



MEETING AGENDA

WORK SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

City of Maplewood • City Council Chambers • City Hall
7601 Manchester Road, Maplewood, MO 63143

Tuesday, August 11, 2026, 6:30 PM

1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Discussion of proposed amendments to Chapter 10 — Animals and Fowl to update poultry-keeping regulations and add beekeeping regulations
 4. Adjournment
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Addressing the Council

Individuals wishing to speak during Public Hearings or Public Comment must sign in before the meeting. Each speaker has a three-minute limit. Written comments may be emailed to cityclerk@maplewoodmo.gov by noon on the meeting day and will be provided to Council but not read aloud.

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Posted on August 7, 2026, at Maplewood City Hall and maplewoodmo.gov

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Amber Withycombe, City Manager
Date: August 7, 2026
Subject: **Proposed Beekeeping Regulations and Amendments to the City's Poultry Ordinance**

The City of Maplewood currently has no regulations governing the keeping of bees. This gap has become more pressing in recent months, as staff has received several inquiries related to beekeeping that Chapter 10 — Animals and Fowl offers no standard for addressing.

To address this gap, staff has drafted a new Article VI (Bees) for Chapter 10, modeled on beekeeping ordinances adopted by Glendale, Webster Groves, Ballwin, and Manchester. Staff is also recommending related amendments to the City's existing poultry ordinance (Section 10-3), described below.

Proposed Beekeeping Regulations (New Article VI)

The proposed ordinance would require a permit from the Public Works director before any person could keep bees within the City, issued upon review of a site plan, proposed colony count, and hive construction and maintenance plan. Key standards, drawn from the peer ordinances reviewed, include:

- Beekeeping would be permitted in the SR Single-Family Residential District or the PA Public Activity District.
- No more than four colonies per lot, with temporary splits permitted. This falls between Glendale's limit of three and Manchester's limit of five.
- Hives may not be located within ten feet of any lot line, and no hive may be located within ten feet of a habitable structure on an adjoining lot. This matches the standard used by Manchester and Glendale; Ballwin's ordinance, by comparison, sets a narrower five-foot lot line setback.
- Hives would be restricted to rear yards, consistent with peer ordinances. For PA Public Activity District lots that do not have a rear yard as defined in the zoning code, hives would be located in the area of the lot most distant from public rights-of-way and adjoining residential structures, subject to review and approval by the Public Works director.
- Any hive within twenty-five feet of a lot line would be required to have a six-foot flyway barrier (vegetative, fencing, wall, or similar) unless the hive opening faces away from that lot line, matching the standard used across all the peer ordinances.
- Hives would be required to be inspectable-type with removable combs, kept in sound condition, and maintained free of disease and pests to the extent practicable.

- Beekeepers would be required to maintain a water source on the property within fifty feet of the hive (or closer than the nearest unnatural water source), to discourage bees from seeking water on neighboring properties.
- Beekeepers would be required to follow Missouri State Beekeepers Association best practices for swarm prevention and colony health.
- The ordinance defines when bees constitute a nuisance, including injury to persons, interference with pedestrian or vehicular access, excessive noise outside daytime hours during active season, or odor or disease conditions requiring City abatement.

Staff did not include Glendale's grandfathering provision for existing noncompliant hives, since Maplewood has no pre-existing legal beekeeping to grandfather; any existing hives would need to come into compliance with the new standards once adopted.

Proposed Amendment to the Poultry Ordinance

Staff also recommends two amendments to Section 10-3:

- Increasing the number of chickens or ducks permitted per lot from six to eight, aligning Maplewood's limit with those in place in neighboring communities.
- Extending eligibility for a poultry permit to the PA Public Activity District, in addition to the SR Single-Family Residential District where poultry-keeping is currently permitted. This change would, among other things, enable the Maplewood Richmond Heights School District to legally keep chickens at its Maplewood properties, consistent with the same PA District framework proposed for beekeeping above. All existing conditions, including the prohibition on roosters, slaughtering, and nuisance conditions, and the requirement that pens be properly confined and sanitary, would remain unchanged.

Next Steps

Staff is seeking Council's direction on the proposed colony limit, setback distances, and inclusion of the PA Public Activity District within the districts eligible for beekeeping permits, as well as confirmation of Council's support for the proposed increase to the poultry limit, before bringing an ordinance forward.



Chapter 10 ANIMALS AND FOWL

ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

Sec. 10-1. Dead animals.

No person shall permit any animal owned by him after it is dead to remain unburied for over 12 hours after it is dead.

(Code 1982, § 6-1; Ord. No. 5295, § I, 11-8-2005)

Sec. 10-2. Raising certain animals prohibited.

No person shall raise or keep in the city any livestock such as horses, cattle, pigs, sheep, goats or any other useful animals traditionally kept or raised on a farm or ranch, including miniature versions of the aforementioned animals. No person shall raise in the city any pigeons, poultry (except as allowed in section 10-3), rabbits or other rodents unless raised or kept within biological laboratories, hospitals or pet shops.

(Code 1982, § 6-2; Ord. No. 5295, § I, 11-8-2005; Ord. No. 5525, § I(6-2), 6-9-2009; Ord. No. 5844, § I, 10-10-2017)

Sec. 10-3. Poultry.

- (a) The keeping of up to ~~six-eight~~ chickens or ducks in total shall be permitted as provided in this section only in the SR single-family residential zoning district or PA public activity zoning district as defined in Chapter 56 and only in the SR single-family residential zoning district and only if a permit has been issued by the director of public works. A permit to keep not more than ~~six-eight~~ chickens or ducks in total on any parcel of property located within the SR single-family residential zoning district or PA public activity zoning district ~~a SR single-family residential zoning district~~ shall be issued by the director of public works if the following conditions are satisfied:
- (1) The chickens or ducks must be adequately confined within a yard or other place surrounded by wire netting or other fence as a provision to prevent their escape therefrom.
 - (2) The pen shall be maintained in a safe and sanitary condition.
 - (3) Any manure or other discharges from the chickens or ducks shall be collected and properly removed from the premises or tilled into the soil on the premises promptly and regularly to prevent the spreading of offensive smells or diseases.
 - (4) The keeping of roosters shall be strictly prohibited.
 - (5) No slaughtering of any chickens or ducks kept pursuant to a permit issued under this section shall be allowed.
 - (6) No person shall keep chickens or ducks in any manner as to create a nuisance under chapter 34, article VIII.
- (b) The keeping of chickens or ducks pursuant to a permit issued under this section shall comply with all ordinances of the city. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to preclude the enforcement of any violation

of any city ordinances committed in connection with the keeping of chickens or ducks, notwithstanding the issuance of such permit. By applying for a permit under this section the property owner authorizes city officials at all reasonable times and in a reasonable manner to enter upon and inspect the property with respect to which such permit is applied for to determine whether the keeping of chickens or ducks violates this section or any other applicable ordinances.

(Ord. No. 5525, § I(6-3), 6-9-2009)

Sec. 10-4. Revocation of permits to keep chickens and/or ducks.

- (a) The director of public works shall revoke any permit issued for the keeping of chickens or ducks for violation of any of the conditions stated in section 10-3 or if any of the following conditions are found to exist:
 - (1) Excessive noise created by the chickens or ducks is audible from adjacent property.
 - (2) The chickens or ducks are not kept in safe and sanitary condition.
 - (3) The chickens or ducks are not properly confined.
 - (4) The keeping of the chickens or ducks creates a nuisance.
- (b) Actions to be taken.
 - (1) If a complaint is filed regarding a violation of any of the conditions stated in section 10-3 or this section, or, in the absence of a complaint, in the discretion of the director of public works, an investigation of any potential violations shall be made by the director of public works or designee.
 - (2) If the investigation substantiates the existence of a violation of such conditions, a letter shall be sent by certified mail to the property owner notifying the property owner of such violation and that same shall be corrected within not less than five days and that such property owner shall be responsible for notifying the director of public works by certified mail that such violations have been corrected and seeking a reinspection to verify that such violations have been corrected.
 - (3) In the event the property owner shall fail to notify the director of public works of such correction within five days or in the event that a reinspection does not verify such correction, the permit shall be revoked.
- (c) Permit revocations under this section may be appealed as follows:
 - (1) Appeals must be filed within five days after the revocation notice is mailed by certified mail.
 - (2) Appeals shall be determined following a hearing before the city manager or his designee.
 - (3) At least five days notice of the hearing shall be given to the property owner by certified mail.
 - (4) The property owner and any other interested party may appear at the hearing and testify and present evidence concerning the conditions giving rise to the revocation.

(Ord. No. 5525, § I(6-4), 6-9-2009)

ARTICLE VI. BEES

Sec. 10-136. Permit required.

No person shall keep bees within the city without having first obtained a valid permit from the director of public works. All beekeeping activities shall comply with the provisions of this article.

Sec. 10-137. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Apiary means a place where one or more bee colonies are kept; a collection of beehives.

Bee means any stage of the common domestic honeybee, *Apis mellifera* species.

Beekeeper means any person who owns, controls, manages, possesses or has part interest in any bee colony or apiary.

Colony means a hive and its equipment and appurtenances, including bees, comb, honey, pollen, and brood.

Flyway barrier means a structure of at least six feet in height consisting of one or a combination of the following: vegetative barrier, solid wall, fence, or other acceptable barrier.

Hive means a structure intended for the housing of a bee colony.

Inspectable hive means a hive with removable combs that allows for inspection and removal of combs without destroying the hive structure.

Sec. 10-138. Permit application and issuance.

(a) Application. The applicant shall apply for a permit hereunder to the director of public works on a form to be provided by the city. The application shall include:

- (1) The applicant's name, address, and contact information.
- (2) Written authorization from the property owner if the applicant is not the owner.
- (3) A site plan or sketch showing hive location and distance to property lines/structures.
- (4) The proposed number of colonies (not to exceed four).
- (5) A description of the hive construction and maintenance plan.

(b) Issuance. A permit to keep bees shall be issued by the director of public works if the following conditions are satisfied:

- (1) The applicant is the owner of the property or has written authorization from the property owner.
- (2) The property is located in the SR single-family residential zoning district or PA public activity zoning district as defined in Chapter 56
- (3) All provisions of section 10-139 are met.
- (4) The applicant agrees to comply with all applicable city ordinances and this article.

(5) An inspection of the proposed location has been conducted and determined to be suitable.

(c) Permit validity. An approved permit shall be valid for one year from the date of issuance and may be renewed annually upon application and inspection.

Sec. 10-139. Beekeeping regulations.

(a) Location and setback. All hives shall be located only in the rear yard as defined in the zoning code and shall comply with the following distance requirements:

(1) Hives are not permitted within ten feet of a lot line as measured from the closest point of the lot line to the closest point of the hive.

(2) No hive is permitted within ten feet of a building used for human habitation on an adjoining lot as measured from the closest point of such building to the closest point of the hive.

(3) For lots in the PA Public Activity District that do not have a rear yard as defined in the zoning code, hives shall be located in the area of the lot most distant from public rights-of-way and adjoining residential structures, subject to review and approval by the Director of Public Works.

(b) Flyway barrier. Any hive within twenty-five feet of a lot line shall not open towards that lot line unless that lot line shall have a flyway barrier of at least six feet in height. The flyway barrier shall consist of one or a combination of the following: vegetative barrier, solid wall, fence, or other acceptable barrier.

(c) Hive construction and maintenance.

(1) All bee colonies shall be kept in inspectable-type hives with removable combs, which shall be kept in sound, well-maintained, and usable condition.

(2) Hives shall be painted or otherwise finished with weather-resistant material.

(3) Hives shall be kept free of disease and pests to the extent practicable.

(d) Number of colonies. No more than four colonies shall be kept on any residential lot within the city. Splits are permitted on a temporary basis.

(e) Water source. Each beekeeper shall ensure that a convenient source of water is available at all times. The water source shall be located on the same property as the hive and within fifty feet of the hive or less than one-half the distance to the nearest unnatural water source, whichever is closest. The water shall be maintained so as not to become stagnant.

(f) Swarm prevention. Beekeepers shall maintain hives in accordance with Missouri State Beekeepers Association best management practices.

(g) Best management practices. All beekeepers shall seek to comply with the best management practices for Missouri beekeepers as developed by the Missouri State Beekeepers Association.

(h) Nuisance. Bees, hives, and the area surrounding the hives shall be maintained so that they do not create a nuisance as defined in chapter 34, article VIII. For purposes of this article, bees shall be deemed a nuisance if they: (1) cause injury to persons; (2) create barriers to pedestrian/vehicular access; (3) generate excessive noise beyond

6 a.m.–6 p.m. during active season; or (4) create odor/disease conditions requiring abatement by the city. For the purpose of this provision, bees are animals.

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A NEW ARTICLE IV AND SECTION 210.300
OF CHAPTER 210 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF
GLENDALE, MISSOURI, PERTAINING TO THE KEEPING OF HONEYBEES
IN THE CITY OF GLENDALE

WHEREAS, Chapter 210 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Glendale, Missouri, regulates the keeping of certain animals and fowl within the City; and

WHEREAS, with the increased popularity of recreational beekeeping among residents, it is necessary for the City to amend its ordinances to properly regulate beekeeping to ensure that the City's regulations promote responsible practices for maintaining honeybee colonies; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen of the City of Glendale, Missouri, has determined that the following amendments to Chapter 210 are appropriate and in the best interest of the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF GLENDALE, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION ONE: A new article IV and a new section of Chapter 210 of the Glendale Municipal Code are hereby enacted to read as follows:

Article IV Honeybees

Section 210.300 Keeping of Honeybees Regulations

- A. Residents of the City of Glendale having a valid occupancy permit and residing on a detached residentially-zoned single-family lot may keep honeybees under the following conditions:
1. They must be the owner of the property or must provide written authorization from the property owner before keeping an apiary or any hive(s).
 2. They must complete a Residential Honeybee Permit Application and provide the required documents as prescribed on the application.
 3. No more than three (3) hives are permitted per residential lot.
 4. Hive(s) shall not be located in any front or side yard. They may only be kept in a rear yard.
 5. The hive(s) must be at least ten (10) feet from each property line as measured from the closest point of the lot line to the closest point of the hive.
 6. The hive(s) must be at least ten (10) feet from any inhabitable structure as measured from the closest point of the structure to the closest point of the hive.

7. Any hive within twenty-five (25) feet from a lot line shall not open towards the lot line unless that lot line has a flyway barrier of at least six (6) feet in height. The flyway barrier shall consist of one (1) or a combination of the following: vegetative barrier, solid wall, fence or other acceptable barriers.
8. All beekeepers in the city shall seek to comply with the best management practices of beekeeping for Missouri beekeepers as developed by the Honeybee Health Coalition (“Best Management Practices for Hive Health”), the Eastern Missouri Beekeepers Association, and the Missouri State Beekeepers Association.
9. All bee colonies shall be kept in inspectable hives with removable combs, which shall be kept in a sound, well maintained and usable condition.
10. Each beekeeper shall ensure that a convenient source of water is available at all times. The water source shall be located on the same property as the hive(s) and within fifty (50) feet of the hive(s) or less than one-half the distance to the nearest unnatural water source, whichever is closest. The water shall be maintained so as not to become stagnant.
11. Bees, hives and the area surrounding the hives shall be maintained so that they do not create a nuisance.
12. An apiary or hive in existence prior to the effective date of this Section shall not be grandfathered or permitted to remain unless it is brought into compliance with this Section, except as follows:
 - a. An existing hive that does not comply with subdivisions (5), (6) or (7) of this subsection may remain in operation if the City Administrator, or his/her designee, has inspected the property and determines that an adequate physical barrier exists between the hive and the property line or structure that will reasonably limit bees from crossing into neighboring property or impacting an inhabitable structure; and
 - b. The affected neighboring property owner(s) has provided a written waiver to the City with respect to the distance from the lot line. An additional written waiver shall be required from the neighboring property owner(s) upon a change in ownership of such property.

SECTION TWO: This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

This Ordinance, after being read two times, is passed and approved this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Michael A. Wilcox
Mayor

ATTEST:

Frank Johnson
City Administrator/City Clerk

Chapter 205. Animal Regulations

Article VI. Bees

Section 205.250. Definitions.

[Ord. No. 20-2296, 8-3-2020]

As used in this Article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

BEE

Any stage of the common domestic honey bee, *Apis Melifera* Species.

COLONY

A hive and its equipment and appurtenances, including bees, comb, honey, pollen, and brood.

HIVE

A structure intended for the housing of a bee colony.

Section 205.260. Beekeeping Regulations.

[Ord. No. 20-2296, 8-3-2020]

- A. Beekeepers shall seek to comply with the best management practices for Missouri beekeepers as developed by the Missouri State Beekeepers Association (MSBA).
- B. All bee colonies shall be kept in inspectable-type hives with removable combs, which shall be kept in sound and usable condition.
- C. Hives are not permitted within ten (10) feet of a lot line as measured from the closest point of any lot line to the closest point of the hive.
- D. Hives shall be located only in the rear yard.
- E. Any hive within twenty-five (25) feet of a lot line shall not open towards that lot line unless that lot line shall have a flyway barrier of at least six (6) feet in height. The flyway barrier shall consist of one (1) or a combination of the following: vegetative barrier, solid wall, fence, or other acceptable barrier that meets the intent of this Section as determined by the Planning Director.
- F. No hive is permitted within ten (10) feet of a building used for human habitation on an adjoining lot as measured from the closest point of such building to the closest point of the hive.
- G. Each beekeeper shall ensure that a convenient source of water is available at all times. The water source shall be located on the same property as the hive; not located within ten (10) feet of a lot line as measured from the closest point of the lot line to the closest point of the water source; and shall be located within fifty (50) feet of the hive or less than one-half (1/2) the distance to the nearest unnatural water source, whichever is closest. The water shall be maintained so as not to become stagnant.
- H. Beekeepers shall practice good swarm prevention techniques.
- I. It shall be unlawful to keep more than five (5) colonies on any lot within the City. Exception: Splits are permitted on a temporary basis.
- J. Bees, hives, and the area surrounding the hives shall be maintained so that they do not create a nuisance.
- K. For the purpose of Article VI bees are animals.
- L. Existing beekeepers shall be granted an extension for compliance with the location of any hive up to and including January 1, 2021.

City of Webster Groves

Sec. 33.234. Bees.

- a. Beekeepers shall seek to comply with the Best Management Practices of Beekeeping.
- b. All bee colonies shall be kept in inspectable type hives with removable combs, which shall be kept in sound and usable condition.
- c. Hives are not permitted within five feet of a lot line as measured from the closest point of the lot to the closest point of the hive.
- d. Hives shall not be located in the front yard, as defined in chapter 53 (zoning code), and hives in any other portion of a yard shall be subject to all other regulations in chapter 33, article III, "Domestic Animals and Fowl."
- e. Any hive within 25 feet of a lot line shall not open towards that lot line unless that lot line shall have a flyway barrier of at least six feet in height. The flyway barrier shall consist of one or a combination of the following: vegetative barrier, solid wall, fence, or other acceptable barrier.
- f. No hive is permitted within ten feet of a building used for human habitation on an adjoining lot as measured from the closest point of the building to the closest point of the hive.
- g. Each beekeeper shall ensure that a convenient source of water is available at all times. The water source shall be located on the same property as the hive and within 50 feet of the hive or less than one-half the distance to the nearest unnatural water source, whichever is closest. The water shall be maintained so as not to become stagnant.
- h. Beekeepers shall practice good swarm prevention techniques.
- i. It shall be unlawful to keep more than five colonies on any lot within the city.

Exception: Splits are permitted on a temporary basis.

- j. Bees, hives and the area surrounding the hives shall be maintained so that they do not create a nuisance as defined in chapter 31. For the purpose of this provision, bees are animals.
- k. Existing beekeepers shall be granted an extension for compliance with the location of any hive up to and including January 1, 2015.

FPN: Section 31.010 (d) of the Municipal Code is as follows: The keeping of animals of any kind, domestic or wild, upon any public or private place or premises in such a manner or condition that same constitutes a hurt, injury, annoyance, or danger to the public or the residents in the vicinity."



CITY OF BALLWIN

14811 Manchester Road, Ballwin, MO 63011

INTRODUCED BY

ALDERMEN TERBROCK, FINLEY, ROACH, STALLMANN, FLEMING, LEAHY, KERLAGON, BULLINGTON

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING BEEKEEPING IN THE CITY OF BALLWIN

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen recognizes the importance of bees as pollinators for the preservation of the ecosystem; but seeks to regulate the safekeeping of bees for the comfort and safety of all citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF BALLWIN, ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 5-1(a) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Ballwin shall be repealed and replaced with the following:

Sec. 5-1. - Keeping animals within city restricted.

(a) Except for dogs, cats, bees and non-domestic animals which are otherwise provided for in this Code, and traditional household pets such as caged birds, similar caged animals and aquarium animals, no person shall keep, raise, harbor, water or offer for sale any cattle, cow, bull, hog, horse, mule, jennet pony, donkey, sheep, pig, goat, chicken, goose, duck, turkey, rabbit, skunk, raccoon or any other domestic or wild animal or fowl within the city, unless such animal or fowl are kept in an enclosed area on a tract of land of two or more acres in size.

Section 2. Chapter 5, Article I of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Ballwin shall be amended by adding the following:

Sec. 5-15.- Bees; General Regulations.

- a. No person may keep upon his premises any bees except as provided in this article.
- b. In addition to complying with the terms of this Article, the location, size, number and construction of enclosures and shelters shall comply with Chapter 7 and the accessory structures provisions of Appendix A, Article XVI, Section 17 of the City.
- c. When a conflict occurs between this Article and Chapter 7 or Appendix A, Article XVI, Section 17, the most stringent regulation shall apply.
- d. All shelters and enclosures shall be located in a "rear yard" as that term is defined in Section 1-2 of this Code.
- e. All bee colonies shall be kept in hives with removable combs, which shall be kept in sound and usable condition.

- f. Hives are not permitted within five (5) feet of a lot line as measured from the closest point of the lot to the closest point of the hive.
- g. Any hive within 25 feet of a lot line shall not open towards that lot line unless that lot line shall have a flyway barrier of at least six (6) feet in height. The flyway barrier shall consist of one or a combination of the following: vegetative barrier, solid wall, fence, or other acceptable barrier.
- h. No hive is permitted within ten (10) feet of a building used for human habitation on an adjoining lot as measured from the closest point of the building to the closest point of the hive.
- i. Each beekeeper shall ensure that a convenient source of water is available at all times. The water source shall be located on the same property as the hive and within fifty (50) feet of the hive or less than one-half the distance to the nearest unnatural water source, whichever is closest. The water shall be maintained so as not to become stagnant.

Sec. 5-16.- Penalty for Violation.

Any person who violates any provision of this Article may be fined not more than One thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for each violation and each day or part of a day shall be considered a separate violation.

Section 3. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are to the extent of such conflict repealed.

Section 4. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2017.

TIM POGUE, MAYOR

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2017.

TIM POGUE, MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
ERIC HANSON, CITY ADMINISTRATOR