

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE 4 “BACKYARD CHICKENS”
OF CHAPTER 155 “ANIMALS” OF TITLE IX
“POLICE REGULATIONS” OF THE CODE
OF THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS**

ORDINANCE NO. 2016 - 49

THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS DO ORDAIN:

Section 1. That Section 9.217 “Purpose and Findings” of Title IX, Chapter 155 of the Code of the City of Grand Rapids be amended to read as follows:

“The City having successfully permitted the keeping of backyard chickens as part of a two (2) year pilot program without significant complaints or administrative difficulty hereby permits the keeping of backyard chickens subject to this Chapter.”

Section 2. That Section 9.219 “Chickens” of Title IX, Chapter 155 of the Code of the City of Grand Rapids be amended to read as follows:

“Chickens may be kept in the City with a valid Chicken Permit subject to the following conditions:

(1) Chickens may only be kept on a lot containing a single-family or two-family dwelling. No person shall allow chickens to be kept on a lot containing a multi-family dwelling.

(2) Chickens may only be kept on a lot which is at least 3,800 square feet in size.

(3) Chickens may only be kept by an occupant of a dwelling unit located on the real property on which the chickens are kept.

(4) Chickens must be kept in and confined in a properly designed and constructed coop or chicken house, or a fenced and covered enclosure, which may be located only in the “rear yard” of the property, as that term is defined in Chapter 61 of this Code, known as the Zoning Ordinance. The Planning Director may permit an alternate placement where a rear yard does not exist due to existing building placement or for properties that do not have a rear yard, providing that there are no detrimental effects on adjacent properties.

(5) Each fenced and covered enclosure shall be designed with adequate yard space for each chicken, and the coop or chicken house and the fenced and covered enclosure combined shall not cover more than 50% of the rear yard. Enclosures must be clean and resistant to predators and rodents.

(6) Each fenced and covered enclosure shall be located at least ten (10) feet from any lot line.

(7) No person shall keep or allow to be kept more than four (4) chickens on a lot which is less than 5,000 square feet in size.

(8) No person shall keep or allow to be kept more than six (6) chickens on a lot which is 5,000 square feet or greater in size.

(9) Chicken feed must be in rodent resistant and weather proof containers.

(10) Chickens may not be butchered, slaughtered, or otherwise killed, for any reason or any purpose, on any real property on which chickens may be kept pursuant to this ordinance.

(11) The person keeping the chickens shall abide by all health and safety standards of the City's Property Maintenance Code.

(12) Roosters are expressly prohibited, regardless of the age or maturity of the bird.”

Section 3. That Section 9.220(4) of Section 9.220 “Chicken Permits” of Title IX, Chapter 155 of the Code of the City of Grand Rapids be amended to read as follows:

“If the City Manager or his/her designee receives an objection to the issuance of a permit from any person required to be notified of the permit application, within twenty-one (21) days from mailing the written notice of the permit application, then the permit shall not be granted.”

