

**AN ORDINANCE TO PERMIT HOBBY BEEKEEPING IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS  
BY AMENDING SECTIONS 17.04.035, 17.08.020, AND 17.10.020  
OF THE RAPID CITY MUNICIPAL CODE**

WHEREAS, the value of honey bees as pollinators of South Dakota's agricultural crops as well as its home orchards and gardens is vitally important; and

WHEREAS, many City residents are currently conducting hobby beekeeping on their residential properties; and

WHEREAS, the City believes that the practice of hobby beekeeping is conducive to the general health, safety, and well being of the community and should be permitted within the City limits; and

WHEREAS, contemporaneously with this ordinance the Common Council is adopting provisions to regulate the practice of hobby beekeeping within the corporate limits of the City to ensure that the activity is conducted in a way that benefits and protects the community; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to amend Rapid City Municipal Code 17.04.035 to add bees and apiary products to the definition of agriculture used within Title 17; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to amend R.C.M.C. 17.08.020 to permit hobby beekeeping as a permitted use in the Park-Forest District; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to amend R.C.M.C. 17.10.020 to explicitly permit the practice of hobby beekeeping in Low Density Residential Districts and in other residential districts; and

WHEREAS, the City is adopting hobby beekeeping requirements in R.C.M.C. Chapter 6.20 that concern hive location, apiary management, and procedures to address situations where beekeeping operations constitute a nuisance and/or violate local or state laws;

WHEREAS, the Common Council believes it to be in the best interests of the health, safety, and general welfare of its citizens to permit hobby beekeeping in residential areas.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Rapid City that Section 17.04.035 of the Rapid City Municipal Code is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

**17.04.035 Agriculture.**

***AGRICULTURE.*** The production, keeping or maintenance for sale, lease or personal use, of plants and animals useful to man, including, but not limited to: forages; sod crops; grains and seed crops; dairy animals and dairy products, poultry and poultry products; bees and apiary products; livestock, including beef cattle, sheep, swine, horses, ponies, mules or goats, or any

mutations of hybrids thereof, including the breeding and grazing of any or all of such animals; bees and apiary products; fur animals; trees and forest products; fruits of all kinds, including grapes, nuts and berries; vegetables; nursery, floral, ornamental and greenhouse products; or lands devoted to soil conservation or forestry management programs. This definition shall not include intensive agricultural activities such as feed lot operations, chicken farms and agribusiness activities.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Rapid City that Section 17.08.020 of the Rapid City Municipal Code is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

**17.08.020 Permitted principal and accessory uses and structures.**

Property and buildings in the PF park-forest district shall be used only for the following purposes:

- A. Detached single-family dwellings, but not including trailer houses or mobile homes;
- B. Transportation and utility easements, alleys and rights-of-way;
- C. Signs, as regulated by §§ 17.50.080 through 17.50.100; ~~and~~
- D. Home occupation as regulated by § 17.50.350.; and
- E. Hobby beekeeping as regulated by Title 6, in conjunction with a detached single-family dwelling.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Rapid City that Section 17.10.020 of the Rapid City Municipal Code is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

**17.10.020 Permitted principal and accessory uses and structures.**

Property and buildings in an LDR district shall be used only for the following purposes:

- A. Detached single-family dwellings, but not including trailer houses or mobile homes;
- B. Temporary buildings for uses incidental to construction work, which buildings shall be immediately adjacent to the construction work and which buildings shall be removed upon completion or abandonment of the construction work;
- C. Transportation and utility easements, alleys and rights-of-way;
- D. Accessory uses and buildings, provided such uses are incidental to the principal use and do not include any activity commonly conducted as a business. Any accessory building shall be located on the same lot with the principal building;
- E. Signs, as regulated by §§ 17.50.080 through 17.50.100;

F. Agricultural crops (not to be sold), including the practice of hobby beekeeping in accordance with Title 6 and in conjunction with detached single-family dwellings only, and not the raising of farm animals or poultry;

G. Home occupation as regulated in § 17.50.350; and

H. Family day care centers.

CITY OF RAPID CITY

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Mayor

ATTEST

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Finance Officer

(seal)

First Reading:  
Second Reading:  
Published:  
Effective: