



## Office of the City Administrator

**To:** Mayor Welch, Common Council Members  
**From:** Al Hulick, City Administrator  
**Date:** July 21, 2020  
**Subject:** Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Ordinance #477 Permitting and Keeping of Bees in Residentially-Zoned Districts

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### Summary

The Common Council directed staff to prepare an Ordinance to permit the keeping of honey bees within residentially zoned districts. Ordinance #477 provides the guidelines and responsibilities to allow residents to keep chickens within their property.

### Background

On July 7, 2020, the Milton Common Council held a public hearing and approved the first reading of Ordinance #477. Additionally, the Common Council directed staff to make modifications to the Ordinance regarding the certification requirement and hive/stack language. Staff has also prepared a resolution which establishes a permit fee for the keeping of bees, which will be addressed through separate action.

### Analysis

Ordinance #477 provides that a property owner may apply for a permit to keep honey bees on their residentially zoned property. Once an application is received, the City Clerk will notify all properties owners within a 200-foot circular radius of the parcel of this request and allow neighbors to comment or request a hearing.

Applicants would be allowed to have a maximum of two hives/stacks. The Ordinance outlines requirements of how the bees must be kept and cared for including requirements for their hives.

A minimum six foot closed fence, closed hedge, building or other flyway barrier or other barrier of sufficient height approved by the city, must be located between hives and all property lines within twenty (20) feet of the hives. A flyway barrier is not required if the hive is located not less than ten (10) feet above ground level. Hives and related structures that form the apiary must have a minimum twenty (20) foot front yard setback and a minimum ten (10) foot side yard and ten (10) foot rear yard setbacks. Hives must be located a minimum of twenty-five (25) feet from dwellings, porches, gazebos, decks, swimming pools, permanently affixed play equipment and other habitable areas on adjoining parcels unless the owner of the adjoining parcel has provided written permission for closer hive placement. The permit holder must provide verification of beekeeper training.



**Recommendation**

The City Administration recommends the Common Council approve the second reading of Ordinance #477. The Common Council may also choose to waive the third reading and move to adopt.