

City Council Agenda Memo

From: Jacob Meshke, Deputy City Manager

Council Meeting: March 28, 2023 / April 11, 2023

Subject: Ordinance 23-011: Bee Keeping

Presenter: Jacob Meshke, Deputy City Manager

Summary:

Ordinance 23-011 will allow for bee keeping within Brookings. This ordinance comes with a recommendation of support from the Sustainability Council and has been created in partnership with the Brookings School District.

Background:

Current City Code prohibits bee keeping in Brookings. The Brookings School District approached the City with the intention to keep bees and inquired about the opportunity to amend current City Code. The Sustainability Council provided a recommendation to allow for the keeping of bees so long as it does not pose a health and safety risk and complies with the South Dakota Apiary Program. City Staff, including City Attorney Britzman, collaborated to create Ordinance 23-011 based on the Sustainability Council's recommendation and considering peer communities with bee keeping ordinances.

Keeping of bees provides benefits to include beeswax, honey, as well as numerous learning opportunities about bee patterns.

Item Details:

Ordinance 23-011 would allow for the keeping of bees within Brookings. Highlights of the ordinance include:

- Hives would not be allowed in front yards and must be located at least ten (10) feet from side yard and rear yard property lines.
- There would be a limit of four (4) hives per property.
- Keeping of bees would be prohibited by this ordinance if it were to cause a nuisance.
- Bee keepers will be required to register apiaries with the State of South Dakota and comply with all applicable federal and state laws.

Legal Consideration:

City Attorney Britzman has drafted and been engaged in the ordinance creation process.

Strategic Plan Consideration:

Sustainability – Keeping of bees promotes the pollination process as well as providing a source of beeswax and honey.

Service and Innovation Excellence – Allowing for the keeping of bees will promote partnership with and educational opportunities for the Brookings School District.

Financial Consideration:

None

Options and Recommendations:

The City Council has the following options:

1. Approve as presented
2. Amend
3. Deny
4. Move the item to a Study Session
5. Discuss/take no action/table

Staff recommends approval of the ordinance as presented.

Supporting Documentation:

Ordinance

Current City Code