

**TOWN OF MEAD, COLORADO
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**

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Town of Mead (“Board of Trustees”) has the authority pursuant to C.R.S. § 31-15-401 and its general police powers to pass and enforce regulations which may be necessary or expedient for the promotion of the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Town of Mead (“Town”); and

WHEREAS, the keeping of backyard chicken hens is permitted in the Town, allowing for citizens to: (1) benefit from the food production, (2) offer an educational experience for children and other members of the community, (3) promote a sustainable lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to encourage and facilitate the keeping of chickens to better serve the public and further the public policy objectives set forth above; and

WHEREAS, the Town recognizes that the current Mead Municipal Code (“MMC”) has a limit on the total number of backyard chicken keeping permits that may be issued within the Town and has a limit on the total number of backyard chickens one property is allotted; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments to Article VI of Chapter 7 of the MMC set forth in this ordinance will remove the limit on the total number of backyard chicken keeping permits that can be issued in the Town and increase the total number of backyard chickens one property is allotted; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees finds that the amendments to Article VI of Chapter 7 of the MMC set forth in this ordinance are in the best interests of the health, safety and welfare of the public.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Trustees of the Town of Mead, Weld County, Colorado, that:

Section 1. Section 7-6-45 of the MMC, titled “Backyard Chicken Hens,” is hereby amended as follows, with ~~struck through~~ text showing deletions and **bold, underlined** text showing additions:

Sec. 7-6-45. - Backyard chicken hens.

The Town may issue a special use permit for the keeping of backyard chicken hens. Such special use permit shall be issued administratively as provided by Section 7-6-40 above, without requiring a public hearing and subject to the following criteria:

(1) ~~No more than four (4) chicken hens are permitted per parcel.~~ **For parcels less than one (1) acre in size, no more than six (6) chicken hens are permitted per parcel. For parcels greater than one (1) acre in size, no more than twelve (12) chicken hens are permitted per parcel.**

(2) Roosters are prohibited. No person may own or keep a rooster in any district not zoned agricultural. Upon determining that a chick is actually a rooster, the permit holder shall have seven (7) days to remove the rooster from the property.

(3) Backyard chicken hens are restricted to the rear yard or backyard of any lot in a residential zoning district or the rear yard or backyard of a residential use in all other zoning districts.

(4) All chicken hens shall be kept in a coop that shall meet the following requirements:

a. Be predator-proof with a solid top.

b. Provide water at all times.

c. Are limited to a maximum of one hundred twenty (120) square feet (including coop and chicken run) with at least four (4) square feet of space per chicken for the chicken coop and run.

d. Be no taller than seven (7) feet at the highest point of the roof.

e. Not be located between the rear of the dwelling and the front yard lot line.

f. Meet the setback requirement for the zoning district in which the property is located, **and not encroach into or over an easement.**

g. All coops shall be regularly cleaned, not less than monthly to control dust, odor and waste, and shall not constitute a nuisance, safety hazard or health problem to surrounding properties. All waste shall be removed from the premises.

h. No slaughtering allowed.

i. Chicken feed must be stored in a re-sealable, airtight, metal, rat proof container to discourage attracting mice, rats and other vermin.

j. The minimum lot size required for a permit to be issued shall be seven thousand (7,000) square feet.

(5) The cost of the special use permit shall be an amount set by resolution of the Board of Trustees, which is non-refundable.

~~(6) No more than thirty (30) permits shall be issued by the Town.~~

(6) Inspections of the coop shall be conducted by the Town Code Enforcement Official prior to issuance of a permit.

(7) A permit may be revoked administratively for a violation of this Section.

Section 2. Effective Date. This ordinance shall be published and become effective as provided by law.

Section 3. Remaining provisions. Except as specifically amended hereby, all other provisions of the Mead Municipal Code shall continue in full force and effect.

Section 4. Codification Amendments. The codifier of the MMC is hereby authorized to make such numerical, technical and formatting changes as may be necessary to incorporate the provisions of this ordinance within the MMC.

Section 5. Severability. If any part, section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections of the ordinance. The Board of Trustees hereby declares that it would have passed the ordinance including each part, section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that one or more part, section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase is declared invalid.

Section 6. Repealer. All ordinances or resolutions, or parts thereof, in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed, provided that such repealer shall not repeal the repealer clauses of such ordinance nor revive any ordinance thereby.

Section 7. Certification. The Town Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance and make not less than one copy of the adopted Code available for inspection by the public during regular business hours.

INTRODUCED, READ, PASSED, AND ADOPTED THIS 27TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2023.

ATTEST:

TOWN OF MEAD:

By: _____
Mary E. Strutt, MMC, Town Clerk

By: _____
Colleen G. Whitlow, Mayor