



MEMO

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

To: Common Council
From: Adrienne Nelson, Associate Planner
Date: March 4, 2026
Re: 12.17 Chicken Keeping Permit Discussion

Per the request received from Alder Eggleston, staff has looked into the following related to section [12.17](#) of the Municipal Code regarding chicken keeping: the number of chickens currently allowed within the City of Kaukauna, how that number is determined, and what number of chickens would be appropriate.

Background

Chicken keeping was first approved in the City of Kaukauna by the Common Council back in 2017. Initially, four chickens were allowed per property, and the number of permits allowing for chicken keeping was capped at ten. At that time, the intention was to limit the quantity of chickens due to noise and health concerns.

In 2021, the number of chickens allowed per property increased to six at the request of a resident who argued the following: that increasing the number of chickens from four to six would allow for more egg layers at a given time, that chickens are flock orientated and that larger flocks thrive and produce more eggs, and that typical coop and run sizes are created for at least six chickens.

Most recently, in 2025, the cap of ten chicken permits was removed to allow any resident who met the requirement as laid out in section 12.17 to obtain a chicken permit. Despite the removal of the cap on the number of permits distributed, only sixteen residents currently hold chicken keeping permits.

Comparison

Municipality	# of Chickens Allowed per Property
City of Kaukauna	6
City of Appleton	6
City of De Pere	4
City of Green Bay	5
City of Menasha	6
City of Neenah	4
City of Oshkosh	6
Village of Fox Crossing	4
Village of Greenville	4
Village of Harrison	6
Village of Hortonville	4
Village of Kimberly	6
Village of Little Chute	6
Village of Wrightstown	4
Town of Buchanan	8
Town of Grand Chute	6
Town of Holland	10
Town of Wrightstown	4
Average (rounded):	6

Staff Recommendation:

Staff are recommending discussion and requesting direction on whether to proceed with additional research or not.

