

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 1329 "DEFINITIONS" OF THE CITY'S PLANNING AND ZONING CODE AS IT RELATES TO URBAN AGRICULTURE.

WHEREAS, the City of Morgantown is committed to increasing access to fresh, locally grown, wholesome foods for all residents; and,

WHEREAS, to ensure the health and safety of all its residents, the City seeks to create and encourage programs and policies that sustain greater local food security and improve access to healthy food in underserved neighborhoods; and,

WHEREAS, urban agriculture contributes to the local economy by generating living-wage jobs, sales of food at farmers markets, grocery stores, and on-site farm stands and offering the opportunity for resident entrepreneurship in creating food-related small-business; and,

WHEREAS, urban agriculture provides a tool for improving the City's quality-of-life by reducing the negative impact of vacant lots, buildings and unused rooftops and helps to support neighborhood stabilization and recovery; and,

WHEREAS, urban agriculture at a residential scale provides a valuable supplement to a family food budget; and,

WHEREAS, urban agriculture at a community scale provides an invaluable opportunity for students to learn about nutrition and where food comes from; and,

WHEREAS, new technologies for growing food, including indoor growing technologies such as aquaponic and hydroponics, are the basis for new agricultural opportunities, partnerships, and research.

NOW THEREFORE, the City of Morgantown hereby ordains that Section 1329.02 "Definition of Terms" of the City's Planning and Zoning Code is amended as follows (deleted matter struck through; new matter underlined):

Article 1329.02 DEFINITION OF TERMS.

For this ordinance, the following words and phrases shall have the meaning respectively prescribed to them by this section. If not defined herein, or within other sections of this ordinance, terms used in this ordinance shall have the meanings provided in any standard dictionary or American Planning Association publication as determined by the Planning Director.

AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY — Farming, including plowing, tillage, cropping, installation of best management practices, seeding, animal and poultry husbandry, cultivating, or harvesting for the production of food and fiber products (except commercial logging and timber harvesting).

AGRICULTURE, COMMERCIAL – The farming, cultivating, harvesting, husbandry, aquaponic and hydroponic farming, and/or production principally for the sale to others of plants, animals, or their products, including but not limited to: forage and sod crops, grain and feed crops, dairy animals, and dairy products; livestock, including dairy and beef cattle, poultry, sheep, swine, horses, ponies, mules, and goats; including the breeding and grazing of all such animals; bees and apiary products; fruits of all kinds including grapes, nuts, and berries; vegetables; nursery, floral ornamental and greenhouse products, and other commodities as described in the Standard Industrial Classification for agriculture, forestry, fishing, and trapping. COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE shall not include poultry or swine production or animal feedlot operations.

AGRICULTURE, HOME – The gardening and/or production, principally for use or consumption of the property owner or resident, of plants, certain animals, or their products and for sale to others where such sales are incidental. Such gardening and/or production includes, but is not limited to, fruits of all kinds including grapes, nuts, and berries; vegetables; floral ornamental and non-commercial greenhouse products; bees and apiary products; and, for household use of the property owner or resident only, domestic poultry and rabbits. These uses do not require a permit or license except where the City Code generally requires a building permit or other permit; provided, that permits and/or approvals must be issued, if applicable, for an ACCESSORY STRUCTURE and/or HOME OCCUPATION.

AQUAPONICS – The cultivation of fish and plants together in a constructed, re-circulating ecosystem utilizing natural bacterial cycles to convert fish waste to plant nutrients and considered a COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE use.

COMMUNITY GARDENS – A private or public facility for cultivation of fruits, flowers, vegetables, or ornamental plants by more than one person or family. A neighborhood-based development with the primary purpose of providing space for members of the community to grow plants for beautification, education, recreation, community distribution, or personal use. The responsibility of managing maintenance and operations of COMMUNITY GARDEN sites shall be that of the land owner or designated public or civic entity, nonprofit organization or other community-based organization. Processing and storage of plants or plant products are prohibited on site. Gardening tools and supplies may be stored within an accessory structure that is in compliance with Article 1331.08 of this ordinance.

DOMESTIC POULTRY – Domesticated birds kept for eggs, meat, feathers, etc. that include chicken, turkey, duck, goose, pigeon, pheasant, partridge, guinea fowl, peafowl, and quail but shall not include ratite, ostrich, emu, or rhea.

FREE-RANGE – A method of farming husbandry where the animals, for at least part of the day, can roam freely outdoors, rather than being confined in an enclosure (e.g., coops, pens, etc.) for twenty-four (24) hours each day.

~~HOME GARDENING—The growing of vegetables, produce or other plants on individual private lots, by the owner or resident of the lot, for personal enjoyment or consumption, or for sale at off-premise locations such as farmers' markets, produce stands, etc. Such activities may occur in any zoning district without permits. This activity is distinguished from AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY in that the latter is primarily commercial in intent and nature.~~

HYDROPONICS – The cultivation of plants in nutrient solution rather than soil.

This ordinance shall be effective upon date of adoption.

FIRST READING:

Mayor

ADOPTED:

FILED:

RECORDED:

City Clerk