

Resolution No. 1126

A RESOLUTION PROMOTING THE AVAILABILITY OF HEALTHY FOODS BY ALLOCATING PUBLIC SPACE FOR COMMUNITY FOOD-GROWING INITIATIVES SUCH AS COMMUNITY GARDENS

Whereas, food system issues significantly affect the public health, land use, economy and quality of life of Northwest Kansas residents; and food related concerns are prevalent in the community; and

Whereas, working with food and agricultural sectors are central to the economy of Northwest Kansas and contribute significantly to the environmental and economic wellbeing of our region; and

Whereas, Thomas County actively seeks to improve access to regionally grown healthy food options while promoting educational resources for the local population;

Whereas, the, Western Prairie Food Farm and Community Alliance, herein referred to as WPFCA, hosted community forums and identified reducing barriers for community gardening as a priority of the community; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Colby, Kansas:

Section 1. That the City of Colby supports improving access to healthy food, including regionally grown foods, through policy, systems, and environmental changes.

Section 2. That the City of Colby supports the growing of foods in gardens at homes, businesses, and in community gardens.

Section 3. That the City of Colby may promote cooperation amongst its departments to create, maintain, and enhance public spaces for community food-growing initiatives such as community gardens.

Section 4. That the City of Colby may direct the City Manager to work with WPFCA and may assign city staff as needed to develop strategies in order to:

- a) Provide access to public spaces for community food growing initiatives.
- b) Establish policies to increase the production and availability of healthy, regionally-produced foods that serve the public at large.
- c) Identify ordinances, land use policies and zoning regulations that encourage citizens to produce food at home, in community gardens and urban farms, as well as educate and empower citizens, particularly youth, to grow and distribute food.
- d) Support educational and outreach programs that inspire and empower the community to make healthy food purchasing decisions, participate in gardening initiatives, and encourage community and stakeholder collaboration.

Section 5. This Resolution shall take effect and be in force and effect from and after its adoption.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Colby, Kansas this 5th day of March, 2019.

Gary L. Adrian, Mayor

ATTEST:

Joni L. Ketchum, City Clerk