



# MEMO

## PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

To: Common Council  
From: Jessica Buettner, Planning Assistant  
Date: October 16, 2026  
Re: 12.15 Beekeeping Ordinance Discussion

Per the request received from Alder Moore, staff has looked into the following related to [Section 12.15](#) of the Municipal Code regarding beekeeping: the number of hives currently allowed within the City of Kaukauna, how that number is determined, and what number of hives would be appropriate.

### **Background**

Beekeeping was first approved in the City of Kaukauna by the Common Council back in 2018. Initially, staff from the Planning and Community Development Department recommended a phased approach to introducing beekeeping in the City of Kaukauna. This phased approach was successfully implemented in the Village of Allouez in 2016.

At that time, Phase 1 introduced a permit process for up to three permitted beekeepers to operate a maximum of three hives on three City park properties: Kelso Park and Pond, Van Epern Park and Pond, and a portion of the Konkapot Preserve within a certain distance from the creek. These sites were chosen because all three are passive recreation areas, do not include children's play equipment, maintain some distance from private residences, and feature ample native landscaping and fresh water sources.

Phase 2 introduced a permitting process for beekeeping on private property which allowed for one beekeeper and two beehives per parcel. There are three residents currently keeping bees in the City. One resident has two hives, and the other two residents each have one hive.

### **Comparison**

| <b>Municipality</b>     | <b># of Hives Allowed</b>                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>City of Kaukauna</b> | <b>2 per parcel</b>                                                                                                                                                             |
| City of Appleton        | 3 per acre (25 on approved urban farm)                                                                                                                                          |
| City of De Pere         | 2 per parcel                                                                                                                                                                    |
| City of Green Bay       | Determined on a case by case basis                                                                                                                                              |
| City of Menasha         | Determined by property dimensions – hives must be located a minimum of 20' from property lines                                                                                  |
| City of Neenah          | 1 per 5,000 square feet                                                                                                                                                         |
| City of Oshkosh         | $\frac{1}{2}$ acre lot or smaller: 2<br>$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ acre lot: 4<br>$\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 acre lot: 6<br>1-5 acre lot: 8<br>5 acre lot or larger: no restrictions |
| Village of Fox Crossing | 1 acre lot or smaller: 2<br>Lots larger than 1 acre: 6                                                                                                                          |
| Village of Wrightstown  | Determined on a case by case basis – lots smaller than one acre can have no more than 2 hives                                                                                   |
| Town of Grand Chute     | $\frac{1}{2}$ acre lot or smaller: 2<br>$\frac{1}{2}$ acre – 1 acre lot: 4<br>1 acre lot or larger: 6                                                                           |

### **The following municipalities do not permit beekeeping:**

- Village of Combined Locks
- Village of Kimberly

### **The following municipalities only permit beekeeping in agriculturally zoned districts:**

- Village of Greenville
- Village of Harrison
- Village of Hortonville
- Village of Little Chute
- Town of Buchanan
- Town of Holland

### **Staff Recommendation:**

Staff are recommending discussion and requesting direction on whether to pursue a possible code update or not.