

RESOLUTION #3-R-22

Modify Appleton Weed Ordinance to accommodate No Mow May best practices.

Date: February 16, 2022

Submitted By: Alderperson Meltzer-District 2, Alderperson Fenton-District 6, Alderperson Schultz-District 9, Alderperson Alfheim-District 11, Alderperson Wolff-District 12

Referred To: Municipal Services Committee

WHEREAS; No Mow May Resolution #2-R-20, which established the pilot community-wide initiative to support emerging pollinator insects, including the delayed enforcement of the City's Weed Ordinance until June 1st, was approved by Common Council in May of 2020 and subsequently renewed for 2021, resulting in no substantial additional burden on city staff and resources; and,

WHEREAS; a study published by Professor Del Toro, et.al., of Lawrence University which analyzed the effects of No Mow May participation in Appleton in 2020, demonstrated that both delayed and reduced frequency mowing and use of pollinator-friendly alternatives to harmful chemical lawn applications dramatically improved bee population numbers and species diversity; and,

WHEREAS; No Mow May has been adopted by a majority of neighboring municipalities, many of which establish allowable lawn heights as 12" for both commercial and residential lots, and by adjusting Appleton's allowed residential height from 8" to 12" will clarify community participation and simplify enforcement, allowing residents to mow less frequently while still maintaining their yards which has many environmental benefits; and,

WHEREAS; the City of Appleton's Weed Commissioner maintains authority to address noxious weeds throughout the year, as authorized by Municipal Code sections 12-58 and 12-59; as well as control rank and unmanaged growth; now therefore,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the City of Appleton amend Municipal Code section 12-58c(3), striking (1) and (2), which define separate height categories for lot types, and amend c(3) to read "The Weed Commissioner shall destroy or cause to be destroyed noxious weeds, and is further empowered to enter upon public and private lands, **on or after June 1**, to cut or remove the accumulation or growth of weeds, grass, brush or other rank or offensive vegetation which has grown to a height **greater than 12"** and amend Municipal Code section 12-59c(3), to read "Yards, including any area between the installed sidewalk and the curb, with a common stand of turf grass is higher than ~~eight (8)~~ **twelve (12)** inches is declared to be in a state of neglect and a public nuisance.