



MEMORANDUM

Administration

To: Mayor Jackola and City Council
From: Ron Whitlatch, Interim City Manager
Subject: **Municipal Code - Chickens**

Date: March 3, 2024

I. INTRODUCTION

At the February 12, 2025 City Council Meeting, council asked staff to present a staff report regarding the procedure for allowing chickens.

II. BACKGROUND

At the September 10, 2014, City Council meeting there was a discussion regarding modifying Section 6.16.010 of the Municipal Code to simplify the process to obtain a permit to keep chickens. The discussion was brought to the attention of City Council from a citizen at an earlier meeting in 2014 during public comment.

At that time, the code required a permit for keeping chickens and approval from all property owners within 300-feet, and if one neighbor objected the permit was denied. The code did not limit the number of chickens.

In 2014, city staff reviewed these concerns against other city ordinances in Oregon. The number of chickens allowed in other cities ranged anywhere from two chickens to a maximum of six to an unlimited number. One city related the number of chickens to a specific square footage, which led to the proposal of one hen per 2,000 square feet of lot area, with a maximum of six hens allowed outright. An owner still has the option of obtaining a permit if the number of chickens would exceed the allowable capacity. The new proposal also changed the requirement for properties within 100-feet to sign a petition agreeing to chickens when a permit is requested.

At the November 12, 2014, City Council meeting, staff presented a revised Ordinance (current code) allowing the keeping of chickens outright and reducing the distance to 100-feet for permits.

III. CURRENT INFORMATION

City staff reviewed other ordinance in Oregon, a comparison is attached.

III. ACTION

City staff will proceed based on the City Council's direction.

City	Max # of Chickens	Min Lot Size	Additional	Roosters	Notes
Albany	2	less than 7,000 sq ft.	3,000 sq ft for each additional chicken		City Manager can approve more with written approval obtained from neighbors
Banks	12	5,000 sq ft (up to 4 allowed)	1 additional per 2,000 sq ft	No	Must be contained in back yard and 20 ft setbacks
Brownsville				Admin Review	No Max listed. Chickens allowed within City limits.
Corvallis					Chickens require a permit from the Animal Control Officer
Cottage Grove	15		1 chicken per 1,000 sq ft		Must be contained on property
Dallas	5			No	10' setback/15' setback from dwellings
Glendale	10				Entire contained yard may be free range, coops must meet 10' setback. All broods must be registered with the City
Lebanon	6		1 chicken per 2,000 sq ft	No	City Manager can approve more with written approval obtained from neighbors
Lowell			10 chickens per 20,000 sq ft	No	May apply for CU for smaller lot or additional fowl
Lyons					No code, complaints are handled as nuisance
Millersburg	5	10,000		No	
Milwaukie	50	1 Acre			
Monmouth	5			No	5' setbacks/ 15' setback from dwellings
Sweet Home	12	properties 1/4 to 1/2 Acre	Max of 6 for properties less than 1/4 acre	No	