

Ordinance 07-2025 *Adopted January 2026
3rd Reading SSM*

An ordinance allowing and regulating the keeping of honeybees within the city limits of Diamond City, Arkansas, Boone County, and providing penalties for violations.

Whereas it is the intention of the City Council of the city of Diamond City, Arkansas, to provide for and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Diamond City, to promote residential harmony, and to ensure the well-being of properly maintained honeybees through the, through effective regulation; and,

Whereas the City Council of Diamond City acknowledges that keeping honeybees within an urban environment has the potential to affect the interests of others; and

Whereas certain minimum standards for keeping honeybees are necessary to protect the health, welfare, and quality of life of both the bees and the citizens of Diamond City; and

Whereas it is the intent of the City Council of Diamond City to provide and maintain for the citizens of Diamond City opportunities for healthy consumption of locally produced foods and products, and the Diamond City City Council acknowledges that the act of food production on one's own property may improve the quality of life of its residents;

Now therefore, be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Diamond City, Arkansas, that upon the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission of Diamond City, that existing ordinances and codes be amended as follows, to allow beekeeping within the city limits as follows,

A. General Provisions.

It shall be lawful for any person to keep honeybees within the corporate limits of Diamond City under the following conditions:

- 1: The principal use of the property shall be a single-family dwelling.
- 2: No more than two colonies shall be allowed on lots up to 5,000 square feet. One additional colony may be allowed for each additional 2,500 square feet of lot area, with no maximum cap, provided best management practices are followed, and colonies are maintained in a manner that does not create a nuisance.
- 3: No hives shall be allowed in multi-family complexes, including duplexes.
- 4: Hives must be placed in the side or rear yard only, unless the property is large enough that a front yard placement meets all distance and barrier requirements. Hives should be 9-12 cubic feet. The Langstroth hive is an example.
- 5: In a neighborhood, hives shall be located a minimum of 20 feet from any property line if a six-foot flyway barrier, fence, hedge or wall is present. If no barrier is present, hives shall be located a minimum of 100 feet from the property lines. Hives
- 6: A constant source of fresh water shall be always maintained on the property to prevent bees from seeking water on neighboring properties.
- 7: Rooftop hives are permitted, provided setbacks are maintained and safe access is ensured.

E. Penalties. Any violation of this ordinance is declared a misdemeanor violation and is punishable by a fine of up to \$50 for each day of violation.

If any section of this ordinance is declared unconstitutional or unlawful, only that section shall be affected. All other provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

4 Yes 1 No 1 Absent 0 Abstain

Passed and approved by the Diamond City Council on the 27th day of January 2026.

Mayor Jacob Glidewell

ATTEST:

Shari L. Marshall
Recorder Shari L. Marshall