



# MEMO

## PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

To: Common Council  
From: Dave Kittel, Director of Planning and Community Development  
Date: 3/13/2025  
Re: Number of Chicken Keeping Permits

### **Background information:**

The City of Kaukauna currently has 10 permits available for residents to keep chickens on their property. The ordinance that regulates chicken keeping is [Section 12.17](#) and includes additional items such as setbacks and coop requirements. There has been an increase in inquiries on chicken keeping permits in the city with some disheartened that only 10 permits are available. From what can be gathered from minutes and conversations with some who were apart of creating this provision the purpose for limiting the number of permits was to ensure that this would be implemented in a controlled manner. All 10 permits are currently utilized with minimal changes to permit holders over the years. Once someone has the permit as long as they renew the permit by the end of the year, they retain that permit. Staff has received many calls from people looking for permits and have recently created a wait list with about 4 people on the list if a permit would come available.

In the Fox Valley area there are at least 9 communities that have provisions for Chickens (Appleton, Buchanan, Fox Crossing, Greenville, Harrison, Kaukauna, Kimberly, Neenah, Menasha) The other communities in our area that have chicken keeping provisions do not limit the number of permits to be issued and have similar types of controls in regards to setback requirements, no roosters and limiting the number of hens to 4 or 6 depending on the municipality. In addition, a bill is also being introduced in the state that would require local governments to all chickens.

This is only coming forth to the Council for discussion and possible direction to staff. With the increase in popularity of producing more of your own food and an interest in the community for additional permits to be made available and the possibility of new legislation this is an appropriate time to relook at our existing ordinance to see if any updates are needed.

**Strategic Plan:**

This regulation ties into the Community of Choice portion of the Strategic Plan. Many people do look upon these types of provision when looking for a new home. Having well formulated provisions to allow for these types of uses in the city help create a community of choice.

**Budget:**

No Impact

**Recommendation:**

For discussion only at this time.

