

**CITY OF RIFLE, COLORADO  
ORDINANCE NO. 14  
SERIES OF 2015**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF RIFLE, COLORADO AMENDING  
SECTIONS 7-6-10, 7-6-120, AND 7-6-140 OF THE RIFLE MUNICIPAL CODE  
REGARDING BEES AND ANIMALS.

WHEREAS, at the request of citizens and in the interest of public health, safety, and welfare, the City Council desires to amend Sections 7-6-10, 7-6-120, and 7-6-140 to allow and have oversight of the keeping and care of honey producing bees in the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIFLE, COLORADO, THAT:

Section 1. The foregoing recitals are incorporated herein as if set forth in full.

Section 2. Section 7-6-10 of the Rifle Municipal Code is hereby amended with the inclusion of the following definitions:

*Africanized or Africanised Bee* means any hybrid of the subspecies *apis mellifera scutellata*.

*Bee* shall mean any stage of the common domestic honey bee, *apis mellifera* species.

*Beekeeping* shall mean the placement or maintenance of bees, bee colonies, or bee hives.

*Colony* shall mean a bee hive and its equipment and appurtenances, including bees, comb, honey, pollen and brood.

*Flyway barrier* means a solid wall or fence that is parallel to a hive's entrance so that all bees are forced to fly at an elevation of at least six (6) feet above ground level over the property lines in the vicinity of the hive or colony.

*Hive* shall mean a structure intended for the housing of a bee colony.

Section 3. Section 7-6-120(d)(5) of the Rifle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows, with additions shown in double underlined text:

**Sec. 7-6-120. Restrictions on sale and possession of animals.**

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(d) Exceptions for certain animals.

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- (5) Two (2) bee hives may be kept subject to the restrictions set forth at Section 7-6-140 below.

Section 4. Sections 7-6-140 through 7-6-190 are re-enumerated as Rifle Municipal Code Sections 7-6-150 through 7-6-200, **all cross-references to said Sections 7-6-140 through 7-6-190 elsewhere contained in the Rifle Municipal Code are similarly re-enumerated,** and Section 7-6-140 of the Rifle Municipal Code is hereby enacted to read as follows:

**Sec. 7-6-140. Beekeeping regulations.**

In addition to the restrictions established at Paragraph 7-6-120(d)(2) above, the keeping of bees within the City shall comply with the following standards:

- (a) Up to two (2) hives may be kept per single-family dwelling on lots greater than five thousand (5,000) square feet, and one (1) hive may be kept per single-family dwelling on lots with less than five thousand (5,000) square feet. Hives are not permitted in duplexes or multi-family dwellings or complexes.
- (b) Type of bees. Only common honey bees are permitted. Africanized bees are prohibited.
- (c) Location of hives. The location of hives shall comply with the following:
- (1) Hives shall be located in the rear or backyards of residential properties;
  - (2) Hives shall be setback ten (10) feet from all side and rear yard property lines.
- (d) Flyway Barrier. A flyway barrier shall be maintained adjacent to all hives and shall meet the following requirements:
- (1) A flyway barrier shall be six (6) feet in height;
  - (2) A flyway barrier shall be located within five (5) feet of the hive entrance;
  - (3) A flyway barrier shall extend five (5) feet beyond either side of a hive or group of hives;
  - (4) No flyway barrier is required if the hive is located fifty (50) feet from all side and rear yard property lines.
- (e) Water Source. A fresh water source must be maintained within five (5) feet of the hive.
- (f) Re-Queening. In any instance in which a colony exhibits unusually aggressive characteristics by stinging or attempting to sting without due provocation or exhibits

an unusual disposition towards swarming, it shall be the duty of the beekeeper to requeen the colony. Queens shall be selected from stock bred for gentleness and nonswarming characteristics.

(g) Any colony or hive that has been abandoned or is kept in such a manner as to cause any unhealthy condition, fails to comply with the requirements of this chapter and shall constitute a nuisance.

(h) Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to immunize a beekeeper from civil liability arising out of their beekeeping activities, regardless of the beekeepers compliance with the requirements of this section.

INTRODUCED on July 1, 2015, read by title, passed on first reading, and ordered published by title as required by the Charter.

INTRODUCED a second time at a regular meeting of the Council of the City of Rifle, Colorado, held on July 15, 2015, passed with **out** amendment, approved, and ordered published in full as required by the Charter.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

CITY OF RIFLE, COLORADO

BY \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk