



Agenda Item Report

Legislative Board: City Council
Date: July 21, 2026
Contact: Bo Kidd, Police Chief
Agenda Item ID / Number: 2026-566- / 1.7

ITEM TITLE: Public hearing, deliberation, and possible action to consider an Ordinance on first and final reading and to adopt said Ordinance amending the City of Buda's Code of Ordinances, Chapter 4 - Animals, Subsection §4.04.007, §4.04.013, and adding a new Section §4.04.018 Pot Bellied Pigs adding a new classification of livestock and permit the keeping of potbellied pigs as household pets within the city limits (Chief of Police Bo Kidd) [PUBLIC TESTIMONY]

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Discussion on potbellied pigs and if Council wishes to amend our current ordinances to permit the keeping of potbellied pigs as pets.

2. BACKGROUND/HISTORY

Our current ordinance lists all swine (to include potbellied pigs or miniature pigs) as livestock and doesn't allow for them as pets.

- 4.04.013 Livestock

Keeping of hogs, swine, potbellied or miniature pigs .

It shall be unlawful for any person to keep, harbor or raise adult potbellied pigs, hog, miniature pigs and swine in any residence or realty within the city.

This was brought to City Council for consideration on July 21st, 2026; it was tabled and staff was instructed to look at other cities' ordinances pertaining to pot-bellied pigs. Staff has taken Council's direction and is bringing additional options to consider.

3. ANALYSIS

Pot-bellied pigs are not low-maintenance pets. They're best suited for owners who have:

- Space (indoors and outdoors)
- Time for training and enrichment
- Access to proper veterinary care
- A long-term commitment mindset

4. FINANCIAL IMPACT

It is recommended that City Council establish a permit fee of \$100.00 for up to two pigs with this Ordinance amendment. The fee would cover both animals.

5. STRATEGIC PLAN/GOALS

OTHER

6. STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES

N/A

7. PROS AND CONS

Pros:

1. Highly Intelligent - Pot-bellied pigs are as smart as dogs. They can learn commands, tricks, and even use a litter box.
2. Strong Bonding - They form deep attachments to their owners and can be very affectionate and social.
3. Relatively Clean Animals - Despite stereotypes, pigs are naturally clean and prefer designated bathroom areas.
4. Long Lifespan - They can live 12–20 years, meaning a long-term companion.
5. Unique Personality - Each pig has a distinct personality—playful, curious, and sometimes surprisingly goofy.

Cons

1. They Get Bigger Than Expected - “Mini pigs” are often misleading—many pot-bellied pigs reach 100–200+ pounds.
2. Destructive Behavior - They root (dig with their snout), which can damage floors, yards, and furniture if not managed.
3. Specialized Veterinary Care - Not all vets treat pigs, so you may need to find an exotic or farm animal vet.
4. Diet Management is Critical - They gain weight easily and require a controlled, balanced diet—overfeeding can lead to serious health issues.
5. Strong-Willed & Stubborn - Training takes consistency. They can be manipulative and push boundaries if not properly trained.
6. Social Needs - Pigs need a lot of attention and mental stimulation—bored pigs can become destructive or depressed.
7. Not Ideal for All Living Situations - Apartments or small homes usually aren’t suitable, especially without outdoor space.

8. ALTERNATIVES

N/A

9. REQUESTED ACTION / SUGGESTED MOTION / RECOMMENDATION

Staff seeks direction from Council to adopt or reject the addition to the Ordinance.

Attachments:

[Ordinance - Animal Control Amendment.docx](#)

[Exhibit A - Pot Belly Pigs - Option 1 - No Outdoor Enclosures.docx](#)

[Exhibit A - Pot Belly Pigs - Option 2 - Outdoor Structure Regulations](#)

[Outdoor Enclosures Samples](#)