



211 Walnut Street
Neenah, WI 54956

AN ORDINANCE: By Public Services and Safety
Committee & Sustainability Committee
Re: Amending Code §10-3(15) to permit raising
Mason Bees in the City of Neenah

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-3
Introduced: March 18, 2015
Committee/Commission Action:
RECOMMENDED FOR PASSAGE

AN ORDINANCE

The Common Council of the City of Neenah, Wisconsin, do ordain as follows:

WHEREAS, Section 10-3(15) currently prohibits the raising of bees in the City of Neenah; and,

WHEREAS, honey bees are experiencing severe stress on their populations in the United States, resulting in bee colony collapse, threatening the pollination of various crops potentially impacting the food supply; and,

WHEREAS, because of the potential risk of bee stings to humans and pets in a densely populated urban area, the City of Neenah has long prohibited raising bees within the City limits; and,

WHEREAS, mason bees are a native solitary bee species that can provide the benefits of bee pollination without the nuisance of bee stings, since male mason bees do not have a stinger and females only sting if trapped or squeezed; and,

WHEREAS, mason bees are very effective pollinators where just two or three females can pollinate a mature apple tree and they will also work in cool or rainy weather when honeybees are more likely to be dormant; and,

WHEREAS, it has become popular for backyard gardeners to raise mason bees to aide in pollination of garden plants and backyard orchards; and,

WHEREAS, since mason bees pose a negligible stinging threat and provide significant benefits for the production of fruits and vegetables in backyard and community gardens in the City of Neenah;

NOW THEREFORE, the Common Council does amend the Nuisance Code in the City's Code of Ordinances as follows:

Section 1. Section 10-3(15) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Neenah is amended by deleting the stricken language and adding the highlighted language to read as follows:

(15) *Raising of bees.* It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to raise bees, except mason bees, within the City. Notwithstanding the foregoing, mason bees (genus *Osmia*), due to their benefits for pollination and limited stinging threat, may be raised and/or kept within the City provided any mason bee house be located a minimum of 3' from the lot line.

Section 2. Severability. In the event any section, subsection, clause, phrase or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held illegal, invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this ordinance. It is the legislative intent of the Common Council that this ordinance would have been adopted if such illegal provision had not been included or any illegal application had not been made.

Section 3. Repeal and Effective Date. All ordinances or parts of ordinances and resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed. This ordinance shall take effect from and after its passage and publication.

Moved by: Ald. Hillstrom/Pollnow
Adopted: March 18, 2015
Approved: March 18, 2015
Published: March 23, 2015

Approved:



Dean R. Kaufert, Mayor

Attest:



Patricia A. Sturn, City Clerk

THIS INSTRUMENT WAS DRAFTED BY:
City Attorney James G. Godlewski
211 Walnut Street
Neenah, WI 54956
State Bar No. 1005210