



CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS
Committee of the Whole Agenda Communication

Meeting Date: June 8, 2020

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Agenda Item: Residential Poultry Discussion

Explanation: The City's residential poultry regulations were adopted in October 2019. This allows for poultry on certain residential properties following approval of a special use. The underlying regulations that were adopted are attached. A special use allows for other conditions to be applied above and beyond the underlying regulations on a case-by-case basis if desired.

Staff continues to see interest from some residents in housing chickens. The first special use permit was granted in January and both of our other requests were denied at Monday's Council meeting. One request was heard at Wednesday's Planning and Zoning Commission meeting (which was recommended for approval) and two others are scheduled for public hearings in July.

Staff requests feedback about whether there is interest in either an amendment to the existing regulations or to repeal the consideration of residential poultry altogether.

Fiscal Impact: Special use permits require a \$100 fee. Approval of a special use to allow chickens would then require obtaining a building permit and to acquire an annual \$25 chickens permit.

Action Requested: Feedback on whether any changes may be desired pertaining to the existing regulations. If a text amendment is the direction given, it would first require a public hearing at an upcoming Planning and Zoning Commission meeting prior to seeking Council approval.

The raising of poultry may be established subject to the following general requirements and such other restrictions as the Planning and Zoning Commission or City Council believe proper under the particular circumstances:

- (a) Chickens shall only be permitted on owner-occupied properties.
- (b) Not more than five (5) chickens may be kept on any lot.
- (c) No roosters or unreasonably loud species of chicken shall be kept on the lot.
- (d) No chickens shall be slaughtered.
- (e) Chickens shall be kept at all times within an enclosure in the rear yard constructed and consistent with a plan submitted and approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council. The enclosure shall be kept and built in such a manner as to allow for easy ingress and egress for the chickens and shall offer protection from weather elements. Wire or other materials can only be used if a permanent six-foot (6') high opaque fence entirely encloses the rear yard. In lieu of a fence, a permanent enclosure housing the chickens shall be constructed subject to the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission and approval of the City Council. The enclosures shall not be visible from the street on which the house faces.
- (f) The area of any enclosure for the purpose of housing chickens including any outdoor runs shall not exceed sixty (60) square feet.
- (g) Any enclosure housing chickens shall require a building permit.
- (h) All enclosures housing chickens shall not be located closer than ten (10) feet from any side or rear property line and twenty-five (25) feet from any residential structure on an adjacent lot.
- (i) No person shall allow the accumulation of any waste material resulting from the keeping of chickens which creates any offensive odor or nuisance.
- (j) All food sources and other items that are associated with the keeping of chickens that are likely to attract rats, mice, or other rodents shall be protected in a container with a tightly fitted lid so as to prevent rodents from gaining access to or coming into contact with them.
- (k) The fee for the housing of chickens shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25) for a one calendar year permit.
- (l) Special use permits shall not run with the land.