

## Ordinance #21-02 Alma General Regulations

### 97.09 Backyard Chickens

- (A) The raising of chickens shall be permitted under the following conditions.
- (B) A license is required and can only be applied for by the owner of the property. The property cannot be a multiple family dwelling. Property owners may apply for a permit allowing a renter to keep chickens. Requirements shall be the same for owners and renters.
- (C) Permits; the annual permit payable by April 1 of each year shall be; \$12 for a maximum of 4 chickens, \$20 for 5-8 chickens and \$35 for 9-20 chickens. Permits are non-transferable and do not run with the land. A permit is a license granted to the property owner by the city and does not create a vested zoning right. Prior to issuance of a permit, the keeper must acknowledge that they have read and understand the guidelines for raising chickens as provided by the city. The keeper shall provide a diagram of the location of the premises on which the chickens are to be kept including dimensions and locations of fencing, run, and coop. It is not required for the permit to be presented to the committee or council and shall be processed administratively. A permit to anyone previously convicted of animal cruelty shall be denied.
- (D) No person will allow chickens to range freely.
- (E) No person will keep rooster(s) within the city.
- (F) 1-4 chickens may be kept on a parcel that is a minimum of 15,000 square feet to one acre in size.  
A maximum of 8 chickens may be kept on a parcel that is one acre to three acres in size.  
A maximum of 20 chickens may be kept on parcels larger than three acres. For the purpose of this section, a parcel is defined as; a single lot or multiple lots adjacent to one another.
- (G) Chickens to be given a secure and well-ventilated roofed structure suitable for protection from severe weather and predators. The structure shall be fully enclosed, windproof during inclement weather, properly ventilated during warm weather, have adequate drainage, and have window(s) for natural light. The placement of the coop and run shall be governed by current city codes and setbacks. Additionally, the coop may not be placed within 50 feet of an adjacent residence. Chickens shall not be allowed to range within 100 feet of any well. Chickens are to be placed in a secure coop at night to avoid predation.

- (H) Coop must be maintained and kept in a manner that does not attract rodents. The run and surrounding area is to be cleaned periodically and manure shall not be allowed to accumulate resulting in unsanitary conditions. All feed and grains are to be kept in rodent proof containers. The local humane officer or law enforcement shall be granted permission upon request to inspect the conditions as stated. Refusal by the property owner may constitute grounds for permit revocation.
  
- (I) Violations under this section are subject to penalty under 97.99. The committee may review and refer violations to the common council for revocation of permits.

Effective Date: This ordinance becomes effective upon passage and publication.

Passed this 8<sup>th</sup> day of July 2021 by the Common Council of the City of Alma with 7 Members voting yes and 0 members voting no.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Wilkie, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda M. Torgerson, City Clerk

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