

ORDINANCE NO. 18-013

AN ORDINANCE adopting a new chapter 6.10 of the Camas  
Municipal Code relating to Beekeeping.

The Council of the City of Camas do ordain as follows:

**Section I**

A new Chapter 6.10 of the Camas Municipal Code entitled. Beekeeping, is hereby adopted as follows:

**Chapter 6.10 - Beekeeping**

**6.10.010 - Definitions.**

For the purposes of this chapter, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, certain words and phrases used in this chapter are defined as follows:

- A. "Apiary" means the assembly of one or more colonies of bees at a single location.
- B. "Beekeeper" means a person owning, possessing or controlling one or more colonies of bees.
- C. "Colony or Hive" means an aggregate of bees consisting principally of workers, but having one queen and at times many drones, including brood, combs, honey and the receptacle inhabited by the bees.
- D. "Honeybee" means all life stages of the common domestic honey bee, *Apis mellifera* species.

**6.10.020 - Beekeeping**

It is the intent of this section to establish standards for beekeeping in a manner which will not endanger the health, peace and safety of the citizens of the City and which will assure the bee hives are appropriately placed, maintained and managed.

- A. The keeping of bees is generally permitted within the City as an incidental or accessory activity to the primary use of property (eg. The occupant of a single family residence or business may keep bees on the residential or commercial property), subject to the following limitations.
  - 1. Properties less than 7,000 square feet shall be limited to four production colonies or bee hives.
  - 2. No more than six production colonies or bee hives are allowed on properties greater than 7,000 square feet and less than two acres. On lots larger than two acres, an additional two hives per acre are permissible.
  - 3. No production colonies or bee hives shall be established or kept on a multifamily building.
- B. **Hive Placement Requirements.**



1. Hives may be placed anywhere on properties with bee-proof fencing a minimum of five-feet high.
2. In unfenced yards, hives must be ten feet from side and rear property lines. A five-foot tall bee screening of lattice, wood, plantings or fencing must be place five to ten feet from the entrance of the hives.

**C. Hive, apiary Management Requirements**

1. All hives shall comply with Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 15.60.
2. Beekeepers shall maintain an adequate supply of water on their property.
3. Bees should be housed in an appropriate hive body that offers good insulation and protection from weather and predators.
4. Beekeepers must source their bees locally (within a 100-mile area)> Local bees may be transferred as nucleus hives or from swarms. Package bees from out-of-area are prohibited.
5. Yard and garden products containing neonicotinoids or glycoposphates (Roundup) should not be used in bee yards. Bee-safe and/or organic products are recommended.
6. Do not destroy or kill honeybees and bumble bees. Bee swarms and bee hives may be safely removed and relocated by a contacting a local beekeeper.

**6.10.030 - Penalty**

Any persons violating the provisions of this chapter shall be guilty of a non-traffic civil infraction, punishable by a fine of not more than \$300.00 for each violation.

**II**

Camas Municipal Code Section 8.06.060 K is hereby repealed.

**III**

This Ordinance shall take force and be in effect five (5) days from and after its publication according to law.

PASSED BY the Council and APPROVED by the Mayor this 20th day August, 2018.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk

APPROVED as to form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

