according to House Bill 1324



hog producers to be located 500 feet from a home. If a new ordinance passed that said hog operations would have to be 1,000 feet from a household, the business that originally had been in compliance would either have to move its building or face punishment.

The Missouri Department of Nat-

ural Resources is the state agency responsible for issuing permits to large-scale livestock operations in compliance with state regulation.

Current regulations include a ban on releasing wastewater into streams, a buffer distance requirement of at least 1,000 feet from other properties and a plan for proper

management of dead animals, chemicals and biosolids, according to the Department of Natural Resources' "Guide to Animal Feeding Operations."

A full explanation of current permit requirements for livestock producers can be accessed at dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/cafo/.

Nixon releases \$1.6 million

Missouri's governor office released unexpected funds to five state agencies last week

BY ASHLEY JOST
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The Governor's Office announced March 20 it was releasing \$1.6 million to replenish the funds for some state programs with offices in Kirksville that previously had been eliminated in Gov. Jay Nixon's original \$172 million statewide budget cut.

Nixon's Budget Director Linda Luebbering said the decision to release this money was made after the offices realized the revenue estimates they previously had were too low.

"At the beginning of the year, we didn't think we would make what we have already," she said. "We're still concerned about whether we're going to meet our overall estimate for the year, but there was enough belief that things were turning around enough to release a little bit of money."

Luebbering said Nixon decided to release the funds to five state programs because of their statewide impact.

These include \$200,000 for state firefighting training, \$471,000 for the Missouri Area Agency on Aging, \$356,000 for grants for state domestic violence programs, \$400,000 for crisis care services and \$200,000 for Senate expenses, which Luebbering said include funding the cost for their legislative staffs.

Many of these state programs seeing portions of this new financial release includes operations that run in Kirksville, Mo., such as the Northeast Missouri Area Agency on Aging.

NEMOAAA executive director Pam Windtberg said the money it will receive is going toward replenishing the costs its contractors pay to continue the Agency's daily operations including home-delivered meals to the disabled or elderly, which benefits 106 local residents.

Prior to the money being re-released,



Windtberg said the Agency's contractors were dealing with the cost-cutting like most businesses that deal with budget crises, such as making staffing decisions and increasing fundraising efforts to make up for the costs.

Because nobody is turned down who needs assistance from NEMOAAA, Windtberg said there's a lot of extra funding required to cover those costs. She said their office is grateful money is being dispersed to cover the cost for all of their efforts.

Kirksville Fire Chief Randy Behrens said the funding released to the state's programs for fire fighting primarily is used for classes Kirksville generally doesn't participate in because of its in-house training.

Luebbering said the governor's decision was based on how necessary these programs are for Missourians, and his hope was that the state can continue to function to serve the state as it was before budget cuts.

Council passes 63 retail business zone

BY GRACE FREEMAN
Staff Reporter

Kirksville City Council passed rezoning requests March 19 that designated part of US Highway 63 overpass a "corridor street," which will provide the opportunity for businesses to open at the intersections of Illinois Street, Shepherd Avenue and areas around the north junction of Baltimore and Highway 63.

This means the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council members think these properties have potential for future development, and they might be better used as commercial land than residential.

If developers are interested in the areas, they will need to apply for rezoning for the specific purpose for which they want to use the land. This includes a site plan with the type of business they want to open and what it will look like, said Brad Selby, Kirksville Codes and Planning director.

After a business or developer applies for re-zoning of a property, a public hearing must occur to discuss the plan. Residents living within 185 feet of the potential commercial land will be sent letters that state the date and time of the public hearing, and the business' plan so they can voice their opinions.

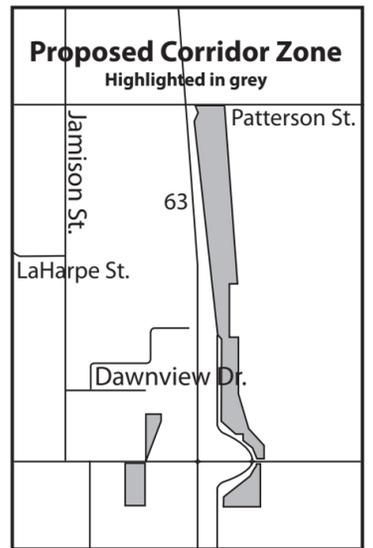
"Then, Planning and Zoning [answers questions like] do they think it's a good fit, or is that a business we want to see there, are the plans good and do they meet codes," Selby said.

The process of passing a re-zoning request was slow because people living near the potentially commercial areas petitioned against businesses moving too close to their houses.

The properties that passed for re-zoning are areas people wouldn't want to build their homes near, and the land would have no use if not used for potential business, Selby said.

Whether the rezoned area's proximity to residential areas is why the proposition didn't initially pass is uncertain.

"The Council and I wanted to take it



slow," Kirksville Mayor Richard Detweiler said. "We realized that there's no perfect answer, but we have to take advantage of every possible chance there is of building, construction, new jobs — every possible chance there is."

Detweiler said the City always is open to hearing what everyone has to say about these types of issues and that's the way to finding an equitable compromise, but economic development must be the main goal.

"We still listen to everyone's ideas and they tell us if we've gone too far in one direction," Detweiler said. "You can't make everyone happy, but you try to make as many people as you can happy."

Carolyn Chrisman, job creation director for Kirksville Regional Economic Development, said she thinks there's potential for job creation in retail projects like these.

"It has the potential but I don't know if that means that some businesses will move from their local spot out there or if new ones will come in," Chrisman said.

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Paid for by candidate: Betty L. McLane-Iles

Dear Voter/Supporter,

Since January, it has been my privilege to be your PROGRESSIVE woman candidate for the imminent Tuesday April 3rd Kirksville Town Council vacancy election. As testified by the vast number of posters you are putting up in my support and the homes welcoming me, husband and volunteers, this town, you want change that works and you want as well as at least ONE woman on the FIVE person Council.

Jobs and quality of life for both genders are your message to this candidate. I want to represent you, your interests, the people of Kirksville. You have shared with me your concerns, and allowed me to understand the burning needs of so many for more jobs, more small and local business and commercial development, to give working people and their children a chance at rebuilding our industrial base and keeping intact the economic and cultural viability and your community. You don't want to see your children and your children's children continue to be forced to abandon the town where you were born and raised and where your roots are. You want the life and hope of our community restored, with respect for the small town values of fairness, integrity, and inclusion, no matter how much or how little one has in the bank. You want REAL hope, no false slogans or empty "voodoo economics" of corporate unkept promises for jobs and loans insufficiently repaid.

Indeed, you want concrete reliable and stable growth, expansion and local investment, through strategical planning, widespread community involvement in rebuilding, and growth. You are looking with hope to potential wisely monitored growth in the city and within the new Highway 63 Corridor Zone which we on the Planning and Zoning Commission, as directed by City Council, propose and encourage. It is wonderful that we have three higher education institutions, and now a dental school, putting us on the map, but, --to quote what so many native Kirksville seniors living alone now far from their relocated working children have said to me---we need more, much more, otherwise Kirksville will be lost as a community of families where one's children can build a future.

As the daughter of a Fairfield Iowa Dad and a proven local schoolteacher in having helped to train and prepare generations of young graduates now in global business, law and education around the world, I want jobs that are permanent and a pro-active Council alert to keeping/expanding jobs in what is still a safe, green town. The Council's elected members' website, its very portal, after April 3rd must, SERIOUSLY, show a woman and an educator. Otherwise, forward-looking investors all across North America will choose instead Quincy or Columbia which show more inclusiveness and modernity.

Accordingly too, I propose a Small Business Commission set up by KTC (as there was presently a Housing Committee, which former Mayor Rowe served in her fine day), to act as a hearings center for new and old small/regional businesses' survival. Environmentally, I would work towards increasing funding for the bike paths' continuation and maintenance, including completion of the bike and pedestrian pathway connecting Downtown Kirksville and thousand Hills which we can't afford not to develop as it will boost tremendously our economy, our culture and the quality of our lives here in Kirksville. I will pursue and encourage wholeheartedly and continuation of storm water drainage and sidewalk/pothole repair which many of our citizens still await, particularly in the poorer parts of our city, and will recommend strongly an urban forester to oversee the maintenance and replanting of mutilated trees in our community. Thanks for former Mayor Dr. Edwin Carpenter for beginning our 'green tree' planting antipollution excellence.

In the lively tradition of former Mayor Todd Kuhns and youthfulness, thanks to our young people for having begun commercially and culturally enriching musical concerts in the downtown Aquadome and to those initiating and carrying out a survey responding to a desire for a SENIOR AND COMMUNITY CENTER, perhaps which could be located in the present site of Greenwood School, to allow the university and sports, general community to integrate further. Finally, let's think about action on recycling, its maintenance and ways to make it more effective and helpful, in view of the outrageous recent price increase. Let's think about the economic advantages of twin towning with Canadian towns, such as the program I began in 1986 with Laval University of Quebec and Truman State University and I offer my bilingualism as a senior French professor.

In conclusion, over the last two and a half months, I have been working hard to come to talk to you, both personally by canvassing with my team of volunteers including my husband and friends. I have spoken with you, listened to you and greatly benefited from coming to know you better, and given you my own platform, both in person and by both a webpage and Facebook. I offer you a forward-looking MODERN and dedicated councilwoman, who has come to know and work well with city government. But most importantly, I have to be your voice, your voice of experience and community and ask for your STRONGEST mandate. Remember, you can absentee vote with good cause right up to 5:00 pm at courthouse, even before Election Day, Tuesday, 3rd of April.

Sincerely,

Betty

Professor of French and Quebec Studies, TSU

