



Planning and Economic Development

Sara Roediger, AICP, Director

From: Chris McLeod, AICP, Planning Manager
To: Members of the Planning Commission
Date: 9/19/2023
Re: Draft Keeping of Chickens Zoning Ordinance Amendment Discussion

As the Commission is aware, the topic of the keeping of chickens was discussed several months ago. This topic was brought before the Planning Commission after numerous inquiries to City staff and several Zoning Board of Appeals applications for the keeping of chickens on smaller lots within the City. The discussion at the Planning Commission focused largely on whether the City should lower the required lot area for the keeping of chickens. Ancillary discussion took place regarding additional provisions that may also be warranted for anyone who wishes to keep chickens to help reduce any impacts to surrounding properties. This discussion included ensuring the chickens are adequately housed and are kept within an acceptable enclosure on a site; that no roosters be allowed to be kept onsite; required setbacks for coops, etc.

Since that time, City staff completed the following actions:

- Met internally to discuss potential revisions to the City's current ordinance;
- Reviewed best practices for the keeping of chickens;
- Developed a draft zoning ordinance amendment that has been reviewed by the City Attorney; and
- Developed a map, based on lot sizes within the City, which shows the number of properties that are currently allowed to keep chickens and the additional properties that may be eligible to keep chickens based on a potential lowering of the required minimum lot size to one-half (1/2) acre.

This information is being provided to the Planning Commission for discussion purposes at this time. The purpose of tonight's meeting is to further the conversation as to whether the City should continue to move forward with a potential amendment to the City's ordinances to allow the keeping of chickens on smaller lot sizes or retain the City's current lot size minimum of one (1) acre for the keeping of chickens.