

**Sec. 18.26.070. Beekeeping.**

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to own, possess, harbor, keep, maintain or care for bees unless such person first obtains a beekeeping license granted by the community and economic development department upon its determination that the proposed licensed premise is in compliance with all requirements of this section. A non-refundable application fee, the amount of which shall be established by resolution of city council, must be submitted with the beekeeping license application.

(b) Bees are allowed as an accessory use only upon lots or parcels developed for residential use, private or public school use, or municipal use, excluding mobile homes and mobile home parks..

(c) The ownership, possession, harboring, keeping, maintenance, and care of bees is subject to the following requirements:

(1) Africanized bees are prohibited under the license granted pursuant to this section, and it shall be unlawful to maintain Africanized bees.

(2) No more than two (2) hives may be allowed on any lot or parcel:

(3) Hives shall be located in the rear yard of a lot or parcel and shall have a minimum ten (10) feet setback from any side or rear property line.

(4) No hive shall be located between the rear of a principal structure and the front yard lot line.

(5) A fresh water supply must be maintained within five (5) feet of the hive.

(6) The maximum height of a hive and any stand shall not be greater than six (6) feet.

(d) It shall be unlawful for any person to own, keep, harbor, possess, maintain, or care for bees in violation of the requirements of this section and any such violation is hereby deemed a nuisance that may be abated pursuant to the provisions specified in chapter 5.01 of this Code.

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

(f) *Nonconforming use.* A dwelling unit permitted to keep bees as a special use in any residential zone district in accordance with Chapter 18.30 prior to March 6, 2019, shall be considered a permitted, non-conforming use, if in compliance with all other provisions of this code pertaining to such use. Such non-conforming use must come into compliance with all requirements of this section by April 1, 2022.