

Department of Community Development

Reference: Goat Keeping Pilot Program

To:	Mayor Gregory Mills and Members of City Council
Through:	Jane Bais DiSessa, City Manager Marv Falconburg, AICP, Deputy City Manager Holly Prather, AICP, Community Development Director
Prepared By:	Shannon McDowell, Long Range Planner
Date Prepared:	January 4, 2021

PURPOSE

City Council will consider the creation of a pilot program for miniature goat keeping on single-family residential properties in the City.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA

- Recognizable and Well-Planned Community

BACKGROUND

Resident Inquiry and Study Sessions

In September of 2019, a resident in the City Core submitted a petition to allow residents to keep goats on residential property. Staff has studied how other Colorado jurisdictions have handled this topic. At a study session on October 27, 2020, City Council directed staff to develop a pilot program and present that program for consideration.

Pilot Program

Staff is proposing the following terms for a miniature goat keeping pilot program:

- The program would run for two years.
 - Two years will allow enough time for residents to make site modifications, obtain their goat keeping and building permits, settle into a routine with their goats, and for City staff to assess the impacts to neighboring properties.
- Ten (10) permits would be available by a lottery, with any remaining permits then available on a first come, first served basis.
- The program would automatically expire, unless an extension is approved by City Council.
- If the program expires, goat owners would have thirty (30) days to rehome their goats.
- Only disbudded female miniature goats would be allowed, no more than 24.5" tall at the withers.
- No more or less than two goats per property.
 - Goats would be considered household pets, counting toward the total of 4 pets allowed per property.
 - If one goat passes away or is otherwise removed from the property, owners would have ten (10) days to obtain a new goat. Extensions to this timeframe may be granted by the CSO Supervisor or their designee.
- Goats would only be permitted on single-family detached properties that are at least 7,500 square feet in size.

- A pen would be required that provides at least 130 square feet per goat.
 - Pens would need to be located on the rear 50% of the property and at least 10 feet from any property line.
- A shelter would be required to protect goats from adverse weather.
 - Shelters would need to be located on the rear 50% of the property and at least 10 feet from any property line.
- The permittee is responsible for removing goat waste and feces from the property, even if their waste service provider does not accept goat waste.
- Vaccination for rabies would be required.
- Breeding would be prohibited within City limits.
- Slaughter would only be allowed at licensed facilities.
- Proper treatment of animals provisions would continue to apply.
- A permit would be required to keep goats. The permit would include:
 - A test on goat care
 - A letter of permission from the landlord if the applicant is not the owner
 - Review of a waste management plan
 - An inspection of the pen and shelter to ensure it meets City code and the requirements of the Goat Keeping ordinance.
 - CSO inspection of the goats to ensure they meet the requirements.
 - Once a permit is issued, periodic inspections would be conducted to observe impacts of goat keeping and ensure conformance with the requirements.
 - A fee of \$100, which covers the cost of the permit review and two inspections. Planning inspects the pen and shelter setbacks and ensures compliance with the shelter requirements, the CSO team inspects the animals.

Public Outreach

Public outreach was conducted via an online survey this past summer. A summary of the survey results was included in the Study Session materials presented on October 27, 2020.

Anticipated Impact on CSO Division

Enforcement of the miniature goat pilot program would be the responsibility of the Community Services Division of the Brighton Police Department. Michelle Tyree, the supervisor of this group, anticipates that the approval of the pilot program will increase animal calls, which will take away from proactive work such as code enforcement and parking enforcement. Ms. Tyree estimates each animal call takes between one-half hour to several hours to resolve. Below is a breakdown of the types of animal calls the CSO Division receives and the time spent on each type:

Type of Call or Action	Hours Spent
Property Inspection for Goat (monthly)	0.5 – 1.5 hours
Noise and Odor Complaint	0.5 – 1 hour
Animal at Large or Confined Stray	0.5 – 1.5 hours
Animal Cruelty or Hoarding	0.75 – 4 hours (depends on severity)

The call volume for the CSO Division continues to increase as the population of Brighton grows. The addition of goats as an animal in the City will further increase the call volume. Ms. Tyree estimates a cost of \$1,000 will be necessary to purchase basic supplies needed for the CSO Division to manage goats. This includes items for each truck such as goat collars, leads, and muzzles; goat treats and food; and neck crooks.

Summary

The pilot program that is proposed would allow a two (2) year trial period for miniature goat keeping. This period will be used to better understand the impacts associated with keeping miniature goats in residential areas as well as the workload impact to our CSO team. It is important to understand that the CSO team's proactive work may be reduced in this two year period, depending on the number of calls received related to goats. The parameters proposed for the pilot program are meant to address concerns that residents voiced in the public outreach process and to minimize the impact of miniature goats on neighboring properties.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff is recommending approval of the proposed amendments to the Brighton Municipal Code set forth in the draft Ordinance.

OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

The City Council has four options when reviewing this Ordinance. City Council may:

1. Approve the Ordinance as drafted at first reading;
2. Approve the Ordinance with specific changes at first reading;
3. Deny the Ordinance as drafted; or
4. Continue the item to be heard at a later, specified date.

ATTACHMENTS

- Draft Ordinance
- Draft City Staff Presentation