

Issues regarding the Poultry Ordinance from the Planning Commission hearing

Comments from the board.

Recommendation

1. Exclude geese and turkeys from the poultry definition
2. In chapter 10.41, all provisions other than letter b shall remain.
3. In (b), number of poultry allowed, recommend permitting the number of chickens allowed based on the size of the lot. The larger the lot, the more chickens are allowed.
4. In (d), personal use only, the homeowner should be allowed to sell the eggs at a Farmer's market.
5. In (e), poultry enclosed, a homeowner on a large lot should be allowed to have the mobility to move the chickens around on the property.
6. In (f), nuisance prohibited, the motion-activated lighting in the fenced area shall not be a violation of a nuisance.
7. Some kind of grandfathering system should be allowed for homeowners with existing chickens which exceed the maximum number allowed. It should work that when the chickens die, they come into conformity with the maximum number.

Other comments not part of the recommendation

1. Define what a pet is. The judge's order mentions pets.
2. The animals cannot become a nuisance to neighbors.
3. If you tie a number to chickens (25) then other people are going to want more dogs. The limit on dogs is currently three (3). Why should some people get to have more pets than others?
4. If the lots are larger (2 acres), why can't the chickens be in the front yard if it is fenced? Dogs and cats can roam in the fenced in front yard.
5. What should be done about roosters? If a rooster becomes a nuisance, then it should be kept inside the home or in some kind of structure so that it will not make noise every morning.
6. Staff should find people who are experts on what is the maximum number of chickens per acre that should be allowed so that the chickens have a safe and comfortable existence. They shouldn't be living on top of one another, they should have space.

Comments from the public.

- 1 The grandfather clause needs to assist the homeowners with existing chickens. What is currently in the ordinance is not a grandfather clause.
- 2 Roosters are kept to protect the chickens from hawks. Hawks are a problem.
- 3 There should be a pet ordinance and not just a poultry ordinance. This should relate to all animals.
- 4 The accessory structure and then any kind of material to keep hawks away from chickens could become a sight nuisance in a subdivision.
- 5 The ordinance opens up too many different issues that neighborhoods and subdivisions will have to address.
- 6 There should be a limit to the number of cats one family can have.
- 7 The allowance to have pets (chickens) depends on the responsibility of the homeowner. Should they not be responsible in the care of the animals, then they should not be allowed to keep them.