



CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701-2724

Community Planning & Development Services

300 Sixth Street

Robert Laroco, Planner II
Community Planning & Development Services
city web: www.rcgov.org

Phone: 605-394-4120
Fax: 605-394-6636
e-mail: robert.laroco@rcgov.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: Rapid City Planning Commission
Linda Marchand; Chair, Rapid City Planning Commission
Brett Limbaugh; Director, Community Planning and Development Services

FROM: Robert Laroco, Planner II, Current Planning

RE: **ITEM 9. File #14OA009:** An Ordinance Amendment to permit hobby beekeeping in residential areas by amending Section 17.04.035, 17.08.020, and 17.10.020 of the Rapid City Municipal Code.

DATE: April 9, 2015

The applicant has submitted a request to amend the City Zoning Ordinance to allow hobby beekeeping as a permitted use in residential districts. Staff has reviewed the requested Ordinance Amendment and has noted the following considerations:

- Honey bee pollination in South Dakota agricultural crops, orchards, and gardens is vitally important;
- City residents are currently conducting hobby beekeeping on their residentially zoned properties;
- The City believes that hobby beekeeping is conducive to the general health, safety, and well-being of the community
- Current City Ordinance does not include hobby beekeeping as a permitted or conditional agricultural use in the City Limits;
- The Rapid City Council has directed staff to create an Ordinance to the Zoning Regulations to allow hobby beekeeping as a permitted use in residential zoning districts.
- The City Attorney's Office has also created an associated revision to the Rapid City Municipal Code Chapter 6.20 regarding the regulation of hobby beekeeping. The associated Ordinance has been attached to this Ordinance Amendment for the Planning



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Commission's convenience. However, the associated Ordinance is not a part of the Zoning Ordinance and, as such, no action by Planning Commission is required on the associated Ordinance Amendment.

Based on the request of the City Council, staff has created the attached ordinance to permit hobby beekeeping in residential districts within City Limits. The Planning Commission should note that as it is written, the proposed Ordinance Amendment does not include any licensing requirements or the additional review and/or approval of a special use permit or Conditional Use Permit. Neither Community Planning & Development Services nor the Black Hills Humane Society will be tasked with tracking or reviewing the locations or operations of bee hives in the City Limits.

The Development Review Team has reviewed the requested Ordinance Amendment and has recommended that the proposed Ordinance Amendment be approved.