

**WAYZATA CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
March 26, 2024**

5:45 p.m. Conduct Interview for Board and Commissions Vacancy

Mayor Mouton called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. Council Members present in-person in the community room at City Hall offices: Iverson, MacDonald, and Plechash. Also present: City Manager Jeff Dahl, and Community Development Director Emily Goellner.

The City solicited applications for vacancies on several Committees and Commissions, but the Charter Commission still has a vacancy. The Council interviewed Brad Sleeper as a potential candidate. The interview was held in-person in the Community Room at City Hall.

At the regular meeting, the City Council will consider an appointment to fill the vacancy by resolution.

5:55 p.m. Discuss Options for Ordinance Amendments Relating to Keeping of Chickens

Mr. Dahl introduced this item.

Mr. Kieser provided an overview of the topic. In 2021, staff presented draft amendments to the Zoning Ordinance to allow residents to keep chickens on their property. Overall, the recommendations made in 2021 were highly restrictive compared to neighboring cities and consensus was not made among the Council and staff.

As a result and shortly thereafter, 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.

Mr. Kieser reported that additional 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:

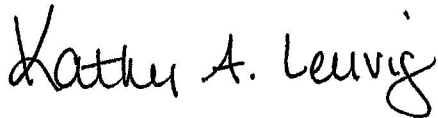
1. Do not make any changes to the Zoning Ordinance: Chicken-keeping is only allowed by Conditional Use Permit (no applications have ever been submitted to staff's knowledge)
2. Allow chickens without any restrictions (not recommended)
3. Allow chickens with restrictions
 - a. Less restrictive, no administrative 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.

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

7
8 After much discussion about the pros and cons for each of the alternatives, there was consensus on the
9 Council to move forward with option 4 to be considered at a future Council Meeting. Council also
10 proposed additional edits to option 4 including an option to let the chickens roam free if the backyard is
11 fenced in, include a minimum size for a chicken coop and run, ensure the accessory structure setback is
12 included in the code language, and add chicken-keeping educational materials in the permit. Mayor
13 Mouton asked staff to try and expedite the approval process so folks could have chickens during the
14 summer.

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16 Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy A. Leervig". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

17
18 Kathy Leervig, City Clerk