



Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date

October 26, 2009

Agenda Item No. 45
Roll Call No. 09-
Communication No. 09-765
Submitted by: Judy Bradshaw,
Chief of Police

AGENDA HEADING:

Amending Chapter 70 of the Municipal Code, regarding hunting and use of firearms and bows and arrows on 20-acre parcels assessed as agricultural property zoned "A-1" Agricultural.

SYNOPSIS:

Approving an ordinance to allow hunting within the City on parcels that are a minimum of 20 acres and zoned A-1 Agricultural with other conditions providing safety measures for the public. The Police Department recommends approval of this ordinance.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

Amount: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

This ordinance provides an additional exception to the no hunting law in Des Moines. Currently, there are two exceptions: Licensed bow hunters who follow the hunting program for Des Moines' special deer management zones, and individuals who have permission from the Aviation Director to shoot wildlife to control animal populations at the airport.

This new exception allows hunting under the following conditions: 1) Hunting is limited to property that is a minimum of 20 contiguous acres and must be zoned A-1 Agricultural and assessed as agricultural for tax purposes, 2) A hunter must carry a valid Iowa hunting license and comply with all DNR hunting laws, 3) A hunter must either be accompanied by the property owner or possess written permission from the property owner to hunt on the land, 4) Hunting with shotgun slugs or a muzzle loading rifle is prohibited, except when hunting deer from an elevated stand at least 10 feet above ground and without the aid of others in driving deer toward the hunter, 5) Hunting with a rifle or pistol is prohibited with the exception of BB gun rifles and muzzle loading rifles, as limited above, 6) No shooting over waterways, highways, streets, alleys, recreational trails or railroad right-of-ways, 7) Generally, no hunting is allowed within 100 feet of parks, streets, highways, recreational trails, buildings or feedlots. This restriction is 200 yards if hunting with a shotgun or muzzle loader. Other details are set out in the ordinance.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: October 12, 2009

Roll Call Number: 09-1873

Action: Request from Council Member Brian Meyer to discuss proposed ordinance regarding hunting and the use of firearms, and bows and arrows on 20-acre parcels assessed as agricultural property and zoned "A-1" (Agricultural) and request that the Legal Department prepare an ordinance for the October 26th meeting. Moved by Meyer to refer to Legal Department for preparation of an ordinance. The City Manager will provide information regarding the deer population in Des Moines. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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