

To: City of the Village of Douglas City Council
Date: March 2, 2026
From: Sean Homyen, Planning & Zoning Administrator
RE: Amendment to Chicken Ordinance



The Village of Friendliness – Since 1870

Background. As Council is aware, a code enforcement action was initiated after the City received a complaint regarding chickens on a neighboring property. The City currently regulates the keeping of chickens through a permit process administered by the City Clerk or designee. The enforcement matter ultimately resulted in a legal dispute, during which concerns were raised regarding the ordinance and the permit process. The City Attorney reviewed the existing ordinance and identified areas where the permit procedures could be clarified and improved. One of the primary changes is that neighbor comments will be considered as part of the review process but will no longer automatically result in denial of a permit.

Summary of Amendments

The amendments include:

- Clarifying permit application requirements
- Establishing certified mail notice to adjacent property owners
- Allowing neighbor comments to be considered as part of the review process without automatically resulting in permit denial
- Establishing review criteria for permit approval
- Creating an appeal process to City Council
- Clarifying permit renewal procedures

Overall, the amendments are intended to clarify the permit process and improve administration of chicken permits. The amendments are primarily administrative in nature and do not expand where chickens are permitted within the City.

A full copy of the proposed ordinance is included in the packet for Council review.

Process. The proposed ordinance is scheduled for First Reading on March 2, 2026, and Second Reading and adoption on March 16, 2026. If adopted, the ordinance will be published on March 26, 2026, and will become effective April 15, 2026.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions.