

RESOLUTION 14-62

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SPRING HILL, TENNESSEE ESTABLISHING A BACKYARD HEN PERMITTING PROCESS

WHEREAS, the City of Spring Hill Board of Mayor and Aldermen recognizes the rising popularity in the practice of raising backyard hens as a means for harvesting eggs as a food source; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Spring Hill Municipal Code § 10-102 provides for the keeping of chickens within one thousand feet (1,000') of any residence upon issuance of a permit by the Health Officer when in his sound judgment the keeping of such an animal in a yard or building under the circumstances as set forth in the application for the permit will not injuriously affect the public health; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen desire to provide parameters for such a permit and conditions of an application, which to this point have not been developed.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Spring Hill, Tennessee, that an application and permitting process be established to permit the raising of Backyard Hens; and,

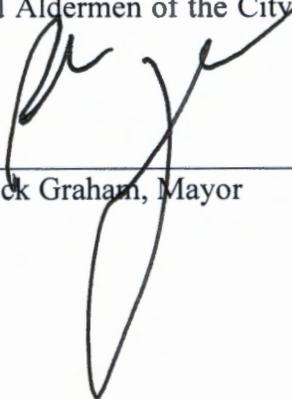
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following parameters be considered as condition for such permit:

- Section 1: Up to four (4) Hens are permitted at a single family residence.
- Section 2: Roosters are prohibited.
- Section 3: Town Home, multi-family and similar units are prohibited from keeping hens.
- Section 4: Hens must be contained within a covered chicken coop and fenced pen area.
- Section 5: The coop and fenced pen area shall be setback 20-feet from any adjacent residential principal structure or accessory structure that contains a residential unit, which is off the subject property, and meets the zoning districts setbacks for accessory structures.
- Section 6: Stored feed must be secured in metal containers to prevent mice and other pests.
- Section 7: No slaughtering of the hens is allowed on the subject site.
- Section 8: Properties zoned AG (Agricultural) OR greater than two and one half (2 ½) acres in size are exempt from these parameters.
- Section 9: Such permit may not be issued when the keeping of fowl is not permitted by a Neighborhood or Home Owner Association by Covenant, Deed Restriction, or other Rule or Regulation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The City Administrator is authorized to make, or have made, changes to the parameters and conditions of the Backyard Hen permit when in his opinion such changes are necessary; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution shall take effect from and immediately after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Spring Hill, Tennessee on the 19th day of May, 2014.



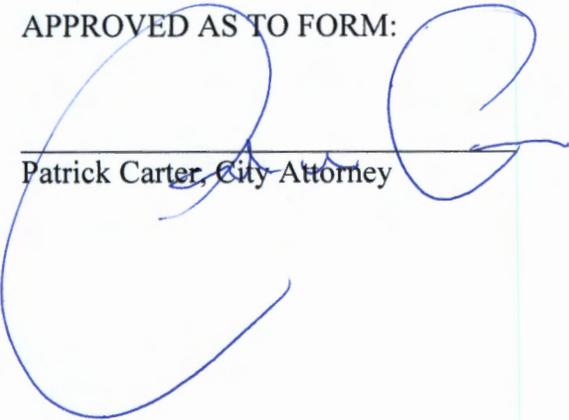
Rick Graham, Mayor

ATTEST:



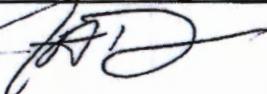
April Goad, City Recorder

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Patrick Carter, City Attorney



REQUEST: Resolution Establishing Backyard Hen Permitting Process
SUBMITTED BY: Jonathan Duda, Alderman – Ward 2 
DATE: May 8, 2014
RE: Establish a Backyard Hen permitting process
ATTACHMENTS: None

PURPOSE: Spring Hill Municipal Code § 10-102 currently provides for the keeping of chickens within one thousand feet (1,000') of any residence upon issuance of a permit by the Health Officer. Parameters for such a permit and conditions of an application to this point have not been developed. This resolution would provide the framework for parameters to permit the raising of Backyard Hens, which is becoming an increasingly popular practice in suburban and urban communities for the production and personal consumption of organic eggs.

BACKGROUND: This request is in keeping with the increasingly popular trend across the country towards keeping urban or backyard hens, primarily for the production and personal consumption of organic eggs. Although Municipal Code § 10-102 provides for a permitting process administered through the Health Officer, parameters do not currently exist for such a permit. The proposed resolution would outline conditions which are relatively standard across other communities to address issues such as number of chickens allowed (as proposed, a maximum of 4), prohibiting roosters (due to noise), location, prohibition against slaughtering on site and would also make properties currently zoned AG (agricultural) or over 5 acres regardless of the zoning exempt. Also included in the resolution is authorization for the City Administrator to amend or adjust parameters to such permitting in the future if necessary. Note: This request is revisiting a topic that was considered a couple of years ago, but no action was taken. Additional info on the practice of raising backyard chickens can be found here:
<http://www.backyardchickens.com/>

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Minimal costs to administer. As proposed, no permitting fee is required.

ACTION REQUIRED: Municipal Code currently provides for a permitting process. This resolution, adopted over a single reading, would provide direction to Staff to administer a permitting procedure.