



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

Date: March 15, 2012

To: John Szerlag, City Manager

From: Gary G. Mayer, Chief of Police *GGM*
Gerard Scherlinck, Captain
Michael Szuminski, Sergeant

Subject: Michigan Department of Natural Resources Canada
Goose Roundup and Nest Destruction Programs

Background

Each year the Police Department receives complaints relating to the presence of Canada Geese and inquiries as to what can be done to abate the problem. Several small bodies of water exist in Troy, both public and private, on which Canada Geese congregate. High numbers of geese in shallow water areas can elevate bacteria levels via fecal E. coli making the water unsafe for swimming. Geese can demonstrate aggressive behavior towards people while defending their nesting territory.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recommends that the geese either be gathered for relocation, or that their nests be destroyed as methods of controlling the geese. A DNR permit is required to allow for the roundup of geese and/or the destruction of nests. The permit allows private property owners to hire a state certified private contractor to provide the service, and authorizes trained city employees or DNR employees to conduct roundups/nest destruction on public property. The Resolution by City Council expedites the procedure for obtaining a permit. Without Council action, residents are required to circulate a petition and gather signatures from residents who are affected by the problems relating to the excessive Canada goose population.

The past practice by the City of Troy is to recommend approval of the DNR permit which would allow for this practice to continue. The current DNR permit allowing for Canada Goose Roundup and Nest Destruction in Troy will expire on May 8, 2012.

There is no cost related to this issue for the City of Troy.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City of Troy approve the resolution as submitted.