CITY OF BURLINGTON

In the year Two Thousand Twelve.................................................................

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

That WHEREAS, on March 21, 2011, the Council unanimously passed a Resolution creating the Urban Agriculture Task Force, which was charged with creating a cohesive urban agriculture policy, improved rules and regulations addressing urban agriculture, and steps to better promote urban agriculture in Burlington, and

WHEREAS, the Urban Agriculture Task Force presented their report to the City Council on September 24, 2012, and

WHEREAS, the report presented a comprehensive set of policy recommendations developed through an 18-month stakeholder process, and

WHEREAS, the Council accepted the report and requested that the Council President meet with Task Force members to determine a plan to move the recommendations in the report forward, and

WHEREAS, the Council President met with Task Force Members Alison Nihart and Harris Roen, and

WHEREAS, in those discussions, it was agreed that the following items should move forward through the suggested committees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council requests the following Board and/or Commission address an initial set of high priority issues raised in the Urban Agriculture Task Force Report and report back to the Council by the dates specified:

1) Board of Health – Work with appropriate Police Department personnel and Humane Society representatives to propose standards of humane care and treatment of various livestock species as suggested in section 5.5.3.1 of the Task Force Report with recommendations forwarded to the Planning Commission by February 1, 2013 for its consideration in the development of animal related zoning ordinances.

2) Board of Health – Develop a slaughtering ordinance that addresses the issues raised in section 5.5.3.4 of the Task Force report, with a report back to the Council by April 15, 2013.
Resolution Relating to MOVING URBAN AGRICULTURE ISSUES FORWARD

3) Planning Commission – Create clear definitions of “Domestic Animals” and “Livestock” and rules that address each category appropriately, including the recommendations from the Board of Health with regards to appropriate shelter and care requirements, with a report back to the Council by April 29, 2013.

4) Planning Commission – Revise zoning ordinance to address definitions of agricultural structures and propose appropriate regulations as recommended in section 5.5 of the Task Force report. The use of driveways for agricultural purposes should be considered as well. The Commission shall report back to the Council by April 29, 2013; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council recognizes the extensive public engagement process and detailed research that are summarized in the Task Force report, and as such recommends giving considerable weight to the recommendations contained therein. However, given the nature of the task at hand, the Council does not recommend adhering strictly to the recommendations of the Task Force in every particular. Practices and regulations of other Cities, as well as creating a practical, supportive framework for urban agriculture should be considered in making recommendations for changing our ordinance.
DISTRIBUTION:

I hereby certify that this resolution has been sent to the following department(s):

Board of Health Members
Planning Commission Members

RESOLUTION RELATING TO

Moving Urban Agriculture Issues Forward

Adopted by the City Council
November 26, 2012

Clerk

Approved November 29, 2012

Mayor

Attest:

Lori Olberg
Licensing, Voting and Records Coordinator

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