



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

AGENDA DATE: September 8, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: Conduct a Public Hearing to consider the adoption of an Ordinance amending and updating sections of Chapter 30 Land Development Regulations and Chapter 10 Animals.

PREPARED BY: Will Richter, Zoning Administrator

BACKGROUND:

On April 4th, the Planning Commission initiated the process to consider amendments to Section 30-564(23) of the Zoning Ordinance: Uses with Restrictions - Farm Animals (in AG, RR and SRR zoning districts). Planning Commission action stemmed from animal welfare concerns reported to city staff and law enforcement about a horse being kept on a small Rural Residential parcel. The situation was resolved amicably but demonstrated the need for clearly articulated restrictions on the keeping of farm animals.

The intent of the Chapter 30 amendments is to place reasonable limits on the type and density of farm animal use in the three zoning districts where they are permitted with restrictions, Agricultural, Rural Residential and Shoreland Rural Residential.

The initial discussion by the Planning Commission touched on the differing purpose and intent of Rural Residential vs. Agricultural zoning and the need to treat them differently in terms of types of farm animals permitted and their density or number of animals as a factor of land area.

Commissioner Betsy Johnson volunteered to assist staff with further research on this topic. Based on that research and the Planning Commission's prior discussion, proposed amendments to Chapter 30 were developed.

Additionally, Planning Commission Chair Bignall and staff collaborated on a text amendment to Chapter 10 Animals to limit the keeping of chickens by permit to R-1, SR-1, R-2, SR-2 – harmonizing the Zoning Ordinance with Chapter 10

Both the Chapter 30 and Chapter 10 amendments were discussed at the August 7 Planning Commission meeting and action taken to forward them with Planning Commission recommendation to the City Council for consideration as text amendments to the City Code.

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