

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN URBAN DEER HUNT IN THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, HARRISON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, IN ACCORDANCE WITH WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES REGULATIONS; AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF A PERMIT; PRESCRIBING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE ISSUANCE THEREOF; PRESCRIBING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A PERMIT; PRESCRIBING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE TIME AND LOCATION OF BRIDGEPORT'S URBAN DEER HUNT AND AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF OF POLICE AND CITY MANAGER TO ADOPT REASONABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS REQUIRING FORMS OF PERMITS AND APPLICATIONS**

**WHEREAS**, the population of eastern whitetail deer within the corporate limits of the City of Bridgeport has risen to a level that is causing substantial damage to private and public property within the City and threatens the personal safety of the residents of the City and their pets; and,

**WHEREAS**, the governing body of the City of Bridgeport has determined, after extensive investigation and public comments, that it is necessary to reduce the population of the eastern whitetail deer within the corporate limits of the City of Bridgeport; and,

**WHEREAS**, the governing body, after careful consideration of all alternatives, has determined that the most effective and efficient method of reducing such population is to authorize an urban hunt, subject to the rules and regulations prescribed in this Ordinance.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF  
THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, WEST VIRGINIA:**

**Section 1.**      **Urban Deer Management.**      It shall be unlawful to hunt deer in the City of Bridgeport with a bow and arrow except under the following circumstances and regulations:

1. The City of Bridgeport Police Department is authorized to issue City Urban Deer Hunting Permits. A permit shall not be issued and no hunting shall be allowed without possessing the following and meeting the conditions listed below:
  - a. Hunter shall have completed the Hunter's Education Course, or equivalent, and pass standard bow proficiency test held during pre-hunt meeting. The requalification of the proficiency test will be at the discretion of the Chief of Police or his designee.
  - b. Hunter shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age at the time of application to be eligible to participate in Urban Deer Hunt and possess a valid State of West Virginia Hunting License.
  - c. Hunter shall be a resident of the State of West Virginia and show valid proof of residency for the last six (6) months OR a legal landowner of real property inside the Bridgeport city limits (at least two (2) contiguous acres) and provide valid proof of such ownership (such as real estate property tax receipt) if not a resident of the State of West Virginia.
  - d. Hunter shall attend the pre-hunt meeting each year and register with the City of Bridgeport Police Department with name, address, hunter education card, photo identification, and proficiency test certification (if applicable).
  - e. No ATV/Quads shall be permitted (unless specifically granted by landowner).

- f. Hunter shall use an elevated stand of at least six (6) feet in elevation, or an approved elevated hunting area by the Chief of Police, on Urban Hunting Tract(s) and all shots shall be made in downward trajectory.
- g. A designated Urban Hunting Tract must consist of at least two (2) contiguous acres. This acreage may be that of a single landowner or a combination of landowners. In any event, the acreage shall be contiguous. Resident landowners may hunt their own property (of at least two (2) contiguous acres) with Education Course and proficiency test, as long as all other requirements of the City Urban Deer Hunt are met.
- h. Hunter shall have written permission of landowner to hunt on any tracts of land designated as an Urban Hunting Tract. Each hunter shall carry written permission from the landowner or his/her agent while hunting on private property.
- i. City Permits shall only authorize hunting of deer by means of legal archery bow and arrow. Hunting with a cross-bow (only Y License) is permissible if permittee is licensed by the State of West Virginia.
- j. The State of West Virginia's Division of Natural Resources made significant changes in 2012 by expanding bag limits in Urban Deer Hunts to seven (7) deer per season, and only two (2) of those can be bucks. The City of Bridgeport's Urban Deer Hunt shall require the first two deer to be antlerless, followed by a buck, then 3 more antlerless deer, followed by a buck, or the hunter may choose seven (7) antlerless deer if desired.
- k. Hunters shall carry a special, non-transferable City hunting permit/license issued during the pre-hunt meeting on his/her person at all times while hunting within city limits. Lost permits may be replaced by calling the Bridgeport Police Department

- l. No Sunday hunting shall be allowed. No hunting shall be allowed within one hundred (100) feet of a roadway. No hunting on Halloween or the date designated by council for Trick or Treat.
- m. Special Urban Deer Hunting Season shall begin on the second Saturday in September as designated by the State of West Virginia's Division of Natural Resources and closes on the last day in December.
- n. All laws of the State of West Virginia, its rules and regulations governing hunting shall apply to the City of Bridgeport's Urban Deer Hunt.
- o. During this special Urban Deer Hunting Season, hunters are permitted to take seven (7) deer, two (2) which can be bucks, on City permits which shall not apply to the regular archery deer season bag limit.
- p. City issued field tags shall be filled out entirely and attached to the deer or be in the hunter's possession before transporting deer.
- q. Any deer harvested in the Bridgeport Urban Hunt will be checked in according to state law. The harvested deer will be recorded on a ledger at the Bridgeport Police Department.
- r. Hunters may donate harvested deer to the "Hunters Help the Hungry Program" through the appropriate participating vendors.
- s. All hunters participating in the Bridgeport Urban Hunt must fulfill the (7) seven deer harvest requirement prior to using their state license.
- t. All deer killed in the City must be checked pursuant to the City permit.
- u. A Permittee shall make every reasonable effort to track a wounded deer for the purpose of completing the harvest and recovering the carcass. In the event the deer is not recovered or leaves said Urban Hunting Tract, the Permittee shall immediately notify

the Bridgeport Police Department and provide sufficient information to enable the City of Bridgeport to find and retrieve the deer. Permittee shall be responsible for disposal of all deer harvested within the City of Bridgeport. Permittee shall be responsible for proper field dressing techniques with regard to deer carcass and disposal of entrails.

- v. Any person exercising privileges granted pursuant to a City Permit shall voluntarily assume full responsibility for any risk of loss, property damage, or personal injury, including death, caused or incurred by the Permittee and shall indemnify and hold the City of Bridgeport harmless from any such claims.
- w. Any person exercising privileges granted pursuant to a City Permit on an Urban Deer Hunting Tract which is owned or controlled, in whole or part, by the City of Bridgeport shall, without need for further evidence of assent, be deemed to have released, waived, discharged and to have covenanted not to sue the City of Bridgeport for any loss, damage, or injury, including death, that may be sustained, whether caused by the negligence of the City, the condition of the property, or otherwise, while participating in Urban Bow Hunting activities.
- x. Notwithstanding any other provision contained herein, the Police Chief of the City of Bridgeport shall retain the absolute discretion, to issue, deny, or revoke a City Permit, or to limit or condition the same in any manner, for any reason.

## **Section 2.**

The Bridgeport Police Chief may revoke the Urban Deer Hunting Permit if a hunter violates any part of this Ordinance. Upon revocation of the Permit, the permittee may appeal the decision to the governing body of the City of Bridgeport.

**Section 3.**

A violation of this Ordinance shall be punishable by fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00)

**Section 4.**

This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage.

**ADOPTED** on second and final reading this \_\_\_\_\_ day of July, 2015.

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MAYOR

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RECORDER

(Amended 7-23-2012)  
(Amended 6-22-2015)