

**Minutes of the Veneta City Council
Work Session
February 10, 2014**

Present: Sandra Larson, Brittany Boothe, Thomas Cotter, Victoria Hedenstrom, and Thomas Laing

Others: Ric Ingham, City Administrator; Kay Bork, Community Development Director; Lisa Garbett, Associate Planner; Kyle Schauer, Public Works Director; Chris Workman, City Recorder/Human Resources and Risk Management Administrator; Darci Henneman, Assistant City Recorder, and Michelle Ossowski, Fern Ridge Review

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sandra Larson called the Veneta City Council Work Session to order at 6:37 p.m.

2. REVIEW AND COMMENT: POLICY DISCUSSION ALLOWING BACKYARD CHICKENS IN ADDITIONAL RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICTS

Garbett said staff wanted to bring Council members up to date on the chicken ordinance. In March and April of 2011, Kyle Roberts presented background information to City Council and Planning Commission summarizing how other Oregon cities' codes address the keeping of chickens within City limits.

Planning staff made the following recommendations:

- Permit chickens in all residential zones, not just rural residential as is currently permitted.
- Only allow chickens on lots with single family dwellings and exclude multi-family lots.
- City should retain the remainder of its current code language pertaining to the keeping of chickens within the city limits.
- To account for chickens on smaller lots, the same rule of thumb written in the code will still apply: the number of chickens (over the age of six months) shall not exceed one for each 500 sq. ft. of property.

Recommendations by the Planning Commission and City Council were to make the code requirements as simple as possible and staff wished to avoid having to calculate the number of chickens based on lot size.

Garbett referenced several attachments to her memo and reviewed them with the Council. A joint work session with the Council and Planning Commission is scheduled for February 24th with a 30 minute public comment session. Ordinance 493 will need to be amended if the Council decides to go through with allowing chickens in all zones.

Ingham said a new layer has been added; he asked the planning staff to expand the update process based on public testimony at the last Planning Commission meeting; more specifically the response from the Planning Commission. He felt we should have a robust discussion at a joint meeting and get a level of agreement before we go through the public hearing process. He said he wanted to ensure that Councilors and Planning Commissioners are on the same page before something was adopted.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Ingham said in 2011 the Planning Commissioners and the City Council received the same memo about backyard chickens.

Bork said from what she can tell from the file, the Council and Commission were both on board in 2011 to look into amending the Land Development ordinance.

Ingham said staff felt enough time had gone by that this issue needed more discussion. He said the materials will be repackaged for the Joint Work Session on February 24th and there will be a 30 minute public comment session. He said hopefully the Council and Commission can come away with some kind of consensus. He said there is plenty of time for modifications.

In response to a question from Thomas Cotter, Ingham said topics like enforcement and requiring a permit, are all policy questions but there's a certain amount of public health issues to look into also. He said 500 sq. ft. is a small area and he doesn't see that ratio being met. He's concerned about odor being a problem and if so, we need to be able to enforce it.

In response to a question from Thomas Laing, Bork said a dog off its owner's property is considered a dog at large and the owner would receive a citation.

Ingham said Schauer and Bork will have some enforcement issues to work through, which will likely take staff time to enforce.

In response to a question from Brittany Boothe, Ingham said staff has received several complaints about chickens in the last three to six months.

Bork said she will bring those numbers to the Work Session on the 24th.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Ingham said staff will have the February 24th Joint Work Session published as a public service announcement in next week's Fern Ridge Review.

In response to a question from Brittany Boothe, Ingham said back in 2011 the Council and Planning Commission agreed allowing backyard chickens was an issue worth looking into but didn't provide additional direction.

There was a thorough discussion about lot sizes, code amendments, placement of the coop on the lot, property lines, and how many chickens will be allowed per lot size or a minimum number, etc. Staff requested Council members review the materials for the deliberation at the February 24th Joint Work Session with the Planning Commission. Everyone agreed there are several ways to write the code to allow backyard chickens but keeping enforcement simple for staff will be a challenge.

Ingham said if the ordinance is enforced by zoning, all zones would be allowed to have a maximum of three chickens per household. He said residents with lots greater than 7000 sq. ft. could be required to have a permit if they wanted more than three chickens.

Thomas Cotter would like to review options for enforcement and how complaints are handled.

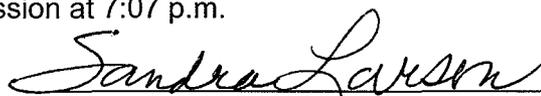
Garbett said enforcement could be complaint driven.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Garbett said Veneta Land Development Ordinance does not yet have a definition of "fowl".

3. OTHER
None

4. ADJOURN

Mayor Larson adjourned the Veneta City Council Work Session at 7:07 p.m.


Sandra Larson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Darci Henneman, Assistant City Recorder
(Minutes prepared by Dhenneeman)