

## RESOLUTION NO.

### A RESOLUTION DISCOURAGING FEEDING OF DEER AND OTHER WILDLIFE WITHIN THE CITY OF BEND

#### Findings:

A. The Bend City Council received input from members of the public about issues associated with feeding deer within the City. For myriad reasons, feeding deer and other wildlife is disfavored and leads to negative outcomes for both wildlife and humans. The negative outcomes can include attracting predators that can create risk to humans and wildlife, damage to real property and personal property, facilitating the spread of disease and parasites, and damaging the health of wildlife by introducing food that wildlife are not adapted to digesting.

B. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) discourages feeding deer, elk, and other wildlife. An ODFW document summarizing the agency's position and recommendations is attached as Exhibit A. Other organizations, such as Protect Animal Migration, offer additional educational resources.

C. In light of the problems that can result from feeding deer and other wildlife in an urban environment, the Council discussed the possibility of an ordinance amending the Municipal Code to prohibit feeding of deer within the City. After discussion, the Council decided instead to consider a resolution as an interim step.

D. The Council favors a resolution to an ordinance at this time, in hopes that increasing awareness of the issues will prevent the need to take a more direct regulatory approach.

E. However, if issues associated with feeding deer and other wildlife persist or worsen, the Council may return to consideration of an ordinance prohibiting the practice within the City. An ordinance amending the Municipal Code would make feeding of wildlife a civil infraction subject to a monetary penalty of as much as \$750 per occurrence.

F. The Council intends for this Resolution to be broadly distributed, including through the City's social media channels, so the community is aware of the Council's position and has a basis for discussions with other community members. The Council also intends for the appropriate City staff to participate in educating community members about negative outcomes from wildlife feeding where resources and circumstances allow.

Based on these findings, the City of Bend resolves as follows:

Section 1. Feeding of deer and other wildlife (not including birds) within the City is highly discouraged.

Section 2. Community members are encouraged to educate themselves on the issues associated with feeding wildlife by consulting sources such as the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and other resources, and to use these resources to educate others.

Adopted by a vote of the Bend City Council on February 19, 2020.

YES:

NO:

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Sally Russell, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Robyn Christie, City Recorder

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Mary A. Winters, City Attorney