



MEMORANDUM

City of Angels City Council

Date: July 11, 2024
To: Planning Commission
From: Amy Augustine, City Planner
RE: RESOLUTION OF INTENT 24-010 ANIMAL KEEPING

Recommendation:

Recommend to the City Council one of the following:

- A. Adopt Resolution of Intent 24-010 as presented, or
- B. Adopt Resolution of Intent 24-010 with Planning Commission Changes, or
- C. Return Resolution of Intent 24-010 to Staff with direction

Background:

The City of Angels adopted Ordinance 511 on September 21, 2021. This ordinance introduced the concept of small and large Animal Keeping on small residential lots. The small lot animal-keeping provisions of Ordinance 511 were introduced as a temporary provision to facilitate chicken-keeping during the pandemic with the staff report for Ordinance 511 focusing on small-lot animal keeping. The staff recommendation at that time called for adopting a refined ordinance at a future date.

In response to public input at the April 16, 2024, City Council meeting; the City Council discussed amendments to the small-lot animal keeping code provisions focusing on chickens and fowl. The Council reviewed staff recommendations at its May 7, 2024, and June 4, 2024, meetings. Staff was directed to incorporate the following code revisions:

- Allow 12-15 chickens per parcel
- Require chickens to be kept in adequately sized coops
- Require at least 10-foot setbacks from property lines for coops
- Prohibit roosters
- Maintain fowl in a clean and healthy environment

Strategic Plan Alignment

Conservation and Open Space. *Protect the health and safety of people and property in the city from natural and man-made hazards.* Animal-keeping ultimately comes down to maintaining animals in a manner that does not create a public nuisance (i.e., health hazard) and neighborhood disruptions.

Discussion/Analysis

Based on public input and staff direction from Council, the attached Draft Code revisions (**Attachment B**) are provided for input and further direction from the Planning Commission before proceeding to the City Council. One item remained outstanding from discussions with the City Council:

Whether or not to allow chicken keeping in the R-2 and R-3 zoning districts other than confining them to common areas within apartment complexes as proposed in the code amendment.

Pursuant to Angels Municipal Code (AMC) Section 17.90.040, the following findings are required for code amendments:

Finding A: The proposal conforms with the City's General Plan and Municipal Code

The proposed amendments will implement the following general plan goal, policies and programs:

Goal 4.E Reduce conflicts between urban and agricultural uses.

Policy

4.E.1 Recognize that agricultural uses are important to the economy and character of the region and that existing agricultural uses should be protected from potential land use conflicts with nearby urban uses.

4.E.c Update Title 17 of the City of Angels Municipal Code to Address Farm Animals in Urban Areas

Coordinate with the local farm bureau, 4-H and other stakeholders to update Title 17 of the City of Angels Municipal Code to establish parameters for keeping farm animals (e.g., livestock, poultry) in urban areas. Updates should address minimum parcel sizes appropriate for maintaining farm animals and standards for maintaining farm animals consistent with community health. Consideration should be given to the use of some farm animals in vegetation management and fire protection (e.g., through grazing).

The proposed revisions will implement these general plan goals, policies and programs by establishing requirements to allow for small and large animal keeping while reducing the likelihood of creating a public nuisance. Therefore, the proposed changes are consistent with the general plan and the municipal code.

Finding B: The proposed changes or amendments will not be substantially detrimental to the health, safety, or general welfare of the City.

The primary purpose of the proposed code amendment is to ensure that small and large animal keeping does not create a public nuisance. Therefore, the changes will not be substantially detrimental to the health, safety, or general welfare of the City, but rather will protect the general health, safety, and general welfare of the city.

Based on the preceding, the proposed code amendments are consistent with this finding.

ENVIRONMENTAL FINDINGS

Pursuant to the state and City guidelines for implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the proposed code amendments are Categorical exempt from further review pursuant to Section 15304, Class 4 (Minor Alterations to Land) and involve only minor conversions or alterations of land to allow for animal keeping and because the proposed amendments implement a program identified within the scope of the 2020 General Plan Environmental Impact Report adopted for the 2020 General Plan.

Financial Impact

Council directed that a permitting or registration system for small-animal keeping not be used because insufficient staff exists to properly manage a licensing/ administrative use permit/registration pathway. The proposed amendments exclude such provisions.

Attachments

Attachment A – Resolution of Intent 24-010

Attachment B – Proposed Code Revisions