



Bee Ordinance Information

City Council Workshop October 12, 2020

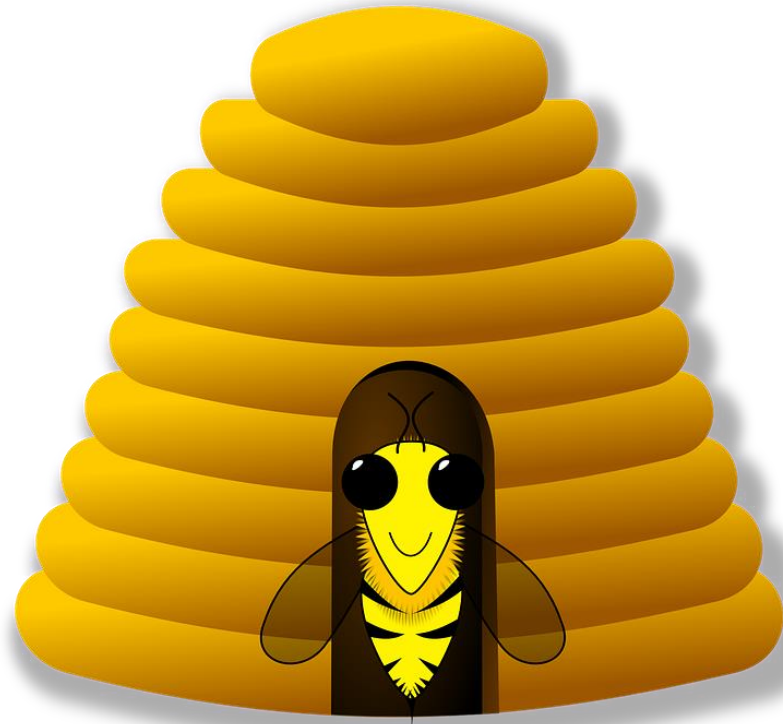
Background

- ▶ In July 2020 community members attended the open forum at a city council meeting and asked that the council consider allowing bee keeping within the City.
- ▶ Council directed staff to bring information to a workshop on August 9th.
- ▶ At the workshop, staff was directed to draft an ordinance with fairly strict requirements for the keeping of bees.



Current Ordinance Requirements

- ▶ Bees are allowed in the FR (Farm Residential) zoning district only.
- ▶ One bee hive per acre is allowed in this zoning district.



Proposed Ordinance Requirements



- ▶ All bee keeping operations shall be registered with the City for a fee.
- ▶ Registration = application and submittal of site plan with location and specifics of the hives.
- ▶ Hives could be kept anywhere in the City on lots in excess of ½ acre.
- ▶ All FR(Farm Residential) references would be removed from the ordinance.
- ▶ No more than two colonies per lot over ½ acre.

Proposed Ordinance Requirements Continued



- ▶ Rear yard only, setback of 30 feet from all property lines. 25 feet from any trail easement.
- ▶ Colonies must be 50 feet from homes on adjacent property.
- ▶ A consistent water source must be provided and shown on site plan.
- ▶ Applicant to provide evidence of completion of beekeeping course from the U of M or other comparable institution.

Proposed Ordinance Requirements Continued



- ▶ Upon receiving a beekeeping application, the City will notify all property owners within 200 feet of the property.
- ▶ Adjacent property owners will be given two weeks to respond to the notice with any objection.
- ▶ Adjacent property owners will be specifically asked about bee allergies in the household.
- ▶ If bee allergies are present in an adjacent household within 200 feet, the permit will be denied.

Additional information/Conclusion

- ▶ License must be renewed each year with an annual fee charged. The notification process will be conducted each year.
- ▶ Proposed ordinance modeled after Fridley's ordinance.
- ▶ Staff suggests an annual fee of \$75 with a renewal fee of \$25.
- ▶ Is Council supportive of a new ordinance to allow more bees in the city?
- ▶ If so, a code amendment will be initiated.



**DON'T WORRY
BEE HAPPY**

