

Text Amendment Summary

- Petitioner: Planning and Development Services and Community Development staff
- Request: Amend Chapter 6 of the City Code to revise rules for keeping chickens or other fowl.

Text Amendment Summary

- Planning staff was asked to review City Code standards for keeping chickens.
- Requirements for keeping chickens were also researched for eight peer cities in North Carolina.
- An information item was presented at the May 10th Community Development/Housing/General Government Committee where staff was directed to proceed with developing revised standards for keeping chickens, based on Council comments. This item was continued from the June Committee meeting

Text Amendment Summary

- Planning staff found that current coop/run setbacks were generally more than double those of peer cities.
- Most peer cities provide flexibility on the number of chickens or fowl allowed based on lot size.
- The majority of our peer cities do not require a zoning permit to keep chickens.

Text Amendment Summary

- Current City Code standards for keeping chickens include:
 - The coop and/or run must be setback a minimum of 100 feet from any adjacent property line. Notarized approval from adjoining neighbors can reduce setbacks to a minimum of 25 feet.
 - The maximum number of chickens allowed on residentially zoned property is 5; no roosters are allowed.
 - A zoning permit is required for keeping chickens.

Text Amendment Summary

- Based on Committee feedback and best practices, staff is proposing the following ordinance revisions:
 - Reducing coop setbacks from adjacent property 100 feet to 20 feet.
 - Eliminating adjacent property owner approval requirement.
 - Eliminating the zoning permit requirement.

Requirements for Keeping Chickens in Selected North Carolina Communities

Municipality	Coop/Run Setback Requirements	Minimum Lot Size	Required Placement on Lot	Adjacent Property Owner Approval Requirements	Number of Chickens Allowed	Number of Roosters Allowed	Permit Requirements
Winston-Salem	100 feet from all adjacent property lines; setbacks may be reduced to 25 feet with adjacent property owner approval	None	Rear yard	None	Five	None	Zoning Permit
Greensboro	Large Lots (greater than 12,000 sq. feet) - 50 feet from adjacent property line	7,000 sq. feet	Behind the rear wall of the residence	None	Large Lots - 1 chicken per 2,000 sq. feet with 20 chickens maximum	None	None
	Smaller Lots (7,000-12,000 sq. feet) - 25 feet from any property line, 50 feet from any adjacent residence				Smaller Lots - 1 chicken per 3,000 sq. feet up to a 4 chicken maximum		
	Alternative Compliance: If the remaining yard area is less than 10 feet, setbacks may be reduced, but cannot be less than 25 feet				Alternative Compliance: Setbacks allow 1 chicken per 3,000 sq. feet up to a 10 chicken maximum		
Charlotte	25 feet from all adjacent property lines	None	Rear or side yards	None	20 chickens per acre, proportionate to lot size	None	Zoning Permit
Raleigh	None	None	Rear or side yards	None	Not specified	None	None

Requirements for Keeping Chickens in Selected North Carolina Communities

Municipality	Coop/Run Setback Requirements	Minimum Lot Size	Required Placement on Lot	Adjacent Property Owner Approval Requirements	Number of Chickens Allowed	Number of Roosters Allowed	Permit Requirements
Durham	15 feet from all adjacent property lines	None	Behind the rear wall of the residence	All adjacent property owners must grant consent to keeping of chickens. If a property owner does not consent, then an administrative staff determination to issue the permit may be sought.	Ten	None	Zoning Permit
Asheville	10 feet from all adjacent property lines and 50 feet from the nearest residence	None	None	N/A	Determined on a case-by-case basis by animal control following a site inspection (before an animal license for keeping fowl is issued)	None, unless previously permitted and then only for the life of the rooster	Property owner must obtain an Animal License, issued and renewed annually by the City's Animal Services Division
Chapel Hill	30 feet from adjacent residences	None	Rear yard	None	Ten	None	None
Wilmington	10 feet from all adjacent property lines, plus 25 feet from adjacent residences	15,000 sq. feet	Rear yard	None	Five	None	Zoning Permit
High Point	40 feet from adjacent residences	None	Rear yard	None	Five	None	None