

Sec. 18.26.060.**Backyard chickens.**

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to own, possess, harbor, keep, slaughter or care for backyard chickens unless such person first obtains a backyard chicken license granted by the community and economic development department upon its determination that the proposed licensed premise is in compliance with all requirements of this section. A non-refundable application fee, the amount of which shall be established by resolution of city council, must be submitted with the backyard chicken license application.

(b) Backyard chickens are allowed as an accessory use only upon lots or parcels developed for residential use, private or public school use, or municipal use, excluding mobile homes and mobile home parks.

(c) The ownership, possession, harboring, keeping, slaughtering, and care of backyard chickens is subject to the following requirements:

(1) No more than six (6) backyard chickens are permitted per developed one household dwelling unit, private or public school, or public property. The total number of backyard chickens for any lot or parcel shall not exceed 12.

(2) Roosters, and any other fowl or poultry, including but not limited to, ducks, quail, geese, pigeons, peafowl or turkeys are prohibited under the license granted pursuant to this section.

(3) Backyard chickens may only be kept in the rear yard of a lot or parcel and within a designated chicken coop, which shall include a run, meeting the following requirements:

(a) The coop shall be fully enclosed, having floors, walls and a roof sufficient to protect the backyard chickens from predators, inclement weather and extreme temperatures;

(b) The coop shall provide a minimum of four (4) square feet of living space per chicken;

(c) The coop shall not exceed six (6) feet in height as measured from the ground;

(d) The run shall provide a minimum of six (6) square feet of exercise space per chicken;

(e) The run shall be fully enclosed, adequately fenced and protected from predators, and shall have direct access to the chicken coop;

(f) The coop and run, taken together, shall not exceed a maximum gross floor area of 120 square feet;

(g) The coop or run shall have a minimum ten (10) feet setback from any side or rear property line;

(h) No coop or run shall be located between the rear of a principal structure and the front yard lot line; and

(i) Only one coop and one run is allowed per dwelling unit.

(4) Backyard chickens must be securely kept within the coop in the rear yard from dusk until dawn.

(5) During daylight hours or from dawn to dusk, backyard chickens may be allowed to roam within a designated chicken run.

(6) A fresh water supply for backyard chickens shall be provided and maintained in the rear yard of the property at all times, in a location readily accessible to all backyard chickens.

(7) Chicken coops and runs shall be kept in good working condition and regularly maintained in a clean, sanitary condition so as to control dust, odor, and waste and to minimize the presence of flies and other insects and potential for disease.

(8) Animal excrement and other waste must be stored in a re-sealable, airtight, vermin-proof and predator-proof container, and shall be properly disposed of to control odor and minimize potential for disease.

(9) Chicken feed shall be enclosed in a re-sealable, airtight, vermin-proof and predator-proof container.

(10) The slaughtering of backyard chickens is permitted indoors only; however, the slaughtering shall be limited only to the property subject to the license and to those backyard chickens permitted by the license. In addition, the slaughtering location must be screened so as to not be visible from any adjoining properties. Any and all slaughtered animal remains or waste shall be disposed of within twenty-four hours of generation and in accordance with section 4.82.015 of the Code.

(d) It shall be unlawful for any person to own, keep, harbor, possess, slaughter, or care for backyard chickens in violation of the requirements of this section and any such violation is hereby deemed a nuisance that may be abated pursuant to the provisions specified in chapter 5.01 of this Code.

(e) *Nonconforming use.* A dwelling unit permitted to keep chicken hens as a special use in any residential zone district in accordance with Chapter 18.30 prior to March 6, 2019 shall be considered a permitted, non-conforming use, if in compliance with all other provisions of this code pertaining to such use. Such non-conforming use must come into compliance with all requirements of this section by April 1, 2022.