



Planning and Economic Development

Sara Roediger, AICP, Director

From: Chris McLeod, AICP, Planning Manager
To: Members of the Planning Commission
Date: 9/9/2026
Re: Chickens Zoning Ordinance Amendment Discussion

As the Commission is aware, the topic of the keeping of chickens has been discussed multiple times in previous years, most recently in late 2023. At that time, the main discussion focused largely on the keeping of chickens on smaller lots than what is currently permitted, which is one (1) acre. The Planning Commission determined that moving forward with ordinance changes reflecting a change in policy was not desirable at the time.

Over the course of the last several months, the keeping of chickens has once again been a subject of conversation due to several instances where the keeping of chickens on larger properties has come to light. The current conversation pertains more to the number of chickens that can be kept on a larger property rather than the overall ability to keep of chickens on smaller properties. In addition, the question has been raised whether the keeping of other animals (livestock) should also be considered at the same time as chickens. Staff has discussed this internally and has determined that the further discussion with the Planning Commission would be appropriate since the context is much different than previous conversations. Staff has proposed changes to the latest working draft that was last seen by the Commission in 2023 that include changes to definitions, the number of animals that could be allowed, setbacks, etc.

If you have any questions, please let us know.