



**Wayzata City Council Workshop Meeting Agenda
Wayzata City Hall Community Room, 600 Rice Street
TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2024**

WORKSHOP TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Conduct Interview for Board and Commissions Vacancies (5:45-5:55 p.m.)
2. Discuss Options for Ordinance Amendments Relating to Keeping of Chickens (5:55-6:30 p.m.)



City Council Workshop City Council Agenda Report

MEETING DATE: March 26, 2024	WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEM: 1
TITLE: Conduct Interview for Board and Commissions Vacancies (5:45-5:55 p.m.)	
PREPARED BY: Kathy Leervig, City Clerk	
REVIEWED BY: Aurora Yager, Deputy City Manager	

DISCUSSION OBJECTIVE:

To listen and ask questions of the interested community member.

2024-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES RELEVANCE:

Not Applicable.

BACKGROUND:

Last fall, the City solicited applications for vacancies on the various Boards and Commissions. The Charter Commission consists of 7 to 15 commissioners, with nine members currently serving. This segment of the workshop will focus on interviewing a new applicant for the Commission. The interview will take place in-person in the Community Room in City Hall.

Following the interview process, the City Council will review the candidate and consider their appointment to fill the vacancy through a resolution at the regular meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

None



City Council Workshop City Council Agenda Report

MEETING DATE: March 26, 2024	WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEM: 2
TITLE: Discuss Options for Ordinance Amendments Relating to Keeping of Chickens (5:55-6:30 p.m.)	
PREPARED BY: Nick Kieser, Parks and Environment Planner	
REVIEWED BY: Jeffrey Dahl, City Manager, Emily Goellner, Community Development Director, Aurora Yager, Deputy City Manager	

DISCUSSION OBJECTIVE:

To review the options to allow chicken-keeping in Wayzata and provide direction on the preferred option.

2024-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES RELEVANCE:

Sustain Community Character and Safety

Chicken-keeping provides residents with an opportunity to provide their families with a healthy and sustainable food source, but zoning restrictions mitigate the potential impacts to neighbors.

BACKGROUND:

In 2021, staff presented draft amendments to the Zoning Ordinance to allow residents to keep chickens on their property. The draft Ordinance included restrictions based on the concerns of the City Council and Planning Commission. Staff also researched several other local ordinances on chicken-keeping. After a public hearing with the Planning Commission in 2021, the Council noted concerns with the recommendation to limit chicken-keeping to lots over 40,000 sq. ft. There were long discussions in 2021 about the number of hens allowed, the extent of the permitting process, logistics of enforcement, the pros and cons of neighbor notification, and the overall administration burden that would be likely with the recommendations made at that time. Overall, the recommendations made in 2021 were highly restrictive compared to neighboring cities and consensus was not made among the Council and staff.

The Council requested additional community engagement to gauge the community's interest in keeping chickens. Staff conducted a short survey of the community which resulted in 121 total responses, of which 38 respondents (31%) expressed interest in keeping chickens. Based on the survey results, the wide range of differing recommendations received from the Planning Commission and City Council, and other more urgent priorities at the time, Council directed staff to not move forward on the chicken-keeping initiative. Some inquiries from residents about opportunities for chicken-keeping have been received since then. Therefore, the Council recently directed staff to prepare options that were more simplified and provided a compromise between the wide range of options.

Staff has created four chicken-keeping options for the Council to review and provide direction on this initiative:

1. Do not make any changes to the Zoning Ordinance: Chicken-keeping is only allowed by Conditional Use Permit (no applications have ever been submitted to staff's knowledge)
2. Allow chickens without any restrictions (not recommended)
3. Allow chickens with restrictions
 - a. Less restrictive, no administrative process
 - b. Very restrictive, extensive administrative process (not recommended)
4. Staff's recommendation: Allow chickens in a simplified way via permit as a compromise between options 3a and 3b

Option 4 is noted as the staff recommendation based on previous discussions with the City Council, Planning Commission, and Energy and Environment Committee. If directed, staff would create a draft Ordinance with language based on Council direction that would be reviewed by the Planning Commission in a public hearing before being presented to the City Council.

The Energy and Environment Committee reviewed the four options at their March 19 meeting. The Committee noted their general support for allowing chickens which allows for educational opportunities and creates a sustainable/healthy food source. For these reasons, the Committee wanted to keep the restrictions and application process as simple as possible, which would allow for more residents to take advantage of this opportunity. The Committee recommended implementing Option 4 to allow chickens in Wayzata.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Chicken Keeping Options

Chicken Keeping Options

Staff has created four chicken-keeping options for the Council to review and provide direction on this initiative:

Option 1	Do Not Make Any Changes
	• The applicable code section is City Code 930.01 – Keeping of Animals. • If no changes are made then chickens are not allowed. ○ Code states, “farm animals are not allowed in the City”. ○ Code only has definition for - "Animals, Domestic." For purposes of this Ordinance, domestic animal shall be defined as house pets such as dogs, cats, and birds which can be contained within a principal structure throughout the entire year, provided that the containment can be accomplished without special modification to the structure requiring a building permit from the City. • This section allows chickens to be kept by applying for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP).
Staff Analysis	• CUPs are time-consuming and expensive for residents. A property survey is required. This is a barrier for most residents. Staff’s analysis is that a CUP is not the most appropriate process for chicken-keeping. Rather, a permit would be more fitting. A CUP runs with the land and is usually associated with a more permanent or long-lasting use of the land. Chicken-keeping is highly dependent on the particular resident at the time.

Option 2	Allow Chickens without Additional Restrictions
	• Change the Code to allow chickens, but do not state any additional rules or regulations. • Code 930.01.G would be the enforcing Code language for this option which states, “Animals may not be kept if they cause a nuisance or endanger the health or safety of the community.”
Staff Analysis	• This option does not mitigate the potential impacts on neighbors.

Option 3	Allow Chickens with Restrictions	
	Option 3A (Less Restrictive)	Option 3B (More Restrictive)
Number of Hens	6	4
Allowable Lot Size	No Minimum Lot Size	40,000 sq. ft. (R-1 and above)
Permit	No Permit Required	Permit Required
Neighborhood Notification	No Notification Required	Notification Required within 500 Feet
Site Plan Review	No site plan review required	Site plan review required to review chicken coop location and size
Chicken Coop and Run Size	No size requirement. Follow accessory structure requirement for applicable zoning district.	40 sq. ft. chicken coop maximum 80 sq. ft chicken run maximum 10-foot height maximum
Food Storage	Must keep chicken feed in pest and rodent free container	Must keep chicken feed in pest and rodent free container
Odor	No language regarding noxious odors	Must be kept in a healthy and sanitary manner that does not allow noxious odors on adjacent properties
Personal Use	Keeping of chickens can only be used for personal use	Keeping of chickens can only be used for personal use
Permit Termination	No permit required	Permit can be terminated if owner fails to comply with any conditions noted
Permit Renewal	No permit required	One-time permit approval required
Permit Fee	No permit required	\$25 permit fee

Option 4	Staff's Recommendation: Allow Chickens in a Simplified Way via Permit as a Compromise between Options 3A & 3B
Number of Hens	4
Allowable Lot Size	No lot size minimum
Permit	Permit required
Neighborhood Notification	No neighborhood notification
Site Plan Review	Site plan required to review chicken coop location and size. Chicken coop and run must meet applicable zoning district accessory structure setbacks
Chicken Coop and Run Size	50 sq. ft. chicken coop maximum 100 sq. ft chicken run maximum 10-foot height maximum
Food Storage	Must keep chicken feed in pest and rodent free container
Odor	Must be kept in a healthy and sanitary manner that does not allow noxious odors on adjacent properties
Personal Use	Keeping of chickens can only be used for personal use
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