

ORDINANCE NO. 442

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ARLINGTON, OREGON, PROHIBITING THE ATTRACTING AND FEEDING OF WILD TURKEYS, AND PROVIDING FOR THE ABATEMENT OF WILD TURKEYS

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Arlington (“City”) recognizes a need to address citizen and law enforcement concerns regarding the feeding of wild turkeys;

WHEREAS, the feeding of wild turkeys is detrimental to wildlife health and causes a public health nuisance and safety hazard that negatively impacts public health and welfare; and

WHEREAS, so as to protect public health and welfare, the City Council intends to prohibit the feeding of wild turkeys within the jurisdictional boundaries of the City, provide for abatement of wild turkeys, and proscribe penalties for such feeding in violation of this Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City of Arlington, Oregon, ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. Definitions.

“Attractant” means any substance that draws animals to a particular location and includes, but is not limited to food, garbage, or other enticement. Attractant does not include ponds, water features, lawns, flowers, shrubs, trees, or gardens that may be eaten by wild turkeys.

“Feeder” means any device or container used for feeding animals.

“Songbird” means any of a large number of bird species in which the vocal organ is developed in such a way as to provide various sound notes commonly known as a bird song.

“Wild Turkey” means those members of the family Meleagrididae, commonly known as wild turkey.

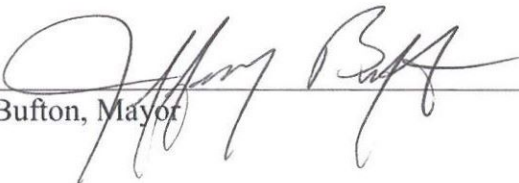
SECTION 2. Attracting or Feeding Wild Turkeys Prohibited. The attracting or feeding of wild turkeys within the City limits of the City of Arlington is declared to be a public nuisance and is prohibited at all times. This prohibition includes a person placing or knowingly allowing food or other attractants to be placed on their property or on public property with the intent of attracting or feeding wild turkeys. Nothing contained in this section shall prohibit the feeding of songbirds; provided, the food is contained in a feeder which is reasonably designed to avoid access by wild turkeys and placed in a manner to avoid access by wild turkeys. This section does not prohibit the feeding of wild turkeys kept under a valid permit issued by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

SECTION 3. Abatement. In the event that any part of the City is experiencing the presence of wild turkey populations that pose a substantial inconvenience, threaten the health and welfare, or endanger the property of Arlington citizens, the City may take those steps authorized by the appropriate regulatory agency to disperse or otherwise control the offending wild turkeys; including but not limited to trapping, as allowed by law. Should the City Council or City Recorder determine that feeders for songbirds are attracting wild turkeys, the City may require that those persons responsible remove such feeders until such time that the wild turkeys disperse. Failure to remove feeders within twenty-four (24) hours after notification by the City shall constitute a violation of this Ordinance.

SECTION 4. Violation – Penalty. Violation of any provision of this Ordinance is punishable by a fine of not more than \$500.00. Each day a violation continues to exist shall constitute a separate violation for which a separate fine or penalty may be assessed.


SECTION 5. Effective Date – Emergency. This Ordinance, being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare, an emergency is declared to exist, and this Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the City Council of the City of Arlington.

ADOPTED by the Arlington City Council this 8 day of January, ²⁰²⁵~~2024~~.



Jeff Bufton, Mayor

ATTEST:



Victoria McKinney, City Recorder