

Ordinance No. 733-B

“Deer Management Program Amendment”

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRANITE SHOALS, TEXAS, AMENDING ITS PROGRAM FOR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT HARVESTING; CREATING CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 2 (ADMINISTRATION), ARTICLE III (BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES), DIVISION 6 (WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE), SECTION 2-82.24 (ANNUAL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT HARVESTING PROGRAM); AND PROVIDING FOR THE FOLLOWING: FINDINGS OF FACT, SAVINGS, SEVERABILITY, REPEALER, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND PROPER NOTICE AND MEETING.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Granite Shoals, Burnet County, Texas ("Council") seeks to provide for the public health, safety and welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, on or about March 11, 2015, the Council established a Wildlife Committee to study the desirability and feasibility of managing the wildlife populations, with emphasis on white-tailed deer, within the City consistent with the laws and regulations of the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Wildlife Advisory Committee (the "WAC") has worked diligently and continues to work diligently to accomplish its purposes; and

WHEREAS, the WAC has conducted surveys, held town hall meetings, reviewed data, worked closely with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department ("TPWD") to formulate recommendations regarding wildlife management within the City, conducted a 'Pilot Program' during 2016-2017 Deer Season, as authorized by City Council in Ord. 685 Pilot Program for Deer Management, and a Year Two Deer Management Program authorized by City Council for 2017-2018 as Ordinance 710; and

WHEREAS, the WAC has recommended that the Council continue this program as an ongoing wildlife management harvesting program to help control the deer population in the city limits; and

WHEREAS, the Council has reviewed the reports from the Committee related to the last two years of the deer management program and has carefully considered the public comments and the recommendations of the WAC; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that it is in the best interest of the public health, safety, and welfare to approve the continuation of this program on an ongoing basis with certain modifications as recommended by the WAC and City Staff.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRANITE SHOALS, TEXAS:

SECTION I. FINDINGS OF FACT

All of the above premises are hereby found to be true and correct legislative and factual findings of the City Council and are hereby approved and incorporated into the body of this Ordinance as if copied in their entirety.

SECTION II. MANAGEMENT HARVESTING PROGRAM

The guidelines and schedule for the Wildlife Management Harvesting Program will be codified as Code of Ordinances Section 2-82.24 and are attached as **Exhibit “A”** and incorporated for all purposes. The Council hereby adopts and approves **Exhibit “A”** as an official wildlife management program for the City of Granite Shoals.

SECTION III. SAVINGS

The repeal of any ordinance or part of ordinances effectuated by the enactment of this Ordinance shall not be construed as abandoning any action now pending under or by virtue of such ordinance or as discontinuing, abating, modifying or altering any penalty accruing or to accrue, or as affecting any rights of the City under any section or provisions of any ordinances at the time of passage of this Ordinance.

SECTION IV. SEVERABILITY

Should any sentence, paragraph, subdivision, clause, phrase, or section of this Ordinance be adjusted or held to be unconstitutional, illegal, or invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of this Ordinance in whole or any part or provision thereof, other than the part so declared to be invalid, illegal or unconstitutional.

SECTION V. REPEALER

The provisions of this Ordinance shall be cumulative of all other ordinances or parts of ordinances governing or regulating the same subject matter as that covered herein; provided, however, that all prior ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent or in conflict with any of the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby expressly repealed to the extent that such inconsistency is apparent. This Ordinance shall not be construed to require or allow any act that is prohibited by any other ordinance.

SECTION VI. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately from and after its passage and publication as may be required by law.

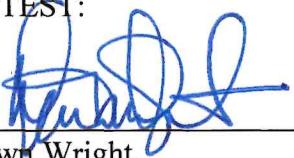
SECTION VII. PROPER NOTICE AND MEETING

It is hereby officially found and determined that the meeting at which this Ordinance was passed was open to the public as required and that public notice of the time, place and purpose of said meeting was given as required by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 14th day of Oct, 2025


Ron Munos
Mayor

ATTEST:


Dawn Wright,
City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

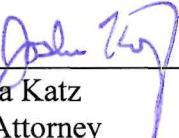

Joshua Katz
City Attorney



Exhibit “A”

“Sec. 2-82.24. Annual Wildlife Management Harvesting Program

A. Wildlife Harvesting Team Requirements and Testing

1. Team Members:

- (a) Membership will vary annually based on harvest demand and the supply of qualifying harvesters.
- (b) Preferred local residence

2. Requirements for Team Membership:

- (a) Minimum 18 years of age
- (b) Pass a background check
- (c) Possess any lawful archery means as described by TPWD
- (d) Possess a Texas hunting license
- (e) Possess a Texas Bowhunter Education Certificate
- (f) Possess a cell/smart phone with camera and texting and/or email capability
- (g) Possess a valid Texas drivers' license and their own transportation
- (h) Attend an overview of the overall Wildlife Management Program goals, requirements, and the law
 - (i) When to call for assistance
 - (ii) When to say “no” to a situation

3. Proficiency test requirements:

- (a) Fifteen (15) question examination will be administered with 100% passing score required (maximum 1 attempt)
- (b) Ten (10) photos/pictures with “shoot or no shoot” situations exam will be administered. A 100% score is required to pass (maximum 1 attempt).

4. Proficiency shooting test requirements:

- (a) The qualification test will use a practice target tip equivalent to the broadhead weight used to harvest.
- (b) Shoot from no less than 8 ft. elevated hunting type platform
- (c) Shoot one arrow/bolt fully outfitted with a field practice tip into a 2-inch diameter bullseye, and one arrow/bolt fully outfitted with a field practice tip into a 4-inch diameter bullseye. Maximum of two attempts allowed.

- (d) Shoot at a distance of 20 yards
- (e) In addition to the initial shooting test requirement, once a month the harvester shall pass the shooting proficiency test with either the Chief of the Granite Shoals Police Department (“GSPD”) or his or her designee.

5. Qualified harvest team membership:

- (a) Archers who fail either the test or shooting requirements may retake them on a monthly basis in order to qualify.

B. The City of Granite Shoals Deer Management Program guidelines

- 1. The city’s program shall work within the TPWD’s Managed Land Deer Program – Conservation Option. (MLDP).
- 2. The WAC shall identify all proposed harvest feeder/backstop locations within the City and shall submit a Wildlife Management Plan (WMP) for each selected harvest location to TPWD biologist. Any WMP submitted after August 15 would be reviewed as time allows with no guarantee that tags would be issued prior to season.
- 3. Any occupied dwelling within 75 yards of proposed harvest location must be contacted regarding retrieval of animals.
- 4. The following documentation must be completed for each harvest location prior to any hunting on that location:
 - (a) Hunting Liability Release Form (completed by hunter)
 - (b) Release, Hold Harmless, and Indemnification Form (completed by hunter)
 - (c) GSPD Registration Form for Deer Management Program (completed by hunter)
 - (d) City Of Granite Shoals Deer Management Program Registration Form (completed by hunter)
 - (e) Program Guidelines Acknowledgment (completed by hunter)
 - (f) Land Use Permission Form (completed by property owner, unless harvest location is city-owned property)
 - (g) Animal Retrieval Permission Form (completed by owner **and** primary occupant of any occupied dwelling within 75 yards of harvest feeder/backstop location, unless occupied dwelling is city-owned property)
 - (h) Any other documentation required by the City
 - (i) Documentation demonstrating Archery Proficiency exam and shooting proficiency test must be completed and passed prior to any harvesting and may be completed using any lawful archery means as described by TPWD.
 - (j) All harvesters must provide proof of a valid hunting license and Texas Bow Hunter Education Certificate.

5. The WAC shall construct and secure all harvest locations.
6. Private landowners may construct and secure their own harvest locations, however, they must be inspected and approved by the WAC before they may be used as part of the Deer Management Program. Any harvesting must be performed by harvest team members during an approved harvest, even at approved harvest locations that are located on private property.
7. All MLDP – conservation option permits shall be issued from TPWD to the individual property owners. It shall be the shared duty of the property owners and the WAC to ensure that the harvester has registered with the City of Granite Shoals.
8. MLDP – conservation option permit harvesting season is October – February.
9. No harvesting locations are to be active during the major Holidays (Thanksgiving, Christmas or New Year's Day).
10. Harvesting to be done by means of MLDP – conservation option tags only.
11. All harvest locations may be monitored by GSPD or City staff, either in person or by video surveillance.
 - (a) A representative of the WAC shall be physically on site at the check-in location for an authorized harvest during all harvesting hours.
 - (b) All harvesters must check in at the check-in location, acknowledge all rules and regulations of the wildlife management harvesting program, and have his or her equipment inspected prior to harvesting.
 - (c) GSPD will be notified immediately by the WAC member or harvester in the event of any public safety issue.
 - (d) Harvesting outside of designated harvest locations will be considered poaching, and appropriate action will be taken.
 - (e) A copy of the rules for harvests adopted in this Ordinance must be provided to harvesters at the location of a harvest.
 - (f) Harvests will not take place on holidays (including holidays in which Marble Falls Independent School District classes are not in session) or weekends unless such harvest dates are approved in advance by the Chief of GSPD or his or her designee.
12. Stands will be no less than 8' elevated, and no shot shall be more than 20 yards.
13. Any qualified harvest team member not harvesting on his or her own property must be parked in a conspicuous location at or adjacent to the harvesting location when the harvesting occurs.
14. If an animal is injured or expires on an adjoining occupied property, the harvester must make contact with the on-site WAC representative. .

- (a) In no event shall the harvester dispatch the animal with a weapon on private property, or retrieve an injured or expired animal from private property without express verbal or written permission from the property owner. In the event that the property owner has expressed consent for a WAC harvester to enter onto his or her property to retrieve the animal, the harvester shall make contact with the property owner, explain the approximate location of the animal, and arrange its removal.
- (b) In the event that the property owner has not expressed consent for a WAC harvester to enter onto his or her property to retrieve the animal, the on-site WAC representative shall make contact with the on-duty officer of the GSPD, who must be present to retrieve the animal.

15. All harvesters must sign the liability waiver and other required documentation upon registration.
16. The WAC shall at all times have discretion to revoke a harvester's membership privileges if the committee determines that such revocation is in the best interest of the city and/or the integrity of the program, including violation by the harvester of any of the requirements of this Ordinance.
17. All animals harvested must be cared for in accordance with state law. Anyone caught violating these requirements will be turned over to the appropriate law enforcement authority.
18. Harvesters must take all harvest animals to the Deer Management Program's processing facility so the statistics required for the MLDP can be recorded. Harvesters may keep the harvest or donate it to the City.
19. Disposal of field dress waste at harvest sites is strictly prohibited. Field dress waste may be disposed of at the City's processing facility or privately in accordance with state law. Any harvester found to have improperly discarded field dress waste will have his or her membership revoked.
20. The program is a "one shot" program: once you shoot a deer, that deer is to be recovered before another shot can be taken. Furthermore, the harvester must make every attempt to recover the arrow/bolt.
21. Harvesters will adhere to rigorous time-lines for locating an animal, if animal is not found within 35 minutes of shot, archer must call for help from the designated WAC contact for that harvest location.
22. All harvesters must be registered with the GSPD, even if harvesting is being done on private property.

23. A harvester discharging any archery equipment shall do so only in front of the designated backstop, and shall use reasonable care to ensure the arrow/bolt does not cross any property line and enter any other property on which the harvester does not have permission to hunt. The discharge of an arrow across or over the boundaries of other property for which no permission has been given by the property owner shall create a rebuttable presumption that the use of the archery equipment was not conducted with reasonable care, and the harvester's membership will be revoked.
24. Harvest team members shall serve on a volunteer basis only and without financial compensation. The harvester will be responsible for lawful recovery and disposal of the harvested animal in the manner provided by state law. The harvester must physically be able to sit, stand, bend, twist, lift over one hundred (100) pounds, and remove and retrieve from the site all deer that have been harvested pursuant to the wildlife management harvesting program. Any request for an accommodation regarding the requirements of the wildlife management harvesting program must be submitted to and determined by the City Manager.

C. Archery Equipment

1. Harvesters must wear a minimum of 400 square inches of blaze orange while outside of his/her vehicle. A harvester may carry a knife to dispatch deer if needed. All archery equipment must be stored inside the harvester's vehicle or a building while retrieval of the deer is taking place.
2. For any harvest taking place in a tree stand, harvesters must provide their own safety harnesses, and a safety harness must be used at all times. Any harvester caught not using a safety harness in a tree stand will be asked to leave the harvest location, and his or her membership privileges will be revoked.
3. All harvesters must use fixed or mechanical broadheads with a minimum 1.5" cutting width.
4. All bolts/arrows must have the harvester's identifying mark (name, address) on them. Upon delivery of the harvested animal to the check-in location for tagging, the harvester must present the bolt/arrow used to harvest the deer.
5. LED nocks are not required but highly recommended.

I _____ hereby agree to the terms of the program and understand that a violation of these terms could result in revocation of all harvesting privileges under the program and/or legal charges.

Signature _____

Date _____

D. Program Schedule of events

1. Feb-March

Obtain Council approval for any recommended modifications to the program.

2. April

Continue gathering information regarding locations, and schedule Town Hall Meeting for education about the program, and meet with TPWD about program details. Start contacting harvesters. Plan Town Hall meeting(s) and schedule Bowhunter Education class(es).

3. May – June – July

Conduct Town Hall Meeting(s) and Bow Hunter Education class(es). Have all program related documents approved and ready. Contact harvesters. Conduct administrative work on-line with TPWD to register locations and personnel. Contact TPWD about planning of deer census, start contacting residences and gaining proper documentation. Begin/Conduct Deer Census. Continue gathering documentation. Clear and construct backstops at hunt locations.

4. August

1st round of qualifying harvest team members, qualified harvest team members meeting, set up hunt stands and notify occupied property owners within 75 yards of hunt locations. WMP's submitted to TPWD for approval, weigh station set up.

5. September

Harvest location stands to be set up and secured. MLDP – conservation option tags issued. Qualify hunters.

6. October

Qualify harvest team members. Hunting starts.

7. November

Qualify harvest team members. Hunting continues. 1st report to City Council with results.

8. December

Qualify harvest team members. Hunting continues. No report unless issues present

9. January

Qualify harvest team members. Hunting continues. 2nd report to City Council with results.

10. February

Qualify harvest team members, hunting ends.

11. March

Final report to City Council with season results. Results and documentation sent to TPWD.”