

**CITY OF LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN
CITY PLAN COMMISSION
REPORT
September 2, 2014**

➤ **AGENDA ITEM – PC2014-09-02-07**

AN ORDINANCE to create Subsections 15.04(P) and 20.22(HH) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of La Crosse to permit beekeeping as an accessory use in residential, commercial district with residential uses, and public and semipublic districts.

➤ **ROUTING:** J&A Committee

➤ **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

This Ordinance was referred from August Common Council Cycle in order to revise the proposed Ordinance for logistic reasons. Planning staff has revised these issues, which included feedback from the City Clerk and the amended Ordinance is attached to the legislation.

The Subject Ordinance is intended to enhance urban plant life through increased pollination and to allow for small-scale honey and wax production for personal use. The ordinance requires an annual license and fee, and the applicant has to get permission from the property owner and neighbors. There are requirements for location and barriers, and standards of practice.

➤ **GENERAL LOCATION:**

Citywide

➤ **RECOMMENDATION OF OTHER BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:**

The Common Council referred this item at their August 14, 2014 Common Council Meeting.

➤ **CONSISTENCY WITH ADOPTED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:**

There are no plan recommendations regarding beekeeping.

➤ **PLANNING RECOMMENDATION:**

The ordinance is based on examples of beekeeping ordinances from Minneapolis, Madison, and Milwaukee, and has been reviewed by the La Crosse Area Honey Beekeepers Club and City Attorney. These regulations should reduce the risk involved and provide a benefit for residents and bees (which are dwindling in population as a result of pesticides). **This Ordinance is recommended for approval, provided the City Clerk has no further concerns.**

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