



Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE: November 27, 2023

SUBJECT: **Ordinance No. 1048** – An Ordinance of the Town of Mead, Colorado, Amending Section 7-6-45 of the *Mead Municipal Code* Regarding Backyard Chicken Hens

PRESENTED BY: Collin Mieras, Planner II

SUMMARY

Staff is proposing amendments to Article 6 of Chapter 7 – Health, Sanitation and Animals of the *Mead Municipal Code* (“MMC”). Specifically, the proposed amendments includes changes to the allowed number of backyard chicken hen permits in the Town, as well as the allowed number of chicken hens per parcel. The proposed amendments affect Section 7-6-45 of the MMC.

OVERVIEW

Sec. 7-6-45 – Backyard chicken hens.

Sec. 7-6-45 of the MMC outlines the Town’s requirements for the keeping of chicken hens in backyards.

The proposed amendments to Sec. 7-6-45 of the MMC:

- (1) remove the restriction of a maximum of thirty (30) permits allowed in the Town;
- (2) increases the number of chicken hens allowed on parcels less than one (1) acre in size to six (6) chickens;
- (3) increases the number of chicken hens allowed on parcels greater than one (1) acre in size to twelve (12) chickens; and
- (4) adds language clarifying that the Town’s Code Enforcement Official is responsible for inspections of chicken coops prior to issuance of a permit.

The proposed amendments are detailed in Section 1 of the Ordinance.

ANALYSIS

Staff has recently issued several permits for backyard chicken keeping and has noticed that the Town is near the 30-permit limit currently identified in the MMC. The actual number of active permits is difficult to track and maintain a record of, as people apply and receive a permit and then move out of Town or cease to keep chickens in their backyard without alerting the Town to revoke the permit. To avoid having to deny residents permits to allow for keeping chickens in their backyard, or to impose more regulations around the monitoring of active permits, staff believes that the 30-permit limit should be removed from the MMC.

The proposed code amendment also includes an increase in the allowed number of chicken hens on properties within the Town. The increase would allow for six (6) chicken hens on parcels that are less than one (1) acre in size and allow for twelve (12) chicken hens on parcels that are more than one (1) acre in size.

The increase in the number of allowed chicken hens on properties based on the size of the property brings the Town inline with other Front Range communities, including Weld County, which allow for more chickens on larger properties. Larger properties have more space to accommodate having more chickens on the property, and the perceived nuisance of having more chickens on the property is abated by the increased distance from surrounding neighbors.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION/ACTION REQUIRED

A motion to approve the November 27, 2023, consent agenda will approve the Ordinance. If this item is removed from the consent agenda, the suggested motion is:

Suggested motion:

“I move to adopt Ordinance No. 1048 - An Ordinance of the Town of Mead, Colorado, Amending Section 7-6-45 of the *Mead Municipal Code* Regarding Backyard Chicken Hens.”

ATTACHMENTS

Ordinance No. 1048