



**CITY OF OWOSSO
PLANNING COMMISSION
Regular Meeting**

Monday, August 24, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING

City of Owosso is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84804147210?pwd=MFNPODN3ZG5kVWQxZUIPSWJzdUpLUT09>

Meeting ID: 848 0414 7210

Passcode: 663374

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,84804147210#,,,,,0#,,663374# US (Germantown)

+13126266799,,84804147210#,,,,,0#,,663374# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 848 0414 7210

Passcode: 663374

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – August 24, 2020

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 27, 2020

PUBLIC HEARING:

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion of the animal ordinance regarding chickens

OTHER BOARD BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

ADJOURNMENT

Next regular meeting will be on Monday, September 28, 2020

The City of Owosso will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and recordings of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seventy-two (72) hours notice to the City of Owosso. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the City of Owosso by writing or calling the following: Amy Kirkland, City Clerk, 301 W. Main St, Owosso, MI 48867 (989) 725-0500. The City of Owosso website is: www.ci.owosso.mi.us

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE OWOSSO PLANNING COMMISSION
VIRTUAL MEETING
Monday, July 27, 2020 – 6:30 P.M.**

City Manager Nathan Henne announced the meeting would be held as a Virtual Meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic, under the authority of Executive Order No. 2020-15 of the Office of the Governor of the State of Michigan.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Wascher called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited

ROLL CALL: Recording Secretary Tanya Buckelew

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Wascher, Vice-Chair Livingston, Secretary Fear, Commissioners Law, Morris, and Yerian

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioners Jenkins, Robertson and Taylor

OTHERS PRESENT: Justin Sprague, CIB Planning, City Manager Nathan Henne, Alex Huff, Smith Group

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
MOTION BY VICE-CHAIR LIVINGSTON, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER LAW TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR July 27, 2020.

YEAS ALL. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
MOTION BY VICE-CHAIR LIVINGSTON, SUPPORTED BY SECRETARY FEAR TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE June 22, 2020 MEETING.

YEAS ALL. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Master Plan Draft Review

The draft Master Plan was presented by Justin Sprague and Alex Huff. The following was discussed:

- The new plan is focused on future development and the zoning issues (from the 2012 plan) have been moved to the appendix
- Master Plan Goals have been added to guide the policies and actions of the plan

- Framework is new to the plan that includes neighborhoods, centers, corridors, districts and open space
- Economic Development was highlighted for supporting and growing locally-grown business. It means attracting and retaining talented workers and investing in our residents.
- Marketing Strategy Framework was discussed (remove Beautiful location on Lake Huron)
- Areas of the plan are targeted for Westown and Downtown
- Discussion regarding redevelopment opportunities for various parcels
- Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) will be incorporated with the Master Plan
- Next steps involve Planning Commission feedback, ways to present to public during COVID19, there will be a 63-day review period and during the review period all districts/county/utilities will also review the plan, with public hearings being held possibly in November 2020
- City Manager Nathan Henne asked the board to seriously consider the following before sending to council: public safety building renovations, city wide trash initiative and GAP financing for developments
- Planning Commission Dan Law spoke about using the alleys behind the Westown businesses for public as opposed to reduce M-21 down to 3 lanes
- Secretary Fear asked about updating the Census numbers in the plan but the new Census won't be out until 2022
- Justin Sprague stated the plan is about 75% complete to go public but still need the Action and Implementation plan completed.
- Planning Commission members are to review further and get comments to Justin Sprague and Alex Huff within 2 weeks so a new draft can be presented at the September meeting

OTHER BOARD BUSINESS:

For the next few meetings, the board will be reviewing the Master Plan, recreational marijuana and the 5 new additional licenses, and a sample chicken ordinance (to allow chickens in the city). A sample chicken ordinance will be presented at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LAW, SUPPORTED BY SECRETARY FEAR TO ADJOURN AT 7:49 P.M. UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING ON August 24, 2020.
YEAS ALL, MOTION CARRIED.**

Janae L. Fear, Secretary



301 W. MAIN, OWOSSO, MICHIGAN 48867 · (989) 725-0535

August 20, 2020

To: Planning Commission

RE: CHICKENS

We have received ordinances from various communities. The general consensus is 3 to 6 hens, no roosters and permits required.

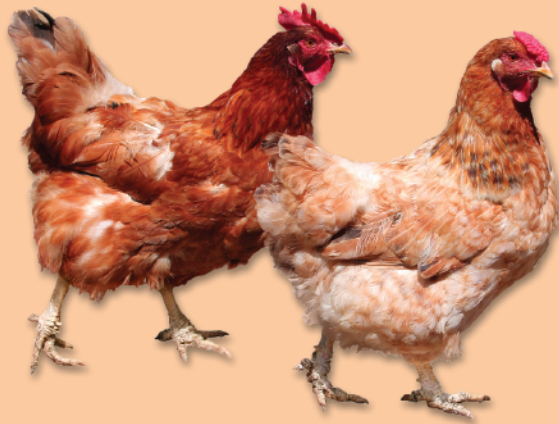
This packet contains:

1. MSU Extension guidance
2. Spreadsheet comparing the various ordinances
3. Letter from a resident who is against chickens in the city

The spreadsheet compares some of the important items.

The remainder of the ordinances are very similar as to type of enclosure, cleaning/waste materials, keeping rodents away, compliance with the Michigan Department of Agriculture Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for the Care of Farm Animals, as it relates to egg laying chickens and compliance with the International Property Maintenance Code (as adopted by the city of Owosso).

Suggestions for **ORDINANCES**



Allowing **Backyard POULTRY**

Authors:

Darrin M. Karcher, Ph.D., Poultry Extension Specialist, Department of Animal Science, Michigan State University
Paul Wylie, MSU Extension Agricultural and Natural Resources Educator, Retired
R. M. "Mick" Fulton, D.V.M., Ph.D., Avian Pathologist, Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health

Keeping small flocks of chickens in cities is dramatically increasing. Unfortunately, there is a large gap between these new urban audiences and their knowledge of poultry husbandry. Numerous websites, books and Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) publications can provide materials to educate individuals on proper poultry management. Issues of animal welfare, neighbor annoyance concerns and environmental impacts must be considered before legislation is passed allowing these small poultry flocks to exist. The following suggestions will provide guidance on creating an environment, urban or rural, where it is reasonable for any individual to produce his or her own food or enjoy a new hobby.

- Limit the raising of chickens to single or two-family residences only and the number of chickens to 4 to 6 per site.
- No roosters (male adult chickens) may be kept.
- Poultry should not be allowed in a residence, porch or attached garage. Chickens must be confined in a house or coop in the backyard of the residence with a minimum of 1 square foot per bird (144 square

inches). An outside, enclosed run may or may not be allowed. The run should be no larger than 8 feet by 8 feet, and it should be attached to the coop. The facilities should be built to keep dogs, cats and wildlife from gaining entry.

- The poultry facility should be 5 to 10 feet from any property line and at least 10 to 20 feet from a neighboring residence.
- The owner should dispose of waste materials (feed, manure and litter) in an environmentally responsible manner. The materials can be composted or bagged and disposed of in the trash. Piling waste materials on the property is not acceptable.
- Both the process of weeding out inferior animals known as culling and mortality (death) are common occurrences when raising live animals. Poultry owners will need to deal with unwanted males, old hens or sick birds. An animal care program involving euthanasia of birds should be made available. Owners should bag and dispose of dead birds in the trash.

SUGGESTIONS FOR ORDINANCES ALLOWING BACKYARD POULTRY



- The coop should be designed to discourage rodents and wild birds from entering. Owners should store all feed supplies in rodent-proof containers. They should take steps to avoid the buildup of flies and maggots by keeping litter and feed dry and promptly disposing of dead birds or waste eggs.
- The owner should control rodents by eliminating nearby hiding places (trash, weeds, and debris), trapping and baiting rats and mice on a regular basis.
- The owner must feed and water the chickens on a daily basis.
- Sales of eggs should not be allowed. Keeping hens should be for personal use and not for running a business.
- The ordinance may simply allow the keeping of laying hens if the conditions are met. A permit may be required depending on the municipality. If a permit is required, any fees should be nominal.
- The impact and spread of a disease can be reduced if households with poultry can be identified. A permit requirement will generate a list of all households with poultry allowing for a quicker response to a disease outbreak.
- For the protection of Michigan's commercial poultry industry, no such poultry holdings should be allowed within four miles of a commercial poultry operation.
- Contact Michigan Department of Agriculture to investigate the proximity to the commercial poultry industry.
- To review ordinances that have been passed in Michigan related to keeping poultry in urban and suburban settings, contact the Michigan Department of Agriculture at 517-335-5713.

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension

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Community	How many hens allowed	How many roosters allowed	Permit Required	Permit Fee	Permit Expiration	Type of dwelling	Side/Rear Setbacks	Neighboring Houses Setback	Covered cages required	Inspections Required	Slaughtering
Bay City	1 hen per each 10 sq. ft./max 12	None	Yes	\$50	Upon discontinuance	Single-family	10'	40'	Yes	No	No
Berkley	3	None	Yes-max 5	\$60	Annual	Single-family		30'	Yes	Yes-initial and	No
Brooklyn	8	None	Yes				10'	40'	Yes	Yes-initial	No
Chelsea	4	None	Yes	\$10	Annual	Single-family		40'	Yes	No	No
Clawson	4	None	Yes	\$50	up to 3 years	Single-family	10'		Yes	Yes-initial	No
Edmore	1 hen per each 10 sq. ft./max 6	None	Yes	\$5		Single-family	10'	40'	Yes		No
Fenton	3	None	Yes	\$35	Annual	Single-family	10'	25'	Yes		
Sparta	4 on lot 6,000 sq. ft. or less, 6 on lots over 6,000 sq. ft.	None	Yes	\$54	Annual	Single-family	10'	35'	Yes		No
Spring Lake	4 on lot at least 12,000 sq. ft.	None	Yes	\$40	Initial-1 year, then every 3	Single-family	5'	25'	Yes		

blank-had not found answer

From: [Nathaniel R. Henne](#)
To: [Tanya S. Buckelew](#)
Subject: FW: Chickens in the city-Please share with Planning Commission TOO!
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 10:36:40 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Keep this for when PC starts talking about Chickens at the August meeting...



Nathan Henne
City Manager/Community Development Director
City of Owosso
989.725.0568
Nathan.Henne@ci.owosso.mi.us

From: Rich-Bernadette Goka [mailto:RnB34@msn.com]
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2020 2:07 PM
To: Janae Fear <janaefearowossocitycouncil@gmail.com>; Nathaniel R. Henne <nathan.henne@ci.owosso.mi.us>
Subject: Chickens in the city-Please share with Planning Commission TOO!

I would like to know where you think that people are going to be responsible enough to keep the stench of chicken crap from permeating the neighborhoods? I personally have four neighbors that surround my house that I have to regularly report to the Complaint line for not picking up dog crap; and, you think people will clean up chicken crap. Your suggestion is without any consideration or thought to neighbors of these potential homes possessing poultry other than it's an "it" thing.

I grew up on a farm. We had chickens. It's mind-blowingly disgusting the stench that drifts on the wind ALL the time, not just directional wind. Then on that point your assumption is that no homes will be downwind from the offending odors. Is this accurate? Never a situation where a neighbor is going to smell it 100% of all of their days? Hardly. Are you going to buy those tortured and miserable people who are smelling the chicken crap a new home? Are you going to help them financially relocate OVER CHICKEN CRAP? I am sure you are not. You will leave homeowners no legal leg to stand on for enforcement if there becomes a reduction in the quality of living for nearby homes because someone, I guarantee it, will not properly do what is needed to keep the stench down. IT'S TOO DAUNTING OF A POSITION TO EVEN THINK YOU CAN KEEP CHICKEN POOP FROM OFFENDING OTHERS!!! IT'S OBSURD!

There has been an ordinance against poultry in the city for a reason. PEOPLE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE ENOUGH TO LOOK AFTER THE PROBLEMS THAT WILL OCCUR AFTER THE SHINY

GLORIFIED FASCINATION OF OWNING THEM WEARS OFF!!!!!!!!!!!!

You need to think a lot longer on this suggestion. If you say that chickens are needed financially by families to put food on the table then you are seriously uneducated in what it takes to pay for feed, building a coop (\$40-80), rotational bedding (\$4-6 a bale that is needed WEEKLY- but a dozen eggs are 88cents---and YES it does need picked up and replaced weekly to keep the stench down--hint hint) and then there's medical care. How many people are going to have veterinarian care to prevent any poultry-based diseases? This is going to have to be made mandatory just like dogs with distemper and rabies plus cats with FCV vaccination.....have you really thought this threw THOROUGHLY???? I don't think you have.

You are opening a can of blight and ordinance fights between neighbors without consideration of the whole picture or thinking wisely of the consequences of implementing poultry possession within city limits.

Please feel free to contact me.

Bernadette Goka