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JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Allowance for Chickens and Ducks on residential properties

Meeting Date: June 12, 2012
Department: Administration
www.junctioncityoregon.gov

Agenda Item Number: 9
Staff Contact: Kevin Watson
Contact Telephone Number: 541-998-2153

ISSUE STATEMENT

This is an opportunity for the council and community to give comment on the possibility of allowing chickens and ducks on residential property within the City limits.

BACKGROUND

The discussion of urban chickens has been bounced around multiple committees for over a year now with no final direction on how to proceed. Currently chickens and ducks are not permitted within City limits. That said, many communities around the State have recently amended their rules to allow the keeping of chickens and ducks on residential properties. Presented to the Council is a list of suggested rules if it's ultimately determined to move forward with the code amendment.

The suggested rules are a combination of guidelines used by a variety of communities around the State. One significant omission is not requiring a permit or fee. The City does not have the capacity to manage a permitting process. It's believed, it is not necessary for property owners to fulfill this requirement for the program to be successful. Chicken nuisance issues will be handled on the enforcement end. Ideally, we will coordinate with the proponents of urban chickens to provide education opportunities to the nuisance properties in hopes of self-policing the situation. If resolution isn't successful, staff will provide enforcement. However, research with other communities revealed that the number of chicken/duck nuisance calls is minimal and a non-issue.

Council does have the option to enact a sunset clause on this rule in the event the chicken/ducks do become a nuisance. We can revisit the issue a year from when the rules are being approved.

RELATED CITY POLICIES

- *Currently section 6.05.030 of the Junction City Code prevents the keeping of livestock, poultry, or bees within the City limits. Ordinance 591.*

COMMITTEE REVIEW

- *Finance and Public Safety Committee have reviewed.*

COUNCIL OPTIONS

- *Tentatively agree to the rules as stated and direct staff to integrate these rules into the zoning code and present to the Planning Commission.*

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- *Amend the rules as stated and direct staff to bring back to Planning Commission to integrate into the zoning code.*
- *Do nothing and maintain the current code of not allowing chickens/ducks within City limits.*

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S RECOMMENDATION

- *Tentatively agree to the rules as stated and direct staff to integrate these rules into the zoning code and present to the Planning Commission.*

SUGGESTED MOTION

- *Please provide staff direction on how to proceed from the listed options.*

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Potential Chicken/Ducks rules

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Draft guidelines for allowance of chickens and ducks:

Notwithstanding any conflicting provisions within the Junction City Development Code, no person shall keep chickens or ducks within the city, except under all of the following conditions:

1. A resident of a single-family dwelling in a residential zone may keep five (5) or fewer chickens/ducks on the lot or parcel on which the resident resides, in conformance with these guidelines.
2. Roosters are prohibited.
3. Except when under the personal control of the owner, chickens/ducks shall be confined at all times within a chicken coop or facility.
4. No chicken coop or facility, either temporarily or permanently, shall be located within 15 feet of any adjacent residence, or within ten feet of the owner's residence
5. A chicken coop or facility shall be located in the side or rear yard of the owner's residence, and shall comply with setback and accessory dwelling requirements of the Development Code in which it is located.
6. A chicken coop or facility shall be clean, dry, free of noticeable odors and in good repair
7. Waste matter shall be removed from the chicken coop or facility as often as necessary to prevent contamination, reduce disease hazards and minimize odors.
8. All food for chickens and ducks shall be stored in suitable, rodent-proof containers.
9. Fencing the chicken/duck run shall be designed and constructed to confine all chickens and ducks to the owner's property.
10. Chickens and Ducks must be kept in a covered, enclosed coop from dusk to dawn.

Prohibitions:

1. Chickens and ducks shall be kept for personal, non-commercial use. Retail sale of eggs from the residence is prohibited. Fertilizer production or Breeding of chickens/ducks is prohibited.
2. No chickens or ducks may be permitted to run at large.
3. Chickens or ducks may not be slaughtered or killed in the City or as otherwise expressly permitted by law.

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