

GUIDELINES FOR CHICKENS

At the February 5, 2013 City Council work session, the City Council directed the following guidelines to be used for allowing chickens.

The Zoning Ordinance “permits” chickens in AGR-1 and AGR-2 zoning districts.

“A” General farming, including horticulture, dairying, livestock and poultry raising and other similar uses.

The Zoning Ordinance allows chickens in the following districts as a “special exception” in R-125, R-100, R-85, R-75, R-65, R-60 and R-50 zoning districts.

“F” Agriculture, poultry, and livestock raising, but not including the operation of chicken brooder houses; and provided no structure, pen or corral housing animals be located closer than 200 ft. to any property line.

Definitions of General Terms

“Domesticated hens” means female chickens that may, where permitted, be kept and maintained for the non-commercial production of eggs, education, companionship, or recreation. Other types of fowl and poultry shall not be considered domesticated hens.

Domesticated Hens

Type and number: Except upon property zoned for agricultural use or for properties in the residential districts of five (5) acres or more in size, a parcel of land shall contain the maximum number of domesticated hens identified below. Only hens are allowed; roosters are expressly prohibited. There is no restriction on domestic hen breeds.

| Max. # Poultry | Parcel Area (sq. ft.) | Acreage |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 2 | 0 to 5,009 | 0.0 to .11 |
| 4 | 5,010 to 10,236 | .12 to .23 |
| 6 | 10,237 or more | .24 or more |

Location: All domesticated hens shall be kept in the rear yards of a residential property subject to the setback standards contained in this subsection. No domesticated hens shall be kept in the front yard or side yard.

Setbacks: An enclosure shall be located twenty-five (25) feet away from any residential structure (other than the permit holder’s residence) located in a residential zone district and ten (10) feet from any property line.

Enclosure

All domesticated hens shall be kept outside in a structure that is a predator-proof enclosure, a portion of which must be a covered henhouse, and a portion of which must be a fenced area

In addition to the fenced enclosure, hens shall be provided with a covered, predator-resistant henhouse. A minimum of two (2) square feet per hen shall be provided for henhouses and six (6) square feet per hen for fenced enclosures.

Fenced enclosures and henhouses must be properly ventilated, clean, dry, and odor-free, kept in a neat and sanitary condition at all times, in a manner that will not disturb the use or enjoyment of neighboring lots due to noise, odor or other adverse impact.

The henhouse and fenced enclosure must provide adequate ventilation, adequate sun and shade, and must be constructed in a manner to resist access by rodents, wild birds, and predators, including dogs and cats.

Henhouses shall be enclosed on all sides and shall have a roof and doors. Access doors must be able to be shut and locked at night. Opening windows and vents must be covered with predator- and bird-resistant wire of less than one (1) inch openings.

Sanitation, Nuisance, and Humane Treatment

Waste storage and removal. Provision must be made for the storage and removal of chicken manure. All manure for composting or fertilizing shall be contained in a well-aerated garden compost pile. All other manure not used for composting or fertilizing shall be removed. In addition, the henhouse and surrounding area must be kept free from trash and accumulated droppings.

No perceptible odor from the hens or the hen enclosure shall be present at any property line.

All feed shall be stored in a rodent and predator-proof container having a secure lid.

No slaughtering of domesticated hens may occur on the property.

No breeding of hen shall occur on the property.

No domesticated hens shall be used or trained for the purpose of fighting for amusement, sport, or financial gain.