AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAREDO TEXAS, AMENDING CHAPTER 6, ANIMALS AND FOWL, ARTICLE III, SMALL ANIMALS, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY AMENDING SECTION 6-42 TO MODIFY THE NUMBER AND SETBACK REQUIREMENTS FOR THE KEEPING OF SMALL ANIMALS AND FOWL; AMENDING CHAPTER 6, ANIMALS AND FOWL, ARTICLE IV, LARGE LIVESTOCK AND WILD ANIMALS, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY AMENDING SECTION 6-66 TO ADD A SPECIAL PERMIT FOR OPERATORS OF COMMUNITY GARDENS OR DISTRICT GARDENS; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Laredo has rules and regulations for the keeping of small animals and fowl, and large livestock and wild animals; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to modify the number and setback requirements for the keeping of small animals and fowl; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to create a special permit to authorize operators of community and district gardens to keep large livestock.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDANED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS THAT:

<u>Section 1.</u> The City of Laredo Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6, Animals and Fowl, Article III, Small Animals and Fowl, is hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 6-42. – Keeping practices.

(a) [Practices for keeping of small animals, fowl.] <u>The Ppractices to be observed in the keeping</u> of small animals and fowl are as follows:

(5) The keeping of any small animals and/or fowl in any combination thereof in any number exceeding six (6) is hereby prohibited unless the facilities for keeping same are located at least one hundred (100) feet from any building being occupied or used for the housing of any person or in which any person conducts any lawful activity. Some small birds and/or fowl maybe exempted from number limitation upon inspection of premises. This requirement shall not apply to the residence or business premises of the keeper or possessor of the small animals or fowl. It is unlawful for a person to keep five (5) or more small animals or fowl, in any combination thereof, or any number of male chickens, within one hundred (100) feet of any residence, structure or building used for human habitation or any other lawful activity, other than the person's habitation or business premises.

(6) It is unlawful for a person to keep less than four (4) small animals or fowl, in any combination thereof, within fifty (50) feet of any residence, structure or building used for human

habitation or any other lawful activity, other than the person's habitation or business premises. For purposes of this subsection only the definition of fowl excludes male chickens, which are subject to the setback requirements of subsection (a)(5).

(7) Upon inspection of the premises by the director or any of his employees or designees, a person may be exempted from the number and/or setback requirements of this section, provided the director first finds the following:

(a) The animal(s), as kept, will not unreasonably endanger the life, health or property of any person; and

(b) The animal(s), as kept, will not become a nuisance.

Section 2. The City of Laredo Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6, Animals and Fowl, Article IV, Large Livestock and Wild Animals, is hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 6-66. – Special Permits.

(b) The director may, upon making the <u>a</u>foresaid findings, issue the <u>a</u> special permit to the following:

(8) Operators of Community Gardens or District Gardens.

<u>Section 3.</u> This ordinance shall be cumulative of all provisions of ordinances of the City of Laredo Texas, except where the provisions of this ordinance are in direct conflict with the provisions of such ordinances, in which event the conflicting provisions of such ordinances are hereby repealed.

<u>Section 4.</u> It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that the phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections of this ordinance are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections of this ordinance, since the same would have been enacted by the City Council without the incorporation in this ordinance of any such unconstitutional phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section.

<u>Section 5.</u> Any person, firm, or corporation, who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects, or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be fined not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for each offense. Each day that a violation exists shall constitute a separate offense.

Section 6. The City Secretary of the City of Laredo is hereby directed to publish the proposed Ordinance as required by Section 2.09 of the Charter of the City of Laredo.

<u>Section 7.</u> This Ordinance shall become effective from and after its adoption and publication required by the City Charter and by state law.

PETE SAENZ MAYOR

ATTESTED:

HEBERTO "BETO" L. RAMIREZ

ACTING CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

KRISTINA L. HALE ACTING CITY ATTORNEY

the BY: 1 CRISTIAN ROSAS-GRILLET ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY



City Council-Regular Meeting Date: 06/19/2017

Staff Source: Cristian Rosas-Grillet, Assistant City Attorney

SUBJECT

2017-O-072 An ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, amending Chapter 6, Animals and Fowl, Article III, Small Animals, of the Code of Ordinances, by amending section 6-42 to modify the number and setback requirements for the keeping of small animals and fowl; amending Chapter 6, Article IV, Large Livestock and Wild Animals, of the Code of Ordinances, by amending section 6-66 to add a special permit for operators of community gardens or district gardens; providing that this ordinance shall be cumulative; providing a severability clause; providing a penalty clause; providing for publication; and declaring an effective date. (This item was tabled at the May 22, 2017 meeting to have the Animal Care Facility Committee review the item; they are in support).

VENDOR INFORMATION FOR COMMITTEE AGENDA

None.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION

None.

BACKGROUND

This ordinance (1) modifies the number and setback requirements for keeping small animals and fowl and (2) allows the director of the animal care services department to issue a special permit to operators of community gardens and district gardens for the keeping of large livestock.

The City's current ordinance prohibits the keeping of any small animals and/or fowl, in any combination thereof, in any number exceeding six (6) unless the facilities for keeping same are located at least one hundred (100) feet from any building being occupied or used for the housing of any person or in which any person conducts any lawful activity. This ordinance maintains the setback requirement of one hundred (100) feet for five (5) or more small animals and/or fowl, in any combination thereof, or any number of male chickens. This ordinance also provides for a fifty (50) feet setback for four (4) or less small animals and/or fowl. The director or his designee, upon inspection of the premises, may exempt certain individuals from the number and/or setback requirements, provided the director makes certain findings.

The City's current ordinance allows the director or his designee to issue a special permit for the keeping of large livestock to certain entities, provided the director first finds the animals, as kept: (a) will not unreasonably endanger the life, health, or property of any

person; (b) will not become a nuisance; and (c) will conform with the keeping requirements of section 6-67. This ordinance allows the director to issue this special permit to operators of community gardens or district gardens.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

N/A

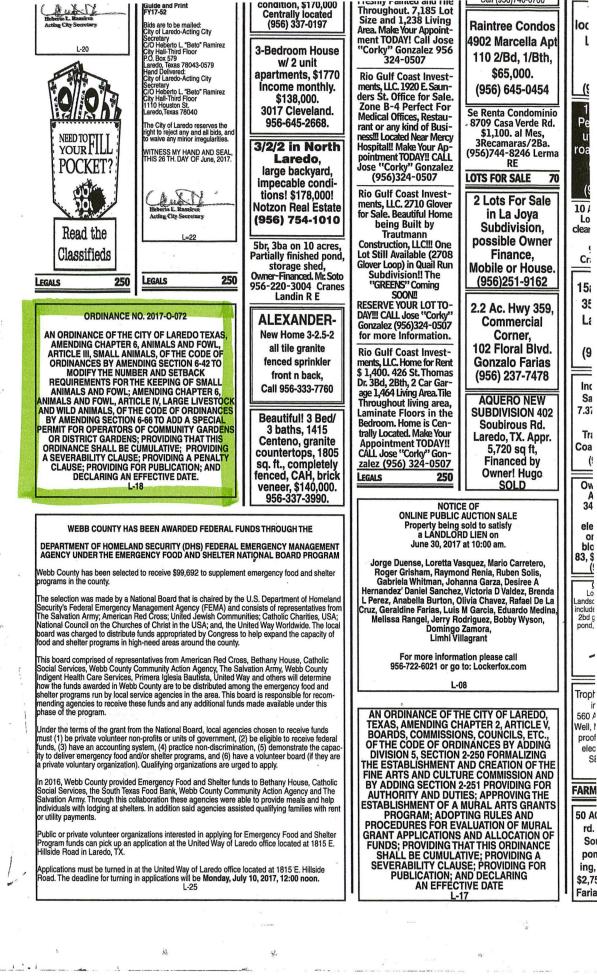
STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that City Council approve this ordinance.

| Fiscal Impact | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Fiscal Year: | |
| Bugeted Y/N?: | |
| Source of Funds: | |
| Account #: | |
| Change Order: Exceeds 25% Y/N: | |
| FINANCIAL IMPACT: | |
| N/A | |

Attachments

Ordinance 2017-O-072



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