

**CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF GRAND HAVEN  
OTTAWA COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

Council Member **Fritz**, supported by Council Member **Monetza**, moved the adoption of the following Ordinance:

**ORDINANCE NO. 15-09**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE THREE, SECTION 304 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF  
THE CITY OF GRAND HAVEN**

**THE CITY OF GRAND HAVEN ORDAINS:**

**Section 1. Chapter 40, Article Three, Section 40-304 of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Grand Haven, is amended to include a new section as follows:**

- B. Backyard Chickens. The intent of these regulations is to allow the raising of backyard chickens in single-family neighborhoods while protecting the urban character of the community. The keeping of backyard chickens is distinct from consideration of keeping other types of animals because chickens do not graze and require a small, contained area that is in keeping with the lot sizes in the City of Grand Haven.

No person shall keep chickens unless they obtain a backyard chicken permit and comply with the following conditions.

1. The keeping of chickens is permitted only on lots where the principal use is a Single-Family Dwelling.
2. Chickens are prohibited on property located within the Sensitive Areas Overlay District.
3. The maximum number of chickens permitted per property shall be four (4). Roosters are prohibited.
4. Chickens must be maintained in a fully enclosed, roofed structure at all times.
5. The enclosure must be constructed of permanent residential building materials suited for the purpose intended, and in a manner which serves to enhance the aesthetic appearance of the neighborhood or surrounding area.
6. All areas accessible to the chickens, including the coop and run, shall be contained in a single structure not to exceed 60 square feet in footprint and 8 feet in height measured from the grade.
7. The enclosure must have chicken wire or similar material embedded 12 inches into the ground around the enclosure to deter predators from digging under the enclosure wall.
8. The enclosure shall be located in the rear yard and at least eight (8) feet from side and rear property lines, and where public sidewalk is present at least ten (10) feet distant from it.
9. The enclosure must be maintained in a clean and orderly fashion.
10. Chicken feed must be kept in a vermin-proof sealed container.
11. Slaughtering of chickens is not permitted.

12. The applicant shall pay the fee required by the fee resolution periodically adopted by the City Council.
13. Applications for original and renewal backyard chicken permits shall be submitted to, and permits shall be issued by, the Planning & Community Development Department. Permits shall be issued within one week if the applicant demonstrates that it meets all conditions of this section.
14. An initial backyard chicken permit shall be valid for three (3) years from the date of issuance. A renewal backyard chicken permit shall be valid for two (2) years from the date of issuance.
15. If a renewal permit is not obtained, the chickens and enclosure must be removed from the premises within 60 days after the expiration of the permit.
16. Applications for a backyard chicken permit, renewals, suspensions and revocations shall be handled in the manner provided in Chapter 21 Licenses.

**Section 2.**      **Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after its adoption or upon its publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the City, whichever occurs later.

YEAS: Council Member(s)      Monetza, Hierholzer, Scott, Fritz, and McCaleb

NAYS: Council Member(s)      NONE

ABSTAIN: Council Member(s)      NONE

ABSENT: Council Member(s)      NONE

**APPROVED:** November 2, 2015

I certify that this ordinance was adopted at a meeting of the Grand Haven City Council held on November 2, 2015.

Linda L. Browand, City Clerk

Introduced: October 19, 2015

Adopted: November 2, 2015

Published: November 6, 2015

Effective: November 22, 2015