

**CITY OF BARRETT
GRANT COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

ORDINANCE XXII

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CURRENT
BARRETT CITY CODE CONCERNING ANIMALS**

Section 8.01 sub. sec. 3 of the Barrett Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by amending the definition of FARM ANIMAL to omit the term **chickens** from the defined list of animals commonly associated with a farm. And by adding the following definitions:

CHICKEN. A domesticated female fowl of the Genus Species.

CHICKEN COOP. A structure for housing of chickens made of wood or other similar materials that provide shelter from the elements.

CHICKEN RUN. An enclosed outside yard for the keeping and exercising of chickens.

Section 8.041 of the Barrett Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to add the following:

CHICKENS

(A) **Permit Required for Keeping of Chickens.** No person shall anywhere in the City keep, harbor, or maintain care, custody, or control over any chicken without first obtaining a permit issued by the City of Barrett. No permit shall be granted to keep any chicken on any property which contains two (2) or more dwelling units. Permits may be granted to landowners only but can be assigned to tenants with the City and Landowner's approval.

(B) **Application for Permit.** The necessary permit application may be obtained from the City Office. Any person applying for a permit shall include the following information in written form: A zoning permit application which includes a scaled diagram with dimensions and locations of buildings; written consent from one hundred (100) percent of the owners or occupants of privately or publically owned real estate that is located adjacent (ie., sharing property lines) on the outer boundaries of the premises for which the permit is being requested; and a completed permit application. No person shall maintain a chicken coop and or chicken run unless granted a permit. The City is authorized to issue a maximum of five permits annually for the keeping of chickens. In addition, within three months of the initial permit the applicant must complete and provide proof of poultry education.

Approval of application is subject to conditions prescribed in herein by the City of Barrett. Failure to adhere to conditions herein is cause for cancellation of the permit and/or result in an administrative citation.

(C) **Duration of permit.** All initial permits issued shall expire on May 1st of the following year after its issuance unless sooner revoked. The application fee for such a permit (\$15.00) shall be set by the City Council and may be changed from time to time. Application for permit renewal, accompanied by renewal fee payment as established by the council in the current year fee schedule, shall be made at least thirty (30) days prior to the expiration of the chicken permit. Renewal permits will be valid until May 1st of the following year.

(D) **Refusal to grant permit.** The City of Barrett may refuse a permit to keep or maintain chickens hereunder for failure to comply with the provisions of this Section and shall refuse to issue a permit if such chickens should not be kept upon the premises described in the application or the permit. If any such permit is refused, the fees paid with the application and zoning permit shall be retained by the City of Barrett. A license may be denied to any person who owes the City money or has in the last 5 years been convicted or pled guilty to any violation of animal ordinances.

(E) **Numbers and type of chicken allowed.**

- No more than (4) chickens shall be maintained at any one residence or premises.
- Hen chickens may be kept within the Residential Zones.
- The keeping of roosters is prohibited. Chickens shall not be raised or kept for fighting.

(F) **Impounding of Chickens.** Any chickens, kept in violation of this Ordinance may be impounded by the City Offices or Grant County Sheriff, and after being so impounded for five (5) days or more without being reclaimed by the owner may be destroyed or sold. All rights and ownership shall strictly expire and be null and void for all chickens unclaimed by the owner at the expiration of the five (5) day redemption period. Any person reclaiming such impounded animal shall pay the costs of impounding and keeping the same. For the purpose of discharging the duties imposed by this section, the enforcing officer or peace officer is empowered to enter upon private property of another without permission.

(G) **Public or Private Nuisance.** No person shall allow any chicken under his/her ownership or control to disturb the peace and quiet of the City or to otherwise become a public or private nuisance so as to annoy, injure, or endanger the health, safety, comfort, or repose of the public. Nor shall the owner of chickens maintain them in a manner so as to create a nuisance to owners of property adjacent to or in close proximity with the property on which said chicken is located. Running at large is hereby declared a public nuisance.

Factors to be considered in deciding whether the keeping of chickens creates a public or private nuisance include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The condition of any structure or building wherein any chicken and other fowl is kept.
- The proximity of pens, fences and other structures to adjacent property lines.
- The general nature and characteristics of neighborhood.
- The number of chickens kept on any one parcel.
- The relative size of the parcel on which the chickens are kept.
- The type of chickens being kept.

- The extent to which neighboring property is protected from the effects of said chickens, e.g., solid fences, landscape screening, buffer areas, etc.
- The presence of objectionable odors and or noise.
- The relative danger the chicken would pose if exposed to the general public.

(H) **Pens and Yards.** All chicken coops and chicken runs wherein chickens are kept or permitted to be shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, devoid of all rodents and vermin, and free from objectionable odors. Such structures shall be maintained in good condition and shall be sufficient in strength and size to allow the particular chickens being kept to move about, but also able to prevent the escape of the chickens by climbing digging, chewing, manipulating of locks, gates or any other means if such restraint is necessary to prevent the creation of a nuisance. The City, upon complaint of any individual, shall inspect any such structure or premises and issue any such order as may be necessary to carry out the provisions hereof.

(I) **Chickens within City Limits; Confinement.** Every person who owns, controls, keeps, maintains or harbors hen chickens must keep them confined on the premises at all times in a chicken coop or chicken run while in the City. Chickens are not allowed to be located in any unfenced yard or garage. In addition, chickens are not allowed to run freely in fenced yards

(J) **Chicken Coops and Chicken Runs.**

- Any chicken coop and run fencing must be consistent with zoning codes. *ANY CHICKEN HOUSE OR THE ENCLOSURE MUST NOT BE LOCATED LESS THAN 15 FEET FROM ANY ABUTTING PROPERTY LINE.*
- No chicken coop or run shall be constructed on any lot prior to the time of construction of the principal structure.
- All chicken coops must have a minimum 2 square feet per chicken (bantams), a minimum of 4 square feet per chicken (full size) and must not exceed 10 square feet per chicken and must not exceed 6 feet in total height. The coop floor, foundation and footings must be constructed using rodent resistant construction. Fenced-in chicken runs must not exceed 20 square feet per chicken and fencing must not exceed six feet in total height. Chicken runs may be enclosed with wood and/or woven wire materials and may allow chickens to contact the ground. *Chickens must be provided with a covered, predator-resistant chicken house that is properly ventilated, designed to be easily accessed, cleaned and maintained.*
- Chickens must be secured in a chicken coop from sunset to sunrise each day. *During daylight hours, chickens must have access to the chicken house and access to an outdoor enclosure that is adequately fenced, pursuant to this Ordinance, to protect them from predators.*
- Chicken coops must be elevated to a minimum of 12 inches and a maximum of 24 inches above grade to ensure circulation beneath the coop.
- Chicken grains and feed must be stored in metal predator proof containers.
- Chicken coops cannot be housed within or attached to residential buildings including garages.

- *Manure must be stored and disposed of. Manure may be composted. All manure not composted must be removed from the premises regularly. Uneaten and discarded feces, feathers and other waste must be regularly removed.*
- *Odors from hens, manure or related substances shall not be detectable from property lines.*

(K) **Conditions and Inspection.** No person who owns, controls, keeps, maintains or harbors hen chickens shall permit the premises where the hen chickens are kept to be or remain in an unhealthy, unsanitary or noxious condition or to permit the premises to be in such condition that noxious odors are carried to adjacent public or private property. Any chicken coop and chicken run authorized under this section may be inspected at any reasonable time by the City, law enforcement or other agent of the city. Slaughter, butcher, and breeding of chickens on any premises within the city are prohibited.

(L) **Removal of Chicken Coop and Chicken Run.** Any chicken coop or chicken run constructed or maintained on any premises shall be immediately removed from said premises after the expiration of the permit or shall be removed within 30 days upon ceasing to use the chicken coop and/or chicken run for the keeping of chickens.

(M) **Violations a Misdemeanor.** Any person who owns, controls, keeps, maintains or harbors chickens in the City of Barrett without obtaining or maintaining a current permit or after a permit has been suspended or revoked by Council action shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.


Section 8.042 Penalty

Any person violating any provisions within this ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Section 8.043 Passage and Publication

This Ordinance shall take full effect and be in full force from and after its passage and publication according to law.

Adopted this 11th day of August, 2025



Michelle Jensen, Mayor



Marita Rhude, Clerk/Treasurer