

ORDINANCE NO 2020-07

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LEON, IOWA, 2017, BY ADDING A NEW SECTION REGARDING URBAN CHICKENS

BE IT ORDAINED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEON, IOWA THAT:

SECTION 1. CHAPTER 57 URBAN CHICKENS IS HEREBY CREATED.

**57.01 PURPOSE** The purpose of this chapter is to allow and regulate the keeping of urban chickens.

**57.02 DEFINITION.** For use in this chapter, the following terms are defined:

1. "Chicken" means a member of the subspecies Gallus, gallus domesticus, a domesticated fowl.
2. "Coop" means a cage, enclosure or building used for housing and protecting chickens from weather and predators.
3. "Pen" or "Run" means an enclosure for chickens which allows freedom of movement but also prevents escape.
4. "Rooster" means a male chicken.
5. "Right of Way" means the land area, which is secured or reserved by the contracting authority, that is to be used for road, rail, or other transportation purposes.

**57.03 PERMIT REQUIREMENTS.**

1. Residents will be allowed to raise, harbor, or keep chickens on single-family dwelling properties after obtaining a permit. Permits may be obtained at city hall for a \$10 fee.
2. Applicant shall complete items on the checklist prior to inspection and the permit being approved.
3. Each permit will be in effect for one year from the date of its issuance and must be renewed and certified annually in the month prior to the expiration date.

**57.04 SITE REQUIREMENTS.** Unless specified elsewhere in this chapter, the following requirements shall apply:

1. The property must be a single-family residence.
2. A tenant must obtain the landlord's written permission to install a coop.
3. Coops and pens shall be located only in the rear yard and not within a dwelling.
4. Coops and runs cannot be within 25 feet from neighbors' structures or city right of way without written permission from neighbor.

**57.05 CHICKEN REQUIREMENTS.** Unless specified elsewhere in this chapter, the following requirements shall apply:

1. Maximum number of chickens allowed will be determined by site and coop sizes permissible at each residence.
2. Roosters are prohibited.
3. All chickens must be housed in the coop from dusk to dawn.
4. All feed and other items associated with the keeping of chickens shall be protected in a manner to prevent rodents from gaining access to or coming in contact with them.
5. Adequate food, water and shelter shall be provided at all times.

6. A chicken that is outside the pen is "at large" and is a violation of the City Code.

#### 57.06 COOP REQUIREMENTS.

1. Coops shall be constructed, repaired, and maintained in a manor to prevent rodents from being harbored underneath or within the wall of the enclosures.
2. Coops shall be built of solid materials such as wood, metal, or plastic. The materials used shall be uniform for each element of the structure such that the walls are made of the same material, the roof has the same shingles or other covering, and windows or openings are constructed using the same material.
3. Coops shall have at least one solid door and window that can provide adequate ventilation.
4. A minimum of 1 square feet of space shall be provided per bird inside a coop. Maximum coop size of 24 square feet.
5. Coops shall be maintained to ensure proper sanitation for maintaining the health of the chickens and the owners. Chickens found to be infested with insects and parasites may be removed by a person designated by the City Administrator with the assistance of the City of Leon Police if necessary.
6. Waste must be removed and disposed of in a sealed, enclosed container at a minimum of twice a month to avoid odor.
7. Coop shall be built in a well-drained area to prevent standing water.

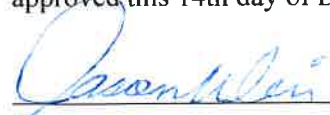
#### 57.07 PEN REQUIREMENTS.

1. There shall be a minimum of 2 square feet of space per chicken.
2. Shall be at least 4 feet high, predator proof and constructed of wood, chicken wire, or heavy gauge mesh wire with a top.
3. Waste must be removed and disposed of in a sealed, enclosed container at a minimum of twice a month to avoid odor.

SECTION II. ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES WHICH CONFLICT HEREWITH ARE REPEALED

SECTION III. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE. IF ANY SECTION, PROVISION, OR PART OF THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE ADJUDGED INVALID OR UNCONSTITUTIONAL, SUCH ADJUDICATION SHALL NOT AFFECT THE VALIDITY OF THE ORDINANCE AS A WHOLE OR ANY SECTION, PROVISION, OR PART THEREOF NOT ADJUDGE INVALID OR UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

SECTION IV. **WHEN EFFECTIVE.** This ordinance shall be in effect from and after its final passage, approval and publication as provided by law. Passed by the Council on the 8th day of October 2020 and approved this 14th day of December 2020.

  
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MAYOR

  
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CITY CLERK

First Reading: 12-14-2020

Second Reading: 1-11-2021

Third Reading: 1-8-2021

I certify that the foregoing was published as Ordinance No. 288-7 on the 23 day of December, 2020

Dorise Arnold

City Clerk

