

Mindy Lawrence

Agricultural Uses

From: Wayne Wiethe
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2025 12:33 PM
To: Mindy Lawrence
Subject: FW: Chickens, Eggs and Avian Flu

For PZC

Wayne L. Wiethe, AICP
Director of Planning
City of Green, Ohio
1755 Town Park Blvd.
Green, Ohio 44232
330-896-6614

From: davidh4675@aol.com <davidh4675@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2025 12:17 PM
To: Wayne Wiethe <planning@cityofgreen.org>
Cc: Rick Miller <rmiller@cityofgreen.org>; Rocco Yeargin <mayor@cityofgreen.org>
Subject: Chickens, Eggs and Avian Flu

Trending on social media, the nationwide concept of raising chickens in densely populated urban areas is nothing more than a passing fad reaction to the temporary price increase on eggs due to a spike in avian flu. Under closer scrutiny it makes little sense on many levels, but most importantly from the health and safety risk to the City of Green.

Avian flu has recently been spreading to other animals and to people resulting in serious illness and even death. Professional egg farmers are taking extraordinary steps to help prevent this spread. It's unrealistic to expect amateurs to take such care.

Amateurs raising chickens on smaller parcels increases the risk of avian flu spreading to neighboring citizens and their pets, which will also be at increased risk from coyotes and other wild predators attracted by chickens.

At a time when avian flu is increasingly spreading to other animals and people, amateurs raising chickens in more densely populated areas of Green should not be encouraged by changing laws in a way that increases the health and safety risk to our citizens.

Respectfully,

Dave & Judi Hederich
3968 Highpoint Dr

(2)

Agricultural Uses

Mindy Lawrence

From: Wayne Wiethe
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 2:50 PM
To: Mindy Lawrence
Subject: FW: Chicken Ordinance Amendment

For PZC

Wayne L. Wiethe, AICP
Director of Planning
City of Green, Ohio
1755 Town Park Blvd.
Green, Ohio 44232
330-896-6614

From: Robert A. Charles <racohio1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 1:42 PM
To: Wayne Wiethe <planning@cityofgreen.org>
Cc: Justin Speight <jspeight@cityofgreen.org>; Barbara Babbitt <bbabbitt@cityofgreen.org>; Christopher J. Meager <cmeager@cityofgreen.org>; Rick Miller <rmiller@cityofgreen.org>; Jeff Noble <jnoble@cityofgreen.org>; Clark DeVitis <cdevitis@cityofgreen.org>; Gerard Neugebauer <neugebauer@cityofgreen.org>
Subject: Chicken Ordinance Amendment

Dear Planning Department,

I am a homeowner in the Estates at Meadow Wood allotment that opposes the proposed changes to the ordinance on raising chickens, reducing the required lot size from 2 acres down to 0.45 acres.

The current ordinance of 2.0 acres provides, in my opinion, such buffer as to permit proper placement and distance away from residences in close proximity, while not diminishing the general ambience of our neighborhoods. Having had experience in my youth with raising chickens, and while noting that current shortages in eggs may generally beneficially encourage such designs by our neighbors, it is important also to be aware of the extremity of filth, noise and disruption farm animals can and do create just by being there, including the attraction of foxes, hawks and other predatory animals into areas closely occupied by children and families. While the proposed ordinance was written with some of the more practical points in mind such as cleanliness, and the prohibiting the harvesting of such animals, I believe the legislation fails to fully anticipate the other disruptions we can foresee as these animals are raised in close proximity to our homes. Their presence will undoubtedly stir discord and encourage arguments around their presence and the environmental variances that may be anticipated. I will also remind you that City and County (Sheriff) employees will be drawn in for inspections and enforcement disputes, and that the nature and perception of our wholesome community will be adversely affected.

Such issues will not be limited to affects on public personnel, as there remains broadly inconsistent address in HOA bylaws (even the complete absence of any reference) concerning the matter of raising chickens. Areas where the active HOAs no longer exist may only appeal to the letter of the proposed ordinance, and this will encourage attempts to resolve arguments and disputes in other ways. The effects of passage will likely prompt a broader reaction by the HOA boards to try to more thoroughly anticipate, head off and preemptively regulate issues beyond just raising chickens, and will work to create more divisive circumstances affecting the appearance, value, cohesiveness and peace of our neighborhoods. The adoption of the proposed legislation will only highlight the voids between city actions and HOA actions, and douse efforts on resolving far weightier community matters affecting civil liberties.

It is not my desire to encourage unreasonable constraint on homeowners, thus preventing the reasonable enjoyment of their properties. Yet I cannot agree with the magnitude of this proposed change, nor in the reduction from the current

requirement. There are many more ways in which we can encourage the celebration of Green's historical heritage, while more wisely anticipating the challenges of a growing city, placing homes ever more closely as we grow.

I do appreciate that those who drafted and support the proposed change also bring pure motives for rendering their support to the revision, however I just believe this change is far too extreme, not reckoning the implications of this legislation in practical application on the communities we represent.

I STRONGLY URGE YOU TO MOVE AGAINST THIS PROPOSED CHANGE AND RETAIN THE CURRENT 2.0 ACRE PROVISION.

Thank you for your consideration.

Robert A. Charles
1501 Summer Wood Lane
Uniontown, Ohio 44685
racohio1@gmail.com

Mindy Lawrence

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Agricultural Uses

From: Wayne Wiethe
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 3:23 PM
To: Mindy Lawrence
Subject: FW: City of Green's proposed changes to the minimum homeowner's property size to raise backyard chickens

For PZC

Wayne L. Wiethe, AICP
Director of Planning
City of Green, Ohio
1755 Town Park Blvd.
Green, Ohio 44232
330-896-6614

From: tremmel@aol.com <tremmel@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 3:22 PM
To: Wayne Wiethe <planning@cityofgreen.org>
Subject: City of Green's proposed changes to the minimum homeowner's property size to raise backyard chickens

Dear Planning Department,

I am a homeowner in the Spring Hill allotment that strongly opposes the proposed changes to the ordinance on raising chickens that will reduce the required lot size from 2 acres down to .45 acres..

If I wanted to live next door to neighbors with chicken coops and noisy chickens, I would have moved into a farming community instead of the city of Green.

It can be hard to get people to mow their lawns these days. I don't know how people are going to keep chicken coops clean which will result in unpleasant odors, attracting rodents and other pests.

Chicken poop is toxic to humans and can carry diseases like salmonella, E. Coli, and avian influenza. What will happen if a neighbor's child opens up a coop and touches chicken poop along with the loose hens?

When it comes to saving money, chickens are not all what they are cracked up to be. Chickens can have steep start-up costs and require diligent daily year round care that includes dealing with sick chickens that need to be isolated from the flock.

Setting up a chicken coop and run, then raising chicks until they are old enough to start their first egg can cost up to \$1,500. Good luck in finding pet sitters!

Chicken Administration and Enforcement costs:

Do Not put these burdens and costs on the HOA Boards. Our tax dollars are needed on important services like repairing potholes, repaving streets, snow removal, street sweeping, etc. and not dealing with the added cost and burden of enforcing chicken compliance that may raise our taxes. ***Do Not put these burdens and costs on the HOA Boards.***

Thank you for your consideration

Kevin Tremmel
Spring Hill HOA Board Member
3776 Kenway Blvd
Uniontown, OH 44685
Tremmel@aol.com

Mindy Lawrence

Agricultural Uses

From: Wayne Wiethe
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 8:04 AM
To: Mindy Lawrence
Subject: FW: City of Green proposed changes to the minimum property square footage requirements for chicken farming.

The 4th I believe

Wayne L. Wiethe, AICP
 Director of Planning
 City of Green, Ohio
 1755 Town Park Blvd.
 Green, Ohio 44232
 330-896-6614

From: Phil Krumlauf <pkrumlauf@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 6:56 PM
To: Wayne Wiethe <planning@cityofgreen.org>
Subject: City of Green proposed changes to the minimum property square footage requirements for chicken farming.

Dear Planning Department,

I have been a Green Resident and homeowner in the Charleston Place allotment for over twenty years. I am very concerned and strongly oppose the proposed changes to the ordinance on raising chickens that will reduce the required lot size from 2 acres down to .45 acres..

If I wanted to live next door to neighbors with chicken coops and noisy chickens, I would have moved in to a farming community instead of the city of Green.

It can be hard to get people to mow their lawns these days. I don't know how people are going to keep chicken coops clean which will result in unpleasant odors, attracting rodents and other pests.

Chicken poop is toxic to humans and can carry diseases like salmonella, E. Coli, and avian influenza. What will happen if a neighbors child opens up a coop and touches chicken poop along with the loose hens?

When it comes to saving money, chickens are not all what they are cracked up to be. Chickens can have steep start up costs and require diligent daily year round care that includes dealing with sick chickens that need to be isolated from the flock.

Setting up a chicken coop and run, then raising chicks until they are old enough to start their first egg can cost up to \$1,500. Good luck in finding pet sitters!

Chicken Administration and Enforcement costs:

Do Not put these burdens and costs on the HOA Boards. Our tax dollars are needed on important services like repairing potholes, repaving streets, snow removal, street sweeping, etc. and not dealing with the added cost and burden of enforcing chicken compliance that may raise our taxes. ***Do Not put these burdens and costs on the HOA Boards.***

Thank you for your consideration

Phil Krumlauf
 4107 Southwyck Rd

agricultural use
(5)

Mindy Lawrence

From: Wayne Wiethe
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2025 7:57 AM
To: Mindy Lawrence
Subject: FW: Do Not Support Chickens In Residential Neighborhoods

Please print out for PZC

Wayne L. Wiethe, AICP
Director of Planning
City of Green, Ohio
1755 Town Park Blvd.
Green, Ohio 44232
330-896-6614

-----Original Message-----

From: Andrew Durnell <durny12@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 12, 2025 9:49 PM
To: Wayne Wiethe <planning@cityofgreen.org>
Subject: Do Not Support Chickens In Residential Neighborhoods

Greetings Board Members,

I am a resident of Stoney Creek in Green, and I strongly oppose to the raising of chickens in residential neighborhoods. I firmly believe passing this will decrease the value of homes in residential neighborhoods amongst other consequences.

Thank you for your support to this community.

Andrew

Sent from my iPhone

Mindy Lawrence

(6)
Agricultural Uses

From: Wayne Wiethe
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 1:45 PM
To: Mindy Lawrence
Subject: FW: Opposition towards proposed changes to chicken regulations.

Another one

Wayne L. Wiethe, AICP
Director of Planning
City of Green, Ohio
1755 Town Park Blvd.
Green, Ohio 44232
330-896-6614

From: Kate Breth <katebreth@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 1:39 PM
To: Wayne Wiethe <planning@cityofgreen.org>
Cc: Barbara Babbitt <bbabbitt@cityofgreen.org>; Christopher J. Meager <cmeager@cityofgreen.org>; Rick Miller <rmiller@cityofgreen.org>; Jeff Noble <jnoble@cityofgreen.org>; Clark DeVitis <cdevitis@cityofgreen.org>; Gerard Neugebauer <neugebauer@cityofgreen.org>; Justin Speight <jspeight@cityofgreen.org>
Subject: Opposition towards proposed changes to chicken regulations.

Dear Planning Department,

As a homeowner in the Hyde Park neighborhood, I'm writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes regarding the ordinance on raising chickens that will reduce the required lot size from 2 acres down to .45 acres.

Our decision to buy a home and raise our family in Green was also driven by the desire for a neighborhood environment – one quite different from living next to the noise and upkeep of chicken coops. Had that been our preference, we would have certainly chosen a different location.

Given the challenges already faced in maintaining basic yard upkeep, I have serious concerns about the ability of residents on smaller lots to adequately manage chicken coops. This raises the likelihood of unpleasant smells and the attraction of rodents and other pests. The potential health risks associated with chicken waste, including the transmission of diseases like salmonella, E. coli, and avian influenza, are also deeply troubling. The scenario of children encountering chicken droppings or unsupervised hens is a significant safety concern.

Furthermore, the notion that raising chickens is a simple way to save money overlooks the considerable initial investment and the ongoing daily commitment required, including managing the health of the flock. The costs associated with setting up a proper coop and raising chicks to laying age can easily reach \$1,500, not to mention the difficulty of finding appropriate care for chickens when homeowners are away. Additionally, adhering to the Summit County Health Department regulations adds more challenges.

Secondly as an HOA board member, I am deeply concerned about the additional burden this new change of ordinance will affect the homeowner association. While the ordinance may state that residents within HOA communities must comply with their association's rules, the reality is that enforcing these regulations against non-compliant homeowners will create undue pressure and potential costs for the HOA board, particularly when dealing with properties larger than the proposed .45-acre minimum.

Finally, I urge the Planning Department to carefully consider the administrative and enforcement costs that will inevitably arise from this ordinance change. It is unacceptable to place the responsibility of enforcement on HOA boards. Our tax dollars should be directed towards essential city services like road repair, snow removal, and street maintenance which all

the streets within the Hyde Park neighborhood desperately need repaved, rather than being diverted to manage chicken-related issues, potentially leading to increased taxes for all residents. Please do not impose these additional responsibilities and costs on our HOAs.

Thank you for carefully considering these concerns.

Kate Breth
3171 Helston Ave
Akron, OH 44312
Hyde Park neighborhood resident & HOA Board member

Wayne Wiethe

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Agricultural Uses

From: Karen Lamm <hkelamm@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 2:22 PM
To: Wayne Wiethe
Subject: Chicken Ordinance

Dear Planning Department,

I am a homeowner in the Meadow Woodl allotment that strongly opposes the proposed changes to the ordinance on raising chickens that will reduce the required lot size from 2 acres down to .45 acres..

If I wanted to live next door to neighbors with chicken coops and noisy chickens, I would have moved in to a farming community instead of the city of Green.

It can be hard to get people to mow their lawns these days. I don't know how people are going to keep chicken coops clean which will result in unpleasant odors, attracting rodents and other pests.

Chicken poop is toxic to humans and can carry diseases like salmonella, E. Coli, and avian influenza. What will happen if a neighbors child opens up a coop and touches chicken poop along with the loose hens?

When it comes to saving money, chickens are not all what they are cracked up to be. Chickens can have steep start up costs and require diligent daily year round care that includes dealing with sick chickens that need to be isolated from the flock.

Setting up a chicken coop and run, then raising chicks until they are old enough to start their first egg can cost up to \$1,500. Good luck in finding pet sitters!

Chicken Administration and Enforcement costs:

Do Not put these burdens and costs on the HOA Boards. Our tax dollars are needed on important services like repairing potholes, repaving streets, snow removal, street sweeping, etc. and not dealing with the added cost and burden of enforcing chicken compliance that may raise our taxes. Do Not put these burdens and costs on the HOA Boards.

Thank you for your consideration

Hank and Karen Lamm
1494 Summer Wood Lane
Uniontown, OH. 44685
hkelamm@me.com

Wayne Wiethe

From: John Warmus <jfw@warmusbuilders.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 2:46 PM
To: Wayne Wiethe
Subject: 2025-06 Agricultural (Chicken) ordinance

Dear Planning Department,

I am a current homeowner and past developer of the Estates at Meadow Wood allotment. I am writing to express my objection to permit chicken farming on any 20,000 SF lot in my neighborhood . Our covenants and restrictions specifically prohibit the raising of livestock or fowl. If this new amendment were to pass, our HOA could potentially be faced with expensive litigation in order to enforce compliance with our deed recorded covenants and restrictions. Please keep the minimum acreage at 2 acres. Thank you for your attention.



John F. Warmus, P.E.

330.896.1113

1531 Boettler Rd. Suite C
Green, Ohio 44685

jfw@warmusbuilders.com

Mindy Lawrence

From: Wayne Wiethe
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 5:24 PM
To: Mindy Lawrence
Subject: FW: Chicken Ordinance

Wayne L. Wiethe, AICP
Director of Planning
City of Green, Ohio
1755 Town Park Blvd.
Green, Ohio 44232
330-896-6614

From: Rick Miller <rmiller@cityofgreen.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 4:28 PM
To: Wayne Wiethe <WWiethe@cityofgreen.org>
Subject: Fwd: Chicken Ordinance

First email I've seen so far that is in support of the new legislation.

Rick Miller
Green City Council - Ward 3

Phone: (330) 283-8462
Email: rmiller@cityofgreen.org
Website: www.cityofgreen.org

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nicole Smith <nikkid848@aol.com>
Date: April 16, 2025 at 3:27:45 PM EDT
To: City Council <citycouncil@cityofgreen.org>
Subject: Chicken Ordinance

Hi All,
First of all, THANK YOU! I really appreciate that our community is willing to look into the ordinances and find areas of improvement and most importantly act on them!

I would like to share my support for most of the proposed changes.

The restrictions for number of hens by acreage is very restrictive still (8 hens can live in a 12ft run - it certainly doesn't require a full acre to handle that). Further, why no roosters? Outside of breeding, they offer many benefits. Previous ordinance I believe allowed roosters for acreage over 5, why completely remove them now? How will the few farms we have left around Green feel about that?

We have a lot of predators around us - especially those of us on properties of the size to have larger flocks, roosters offer protection, help keep the flock safe, improve the behavior of the flock overall, and can even help increase egg production.

Please consider your reasons for your restrictions and consider whether they are for the greater good or protection of a few.

In my eyes, these ordinances are for the people who live outside of allotments which already have HOA's preventing people from having livestock, therefore, is there really a concern to have any restrictions at all?

Thanks for your consideration of additional points!
Looking forward to seeing what council can do for Green.

~Nicole Smith

Mindy Lawrence

From: Wayne Wiethe
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 5:25 PM
To: Mindy Lawrence
Subject: FW: Chicken Coops

Wayne L. Wiethe, AICP
Director of Planning
City of Green, Ohio
1755 Town Park Blvd.
Green, Ohio 44232
330-896-6614

From: Rick Miller <rmiller@cityofgreen.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 4:12 PM
To: Wayne Wiethe <WWiethe@cityofgreen.org>
Subject: Fwd: Chicken Coops

Wanted to be sure this email got through to you and the planning folks.

Rick Miller
Green City Council - Ward 3

Phone: (330) 283-8462
Email: rmiller@cityofgreen.org
Website: www.cityofgreen.org

Begin forwarded message:

From: Richardamorgan <richardamorgan@neo.rr.com>
Date: April 16, 2025 at 3:53:07 PM EDT
To: Clark DeVitis <cDeVitis@cityofgreen.org>, Rick Miller <rmiller@cityofgreen.org>
Subject: Fwd: Chicken Coops

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Richardamorgan <richardamorgan@neo.rr.com>

Date: April 16, 2025 at 3:46:25 PM EDT

To: planning@cityofgreen.org

Subject: Chicken Coops

Dear Planning Department,

I am a homeowner in Green (the Meadowwood sub division) that strongly opposes the proposed changes to the ordinance on raising chickens that will reduce the required lot size from 2 acres down to .45 acres..

If I wanted to live next door to neighbors with chicken coops and noisy chickens, I would have moved in to a farming community instead of the City of Green.

It can be hard to get people to mow their lawns these days. I don't know how people are going to keep chicken coops clean which will result in unpleasant odors, attracting rodents and other pests.

Chicken poop is toxic to humans and can carry diseases like salmonella, E. Coli, and avian influenza. What will happen if a neighbors child opens up a coop and touches chicken poop along with the loose hens?

When it comes to saving money, chickens are not all what they are cracked up to be. Chickens can have steep start up costs and require diligent daily year round care that includes dealing with sick chickens that need to be isolated from the flock.

Setting up a chicken coop and run, then raising chicks until they are old enough to start their first egg can cost up to \$1,500. Good luck in finding pet sitters!

Chicken Administration and Enforcement costs:
Our tax dollars are needed on important services like repairing potholes, repaving streets, snow removal, street sweeping, etc. and not dealing with the added cost and burden of enforcing chicken compliance that may raise our taxes.

Thank you for your consideration

Richard and Elizabeth Morgan
1493 Summer Wood Lane
Uniontown Ohio. 44685

Richardamorgan@neo.rr.com

Thank you Sent from my iPhone

Mindy Lawrence

From: Wayne Wiethe
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 5:23 PM
To: Mindy Lawrence
Subject: FW: Important Update: Proposed Changes to Chicken Regulations in the City of Green

Wayne L. Wiethe, AICP
 Director of Planning
 City of Green, Ohio
 1755 Town Park Blvd.
 Green, Ohio 44232
 330-896-6614

From: Rick Miller <rmiller@cityofgreen.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 5:19 PM
To: Wayne Wiethe <WWiethe@cityofgreen.org>
Subject: Fwd: Important Update: Proposed Changes to Chicken Regulations in the City of Green

Another person opposed to the new proposed legislation

Rick Miller
 Green City Council - Ward 3

Phone: (330) 283-8462
Email: rmiller@cityofgreen.org
Website: www.cityofgreen.org

Begin forwarded message:

From: Caroline Miller <carecare09@yahoo.com>
Date: April 16, 2025 at 5:16:20 PM EDT
To: Rick Miller <rmiller@cityofgreen.org>
Subject: Re: Important Update: Proposed Changes to Chicken Regulations in the City of Green

Hello Mr. Miller,
 I want to express my concerns regarding Chickens in Green.
 I have cared for patients with Zoonotic diseases of chickens- or illnesses spread to humans and one never forgets these.

The health risks are high even for people living even within the same mile of chickens. One can experience disease, if not only from the chickens- but the vermin who come for the feed, the coyotes and other predators coming closer to homes as well as the chicken illnesses of which many are airborne illnesses.

People would fear for their small animals within their own fenced yards having chickens next door.

We are currently in a Bird Influenza Epidemic, the birds must be culled/killed if disease presents. Other common illnesses that are shared between chickens and humans are campylobacter, Psittacosis, Coccidiosis, EColi and so many others. These illnesses cause high morbidity and mortality to humans. The elderly, the medically fragile and young are most at risk.

I am not in favor of chickens on land less than 2 acres. As much as I love individual freedoms, the cost of the health of individuals along with the actual cost to pay someone to make people comply with the orders in the City of Green on compliance issues would be too great. The current orders are already experiencing difficulty with enforcement for some individuals.

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-pets/about/backyard-poultry.html>

Thank you for your time,
Caroline Miller

On Sunday, April 13, 2025, 8:22 PM, Rick Miller <rmiller@cityofgreen.org> wrote:

Dear Neighbors,

I hope this message finds you well.

As many of you are already aware, a proposed piece of legislation is currently under consideration that could significantly alter the regulations regarding the ownership of chickens within the City of Green. Among other proposed changes, the legislation would reduce the current minimum lot size requirement from 2 acres to just .45 acres (less than half an acre).

Given the potential impact of this change on our neighborhood and others like it, I encourage all residents to stay informed and actively engage in the public process.

As Mayor Yeargin shared in his recent communication below, please be reminded of the following key opportunities for public input:

- The matter will go before the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) on Wednesday, April 16 at 6:00 PM
- A Public Hearing is scheduled during the City Council Meeting on Tuesday, May 13 at 7:00 PM

If you have an opinion on this proposed legislation—whether in support or opposition—I strongly encourage you to make your voice heard through any or all of the following avenues:

- Email your thoughts and comments to the Planning Department at: Planning@cityofgreen.org
- Attend the PZC meeting on April 16 and share your feedback during the public comment period
- Participate in the Public Hearing at the City Council Meeting on May 13

Your voice matters. Decisions like this can have a lasting effect on the character and quality of life in our community, and it's vital that they reflect the perspectives of the residents most affected.

For your convenience, a copy of the proposed legislation is attached to this email for your review.

Please feel free to share this email with your friends and neighbors throughout the City of Green. The more residents who are informed and engaged, the more meaningful and representative the conversation will be.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our community.

Warm regards,

Rick Miller

Rick Miller
Green City Council - Ward 3

Phone: (330) 283-8462

Email: rmiller@cityofgreen.org

Website: www.cityofgreen.org

On Apr 11, 2025, at 9:19 PM, Rocco Yeargin
<mayor@cityofgreen.org> wrote:

All,

Many of you have expressed strong opinions about a resident request to reduce the acreage requirement for chickens from the current 2 acre minimum to .45 acres (less than 1/2 acre) and how that might affect the Highlands of Green neighborhood. I'm sending this to you let you know that this matter will be before the PZC this Wednesday, April 16, at 6:00. I encourage you to participate in the process by sending your email comments to the Planning Department at Planning@cityofgreen.org. Sharing your opinion on this matters.

Also, If you are able to attend Wednesday, I encourage you to come and share your comments. Either Rick Miller or I will try to get the actual legislation out to you for review on Monday.

Thanks,
Rocco

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Mindy Lawrence

From: Wayne Wiethe
Sent: Thursday, April 17, 2025 10:34 AM
To: Mindy Lawrence
Subject: FW: Chicken ordinance.

Wayne L. Wiethe, AICP
Director of Planning
City of Green, Ohio
1755 Town Park Blvd.
Green, Ohio 44232
330-896-6614

-----Original Message-----

From: Sarah Noirot <sarah_noirot@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 8:06 PM
To: Wayne Wiethe <Planning@cityofgreen.org>
Subject: Chicken ordinance.

Hello! I just had a few inquiries/opinions regarding the proposed changes to the chicken ordinances. I've been a registered nurse for 23 years, so from a medical standpoint, the changes do pose potential risks. While the chicken owners are most at risk, there is some potential health risks to neighbors, including histoplasmosis. Of course the farther away chickens are from neighbors, the lower the risk. Histoplasmosis is basically a fungus that gets in the soil as a result of chicken feces and then blooms and can be spread by spores via the air anytime the soil is disturbed. It can cause potentially life threatening respiratory issues, some of which are permanent and life altering. I just want to encourage you to keep zoonotic diseases in the forefront when considering acreage required and distance from neighbors. This part is strictly my opinion and not based on medical fact..... seems like maybe an acre requirement may be a happy medium? Decrease health risks but allow more potential chicken owners? The difference between 6-8 hens is really void when coming from a disease perspective.

I'm also curious about the permit and inspection process. How frequent inspections will be required, who would be doing the inspections, will soil samples be taken, etc.

I think it's great that the city is revisiting this ordinance and seeking out the communities input. I'm actually torn between being pro or against! Raising livestock can be very special for families, a great learning opportunity and fulfilling in many ways. I think with the right requirements and oversight, adjusting the acreage needs could be beneficial, but I hope preventing health risks in the community will be a top consideration. While I only touched on one zoonotic risk, there are many others. Most of the others can be controlled by proper handling and hygiene, unfortunately histoplasmosis can kind of go rogue and isn't entirely preventable by even the most stringent chicken owners. Thank you for your time and I hope a resolution is made that best suits our communities wishes!

Sarah Noirot
Sent from my iPhone

Mindy Lawrence

From: Wayne Wiethe
Sent: Thursday, April 17, 2025 10:33 AM
To: Mindy Lawrence
Subject: FW: Concerns Regarding Proposed Backyard Chicken Ownership

Wayne L. Wiethe, AICP
Director of Planning
City of Green, Ohio
1755 Town Park Blvd.
Green, Ohio 44232
330-896-6614

From: Flora, Marilia <FloraM@GOJO.COM>
Sent: Thursday, April 17, 2025 10:31 AM
To: Wayne Wiethe <planning@cityofgreen.org>
Subject: Concerns Regarding Proposed Backyard Chicken Ownership

Dear City of Green Officials,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my concerns about the proposal to allow homeowners within the City of Green to keep backyard chickens. While I understand that many see the appeal of raising chickens for fresh eggs and companionship, I believe this change could bring about several unintended challenges for our community.

Cleanliness and Odor

Chickens are inherently messy animals. They produce a large amount of waste, which quickly accumulates and produces strong odors. Even with straw or other absorbent materials, the upkeep required to maintain a clean and odor-free environment is significant. Without diligent and consistent maintenance, this can become a public nuisance, especially in densely populated neighborhoods, which is now the city of Green's reality, houses are being built extremely close to one another.

Risks and Disturbances

Raising chickens introduces the potential for upsetting and unfortunate situations. Predators such as raccoons, owls, or even neighborhood dogs can injure or kill chickens, leading to disturbing incidents for both owners and neighbors. These situations can also attract more wildlife to residential areas, increasing risks to pets and property.

The Rooster Problem

While most people intend to keep hens, mistakes can and do happen. Misidentified chicks can grow into roosters, which are not only noisy—crowing at all hours of the day and night—but also more aggressive and often unwelcome in suburban areas. This could lead to disputes between neighbors and place the burden of managing these situations on the city.

Limited Egg Production and Long-Term Responsibility

Another important point is that egg production naturally declines with age. By year four, most hens stop laying altogether. However, these non-laying hens still require daily care and maintenance for years. Since cities often cap the number of hens allowed, this means homeowners may have a flock producing no eggs but continuing to generate the same amount of waste and labor. This long-term reality is often overlooked by those excited about fresh eggs.

In conclusion, while backyard chickens might seem like a simple and wholesome idea, the challenges they present are real and can negatively impact neighborhoods if not carefully managed. I urge the city to reconsider or at least approach this issue with great caution and thorough regulation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Marilia Flora

Comments on Ordinance 2025-06

Jane Weaver

I have several concerns and thoughts on this topic that I would like to share.

My first concern about this topic: is this just a reaction to the high prices of eggs? Have the people who say that they want to raise chickens researched the cost of the coop, feed, and chickens? Do they realize that they will now be tied down to their property because you must be there to take care of the chickens? Was the city getting calls before last year about raising chickens?

My second concern is that it is a huge jump to go from 2 acres down to $\frac{1}{2}$ acres. I have done some research on legislation in Summit county and all of Ohio. Many cities, including Fairlawn, Munroe Falls and Tallmadge require 2-2.5 acres and Bath requires 1-2 acres. And then some cities have very few regulations.

My main concern is that I do not feel that the legislation has been fleshed out enough. I found the Northfield Center Township proposal to regulate backyard chickens had excellent definitions and regulations (this was not approved as the County of Summit Planning Commission stated that townships do not have the power to regulate this). I don't know if there are pamphlets from Ohio farming bureaus or 4-H clubs that describe how much space chickens need to roost and to forage.

Some thoughts on the current legislation:

It is a little confusing to have the backyard chicken information in different parts of the code. Could you separate out the chickens the husbandry and and part (B) apiculture.. section. Maybe have (3) Agricultural Uses: Backyard hens section and repeat the information on lot size requirements graphic and then add the information from section (F).

Keep the information in acres in the (2)(A) Table. It is too confusing to go from 20,000 sq feet to acres. Instead say 0.459 acres – even clearer to say 0.5 acres or $\frac{1}{2}$ acre)

In (E) it is stated that neighboring property owners within 100 feet shall be notified in writing when the proposed placement of the fences is less than 5 feet from the lot line. Is the city requiring fences be put around the whole back yard or around the coop? What type of fencing? Is it opaque to block the view from the neighbors?

In section (F) it states that chickens shall not run at large. I notice when I drive south on Massillon road that there is a farm(?) on the east side after crossing Greensburg that often has chickens out in front of the barn running free. I always keep my eyes peeled as they can get close to the road. Will these residents now have to keep the chickens fenced in or are they grandfathered in as they are an older property/farm?

-Permits: Some cities require a permit fee. Northfield center wanted to require a renewable annual permit with a permit fee. I think this is important. When we were discussing RV violations it was mentioned that the city doesn't have the personnel to go out and check every violation. Having an annual inspection is good and having an annual fee will help offset the expense of having to do 100 inspections every year. Does the city have the manpower to do this? Will we need to hire another inspector? I found it interesting in the notes on the Copley discussion that "they get 2-3 calls about chickens. One call would ask if they can have chickens and another 2 or 3 calls would be complaints about the neighbors' having chickens or roosters".

Green is talking about a certificate of use. Will there be a fee? What is the fee? Is it annual? Will there be a fee if the chicken coop is an accessory structure and thus needing a permit?

Zoning charts: Are the zoning charts going to be amended?

At this time I am **not in favor** of this legislation as I don't think it is ready to be approved as written. I think more time needs to be given to consider the sizing of coops (height, width, space requirements for chicken rearing), whether there are permits, price of the permits, fencing and whether this would be classified as an accessory structure.

Thank you for your time.

Jane Weaver
4471 Dogwood Ct
North Canton (Green), OH 44720