

CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF DOUGLAS

ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

ORDINANCE NO. 01-2026

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES

CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF DOUGLAS, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

An ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of the Village of Douglas by amending Chapter 4 – Animals, Article II – Chickens, Section 4-39, Subsections (1), (2), (3), (3)(a), (3)(b), (4), (5), (5)(b), (5)(c), (5)(d), (6), (7), (8), and (9) regarding Chicken Permits; and to repeal all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict therewith.

THE CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF DOUGLAS HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION 1: PREAMBLE

WHEREAS the City of the Village of Douglas previously adopted regulations governing the keeping of chickens within the City; and

WHEREAS the City Council has determined that amendments to Chapter 4 – Animals, Article II – Chickens, Section 4-39 are necessary to clarify and update the permitting procedures and administrative review process; and

WHEREAS the City Council finds that these amendments will promote public health, safety, and welfare by ensuring consistent standards for permit issuance, neighbor notification, and renewal procedures; and

WHEREAS the City Council further finds that updating these provisions will provide clearer guidance to applicants and adjacent property owners while maintaining appropriate oversight of chicken permits within the City.

SECTION 2: AMENDMENT. An ordinance to amend Chapter 4 – Animals, Article II – Chickens, Section 4-39, Subsections (1), (2), (3), (3)(a), (3)(b), (4), (5), (5)(b), (5)(c), (5)(d), (6), (7), (8), and (9) are hereby amended to read as follows:

- (1) Any person applying for a permit to keep chickens within the City shall submit a permit application on a form promulgated by the City Clerk or their designee, and shall pay an application fee established by resolution of the City Council. Application components shall include applicant/owner's name, address, phone number, email, zoning review of application, confirmation of receipt of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention's "Healthy Families and Flocks" publication (# CS274178A), and other relevant information.
- (2) If the applicant is not the owner of the real property on which he or she wants to keep chickens, the applicant must provide the written consent of the owner of the real property and a copy of the signed lease. The lease term must be a minimum of one year. Without such written consent, the permit application may not be granted.
- (3) Once a completed application form, application fee, and written consent of the owner of the real property have been submitted to the City Clerk or their designee, the City shall within ten business days send by certified mail written notice of the application for a permit to keep chickens to the following:
 - (a) The physical property address of all adjacent real properties. For purposes of this division, "adjacent real properties" shall include all properties sharing a common lot line with the real property on which chickens are proposed to be kept, but shall not include properties sharing only a common corner point, without footage on a common lot line.
 - (b) The address of record for the owner of all adjacent real properties, if that address of record is different from the physical property address.
- (4) If the City Clerk or their designee receives any comments regarding the issuance of a permit from any person required to be notified of the permit application within 21 days from mailing the written notice of the permit application, then those comments will be added to the permit application file.

(5) The City Clerk or their designee shall review the permit application in light of the following factors:

- (a) The size of the lot on which chickens are proposed to be kept;
- (b) The adequacy of the applicant's plans for housing and confining the chickens; and
- (c) Other factors relevant to the applicant's particular circumstances regarding compliance with current zoning requirements and this ordinance.
- (d) No permit shall be denied based on the objection of an adjacent real property owner.

(6) If the City Clerk or their designee grants the request for the permit, he or she shall do so in writing, which writing shall state the property address at which chickens may be kept, as well as the number of chickens allowed to be kept, and any other conditions of the permit to keep chickens.

(7) If the City Clerk or their designee denies the request for the permit, he or she shall do so in writing, and shall state the reasons for such denial. Notice of denial shall be sent to the applicant by certified mail.

(8) If the City Clerk or their designee denies the request for the permit, the applicant shall be permitted to appeal the denial to the City Council within thirty (30) days of receipt of the denial notice.

(9) An initial permit shall be valid for a period of one year. If, in the judgment of the City Clerk or their designee, the permittee has abided by all subchapter provisions and permit conditions, and has not created a nuisance to the owners or occupants of adjacent properties or the neighborhood, the permit may be renewed for multiple one-year periods. Each renewal may include an on-site inspection and neighbor notification. No permit issued pursuant to this subchapter shall remain valid past the date on which this subchapter either expires or is repealed, whichever is earlier. Annual renewal of permits does not require reapplication in the same manner as an initial permit.

SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY. If any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be held invalid, the invalidity of such section, paragraph, clause or provision shall not affect any of the other provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 4. REPEALER. All other ordinances or portions of ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 5. PUBLICATION. Within fifteen (15) days of its adoption, this Ordinance or a notice of adoption summarizing this Ordinance, as required by law, shall be published by the City Clerk in a newspaper of general circulation in the City in accordance with Act 110 of 2006.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall become effective twenty (20) days after the date of publication.

[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

Ordinance Offered by:

Ordinance Supported by:

Ayes:

Nays:

Abstain:

Absent:

First Reading: March 2, 2026

Second Reading: March 16, 2026

Date of Publication: March 26, 2026

Effective Date: April 15, 2026

ORDINANCE DECLARED ADOPTED THIS 16th DAY OF March 2026

Cathy North, Mayor

Laura Kasper, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, Laura Kasper, the duly appointed Clerk of the City of the Village of Douglas, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of an Ordinance adopted by the Douglas City Council at a regular meeting held on Monday, March 16, 2026, in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended, the minutes of the meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by this Act.

CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF DOUGLAS

By: _____
City Clerk, City of the Village of Douglas