



CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

Committee of the Whole Agenda Communication

Meeting Date: June 14, 2021

Prepared By: Jon Oliphant, AICP, Planning & Development Director

Agenda Item: Final Residential Beekeeping Follow-Up Discussion

Explanation: Two representatives from the Heart of Illinois Beekeepers Association (HIBA) spoke at a February City Council meeting about the consideration of allowing residential beekeeping. Chapter 91.09 of the City Code states: "It shall be unlawful for the owner or keeper of bees within the city to permit or allow such bees to fly at large within the city limits." The direction from the Council was to have this as a discussion item at the April Committee of the Whole meeting. Additional discussion at the May COW meeting did not generate clear consensus, as some aldermen indicated a willingness to consider a code amendment while others were opposed to any changes. There was also not consensus on whether beekeeping should be handled as a permitted or special use.

An attached draft ordinance utilizes many of the regulations included from the 2016 original draft. This does not reference the need for City registration (IL Dept. of Agriculture registration is required) nor the need for approval of a special use; those regulations can be added should the consensus be to amend Chapter 91.09. The May COW discussion included interest in a more substantial side and rear yard setback of at least 50' per lot, which is included in the draft ordinance. A map showing the residential lots that have a lot width of at least 100' is also attached. One regulation that staff would suggest should the direction be to amend the code is to require that proof be shown that written notice has been given to all abutting neighbors of the intent to have hives on the property.

Another stipulation could be to either require a more significant setback or an outright prohibition if a neighboring property owner has a documented allergy to bee and wasp venom. However, while there are known bee and wasp allergies, staff's concern with including such a provision in an ordinance is trying to decipher the severity of any possible allergies and whether it is enough to warrant prohibiting beekeeping on a particular property. Also attached is a letter and other info from the HIBA.

Fiscal Impact: There would likely be little to no fiscal impact, though Brunk's Sports Center has recently begun offering bee products as part of its building renovation and it could see more interest in those products if beekeeping was allowed in the Washington city limits.

Action Requested: Final feedback on whether there is interest in amending Chapter 91.09 of the City Code at a future City Council meeting.

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF
THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS BY AMENDING CHAPTER 91 ENTITLED “ANIMALS”
OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS, REGARDING
THE ALLOWANCE OF BEES WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON,
TAZEWELL COUNTY, ILLINOIS, as follows:**

Section 1. That §91.09 of the Washington Municipal Code of Ordinances titled “Bees” is hereby amended by deleting § 91.09 in its entirety and by substituting the following as §91.09 in lieu thereof:

“§ 91.09 BEES

- (A) Any person keeping honeybee hives must register annually with the Illinois Department of Agriculture, per Illinois State Statute.
- (B) No other stinging insects, such as yellow jackets, hornets, other varieties of bees, including African honeybees, or wasps, including Vespidae, shall be contained on private property.
- (C) Maximum Quantity: A maximum of two (2) hives is permitted per property.
- (D) Maintenance: It shall be the duty of any person keeping honeybees on their property to maintain each colony so as not to create a public nuisance.
- (E) Beekeeping Components: Beekeepers shall ensure that no bee comb, wax, or other materials are left upon the grounds of the beehive site. Beekeepers shall promptly store or dispose of any bee comb, wax, or other materials which have been removed from the beehive in a sealed container or within a building or other bee proof enclosure.
- (F) Location: Hives shall only be located within the rear yard of the property.
- (G) Setbacks: Hives shall not be located within fifty (50) feet of any property line.
- (H) Fencing: A six-foot (6') tall privacy fence or other solid flyway barrier must enclose the rear yard. The beekeeper must post a prominent weatherproof sign on each side of the fence facing abutting properties the registration number issued by the Illinois Department of Agriculture for the keeping of bees and language that makes clear that bees are on the premises. The sign must be visible and easily read from outside the property.
- (I) Water: Each beekeeper shall ensure that a convenient source of water is available at all times to the honeybees on the property at which the hive is located so that the honeybees are discouraged from congregating at swimming pools, hose bibs, pet water bowls, birdbaths, or other water sources at which they may come in contact with humans or domestic pets. The water source must be maintained so as to not create a breeding site for mosquitoes.
- (J) Enforcement: The City of Washington (COW) shall enforce this ordinance. Once a beekeeping permit is issued, proper officers of the COW are authorized and empowered, during reasonable business hours, to enter the premises to inspect hives or colonies for the purpose of ascertaining the variety of insects occupying the hives, conditions of health, and management of crowding. Additionally, the Tazewell County Health Department shall also be authorized and empowered, during reasonable business hours, to enter the premises when there are potential problems that could be detrimental to the public's health.

(K) Penalties: See §91.99.”

Section 2. That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval, and publication as provided by law.

Section 3. That all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby expressly repealed.

PASSED AND APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2021.

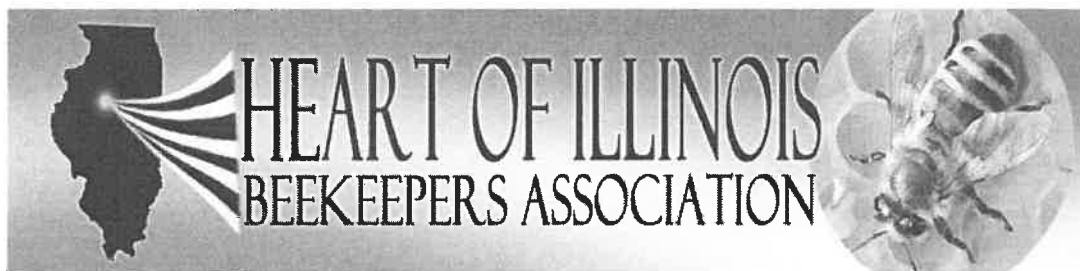
AYES: _____

NAYS: _____

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk



City Hall
301 Walnut St
Washington, IL 61571

June 9th, 2021

Dear Council Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Heart of Illinois Beekeepers Association (HIBA).

HIBA is dedicated to the development of good beekeeping management and practices, the pollination of agricultural crops, the production of honey and honey related food products, and the general education for and about honeybees. HIBA serves Peoria, Tazewell, and Woodford counties, as well as the surrounding areas.

I want to thank you for the time you have taken to educate yourself while also allowing us the opportunity to assist you and your fellow citizen beekeepers as you explore the possibility of allowing beekeeping within the City of Washington.

Beekeeping can be an exciting hobby or full blown career. Amateurs and professionals alike meet to discuss the latest in beekeeping, diseases and pests, hive management, honey production, public interest in bees, and Mother Nature. Please reference our website if you would like to attend one of our monthly meetings that take place at local Farm Bureau's.

To assist with concerns that were raised at the April 12th Washington Council meeting, I have attached some information for your consideration.

We thank you in advance for your time and careful consideration of allowing citizens to keep honeybees within the great City of Washington, Illinois.

Sincerely, ..

Sean Rennau
President
HIBA

Enc. 5

APPENDIX

Informative Link:

<https://www.cgs.niu.edu/Growing-Communities/pdfs/st-charles-beekeeping-report.pdf>

Brief Overview

The City of St. Charles Illinois was approached by residents living adjacent to a back yard containing honey bee hives. The residents requested assistance in dealing with the presence of the hives. In 2017, St. Charles did not currently have an ordinance addressing beekeeping in residential areas.

A study group was formed to research and discuss how the City might address this issue.

Northern Illinois University's Center for Governmental Studies was retained to facilitate the group discussions and prepare a report and presentation summarizing their findings. The group met twice. During these meetings, information about beekeeping was shared, concerns were raised and discussed, other communities' approach to beekeeping was presented, and guidelines for the City were developed. The findings of the group are presented in this report.

The report is organized into three sections:

- General information on backyard beekeeping
- Overview of how communities have addressed this issue
- Guidelines for the City to consider in deciding how to address backyard beekeeping in residential neighborhoods within the St. Charles city limits.

Note:

- Setbacks are typically in the 10-20 foot range.
- Special Use Permits are not typically required by municipalities.

Informative Link:

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/naperville-sun/ct-nvs-naperville-bee-regulations-st-1104-20161102-story.html>

Brief Overview

Naperville City Council established limits on the number of honeybee hives residents can keep in their backyard based on the size of their property. The council agreed to change the setback for the hives from the originally proposed 15 feet to five feet at the behest of former Councilman Robert Fieseler.

Informative Link:

<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/324997#storage>

Brief Overview

Raw honey vs Pasteurized pure honey. There is a BIG difference.

Informative Link:

<https://www.carolinafarmstewards.org/the-benefits-of-local-raw-honey/>

Brief Overview

The benefits of raw local honey.

IDA Apiary Inspector, Supervisor**Brian Rennecker**

Illinois Department of Agriculture

Division of Natural Resources

P.O. Box 19281

Springfield, IL 62794-9281

217/782-6297

Brian.Rennecker@illinois.gov

Contributing Authors:

Pam Tomka, HOIBA - Treasurer

Rebecca Somogyi, HOIBA - Board Member



PETITION

Please support legalizing Beekeeping within the City of Washington, Illinois.
Please record your name and contact information below to show your support.

WHY IS BEEKEEPING SO IMPORTANT?

Local honey has many health benefits but is hard to come by year round in stores and in local farmers markets. Honeybees help the environment and populations are on the decline. Many municipalities in the State of Illinois have already legalized beekeeping within their jurisdictions. Research shows that Honeybees thrive in urban environments and can create cleaner honey than in rural agricultural areas.

	SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	ADDRESS	EMAIL ADDRESS (optional)
1		Cheyenne Rankin	406 N Wood	Rankin.Cheyenne@hughes.net
2		Denis E. Scharz	177 W. Guth Rd	Washington, IL
3		Margo Nelson	2230 Hummingbird Ln.,	Washington, IL
4		Molly Diaz	300 Woodrow Dr.	East Peoria IL 61611
5		Megan Homan	6300 N Allen Rd #13	Peoria IL 61614
6		Hunter Cullough	204 S Church	Hunter72699@gmail
7		Shelby Sandy	406 N Wood	Shelbator55@gmail.com
8		Brandy Sandy	406 N Wood St	Brandy.Sandy55@yahoo
9		Robert Garcia	502 Wilshire Blvd	Mr.robertgarcia@gmail.com
10		Curt Reynolds	406 N Wood	Reynoldsctd@att.net
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	SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	ADDRESS	EMAIL ADDRESS (optional)
1	<i>Ruth Kaufman</i>	Ruth Kaufman	2258 Northridge Ct	
2	<i>Harold J. Kaufman</i>	Harold J Kaufman	2258 Northridge Ct	
3	<i>Josh Bishop</i>	Josh Bishop	2263 N. Meadowview Ln.	
4	<i>Kori Bishop</i>	Kori Bishop	2263 N Meadow Ln	
5	<i>Jackie Petzing</i>	Jackie Petzing	120 PAIR Lane	
6	<i>PAT RENNAU</i>	PAT RENNAU	2243 Northridge Ct	
7	<i>Jerry Rennau</i>	Jerry Rennau	2243 Northridge Ct	
8	<i>KELLY EWERS</i>	KELLY EWERS	2265 NORTHEDGE CT	
9	<i>Joe Ewers</i>	Joe Ewers	2265 Northridge Ct	
10	<i>Paige Ewers</i>	Paige Ewers	2265 northridge Ct	
11	<i>Sarah Gladitsch</i>	Sarah Gladitsch	110 JADE CT	
12	<i>Brett Aberle</i>	Brett Aberle	23289 Dec-Mac Rd	
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ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
APIARY INSPECTION SECTION
P.O. BOX 19281 - FAIRGROUNDS
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62794-9281

For Agency Use Only

Registration No. _____

Registration Date _____

APPLICATION FOR APIARY REGISTRATION

TO ALL BEEKEEPERS IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS:

In compliance with the Illinois *Bees and Apiaries Act*, every person keeping bees must register with the Illinois Department of Agriculture. There is no charge for registration. To register, complete and return this form to the address listed above.

Mr/Mrs/Ms _____
(Circle one)

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ COUNTY of RESIDENCE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

* Please consider registering your colonies on DriftWatch at www.driftwatch.org.

APIARY LOCATION INFORMATION

An apiary is any place where one or more colonies of bees are kept. Location of all apiaries must be listed.

Please provide GPS (Global Positioning System) Coordinates which are required for registration. They can be obtained from the website <https://www.getlatlong.net>. Address and Legal Description (example below) are also helpful.

EXAMPLE OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: (CAN BE OBTAINED FROM YOUR COUNTY PLAT BOOK OR SIDWELL BOOK IN THE COUNTY RECORDER'S OFFICE OR THROUGH THE GPS TAX BOOK IN THE COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE)

1/4 1/4 SECTION SW	1/4 SECTION SE	SECTION 27	TOWNSHIP 17 NORTH	RANGE 5 WEST	P.M. 3RD
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Number of Colonies	County	Name of Township	GPS Coordinates, Address and Legal Description (Section, Township, Range)	Landowner or Name of Person at Premises Where the Colonies Are Kept
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_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

IMPORTANT NOTICE: This state agency is requesting disclosure of information that is necessary to accomplish the statutory purpose as outlined under the Illinois Compiled Statutes, Chapter 510, Act 20. Failure to provide this information shall prevent this form from being processed. This form has been approved by the State Forms Management Center.

[illegible]