



**Legislative Committee  
Meeting Notice  
Tuesday, May 6, 2025  
6:30 p.m.**

**Legislative Committee**

Jake Cattanach, Chair  
Justin Pluess, Vice-Chair  
Madalyn Palmquist

Notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Legislative Committee to be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 444 West Grand Avenue, Wisconsin Rapids. The meeting will be streamed live on the City of Wisconsin Rapids Facebook page and will also be broadcast live on Charter Cable Channel 985 and Solarus HD Cable Channel 3. If a member of the public wishes to access this meeting live via Zoom audio conferencing, you must contact the City Clerk at least 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting to coordinate your access.

**Agenda**

1. Call to Order
2. Discuss proposed revisions to Chapter 25 of the Municipal Code regarding the keeping of honey bees.
3. Adjourn

**NOTICE OF COMMON COUNCIL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that one half or more of the membership of the Common Council may be present at the above meeting and may gather information about a subject over which they have decision-making responsibility. Pursuant to State ex rel. Badke v. Greendale Village Bd., 173 Wis.2d 553, 494 N.W.2d 408 (1993), such attendance by Council members may be considered a meeting of the Common Council. This notice is given so that members of the Common Council may attend the meeting, although the Common Council will not take any formal action at this meeting.

*The City of Wisconsin Rapids encourages participation from all its citizens. If access to any public meeting is not possible, notification to the City Clerk's office at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting is encouraged to make the necessary accommodation. Call the Clerk at (715) 421-8200 to request accommodation.*

Proposed creation of 25.02(3) of the Municipal Code - Honeybees

25.02 (3) HONEYBEES (*apis mellifera*)

- a. Definitions: For the purpose of this section, the following terms have the meaning indicated:
  - i. Apiary: the assembly of one or more colonies of bees at a single location.
  - ii. Beekeeper: a person who owns or has charge of one or more colonies of bees.
  - iii. Beekeeping equipment: anything used in the operation of an apiary, such as hive bodies, supers, frames, top and bottom boards and extractors.
  - iv. Colony: an aggregate of bees consisting principally of workers, but having, when perfect, one queen and at times drones, brood, combs, and honey.
  - v. Hive: the receptacle inhabited by a colony that is manufactured for that purpose.
  - vi. Honeybee: all life stages of the common domestic honeybee, *apis mellifera* species.
  - vii. Lot: a contiguous parcel of land under ownership.
  - viii. Nucleus colony: means a small quantity of bees with a queen housed in a smaller than usual hive box designed for a particular purpose.
  - ix. Undeveloped property: means any idle land that is not improved or actually in the process of being improved with residential, commercial, industrial, church, park, school or governmental facilities or other structures or improvements intended for human occupancy and the grounds maintained in associations therewith.
- b. Keeping of Honeybees. Honeybees may be kept or maintained upon the following:
  - i. Up to 2 colonies may be raised within a lot zoned for residential use.

- ii. Rental tenants of a single-family dwelling or a one-two family dwelling shall obtain written approval from the landlord prior to the keeping or maintaining of honeybees on the rental premise.
  - iii. Educational facilities may keep honeybees for educational purposes only.
- c. Honeybees are not allowed. Honeybees are not allowed to be kept or maintained upon the following:
  - i. Mobile home parks.
  - ii. Vacant lots or undeveloped property unless the person resides on the abutting property.
  - iii. Condominiums.
- d. Property and Hive Requirements.
  - i. Honeybee colonies shall be kept in hives with removable frames, which shall be kept in sound and usable condition.
  - ii. Each beekeeper shall ensure that a convenient source of water is available to the colony so long as colonies remain active outside of the hive.
  - iii. Each beekeeper shall ensure that no wax comb or other material that might encourage robbing by other bees are left upon the grounds of the apiary lot.
  - iv. For each colony the hive structure is not to exceed one standard 9-5/8 inch depth 10-frame hive body with no supers.
  - v. Each colony is to be kept more than 25 feet from a property line of the lot upon which the apiary is located, as measured from the nearest point on the hive to the property line.
  - vi. The beekeeper shall establish and maintain a flyway barrier at least 6 feet in height. The flyway barrier may consist of a wall, fence, dense vegetation or a combination thereof, such that bees will fly over rather than through the material to reach the colony.

e. Sanitation.

- i. Each beekeeper shall maintain his beekeeping equipment in good condition, including keeping the hives painted if they have been painted but are peeling or flaking, and securing unused equipment from weather, potential theft or vandalism and occupancy by swarms. It shall not be a defense to this ordinance that a beekeeper's unused equipment attracted a swarm and that the beekeeper is not intentionally keeping bees.
- ii. No person shall knowingly store, hold or expose honeybee products, beehives or any other beekeeping equipment or appliances in a manner which may contribute to the spread or dissemination of honeybee diseases or pests.

f. Enforcement.

- i. Inspection. The city may, upon the consent of the property owner or upon obtaining a special inspection warrant, enter a building, structure, or property where honeybees are kept to ascertain whether the keeper is in compliance with this ordinance. The police department and the planning and economic development department may issue compliance orders and citations pursuant to the provisions of this section, and state law.
- ii. Restricted covenants. This section is not intended to interfere with any restrictive covenants otherwise applicable to certain properties in the City.
- iii. For the purpose of enforcing City ordinances against destruction of property, each colony/hive shall be presumed to have a value of \$275.