

**City of St. Paul
Special Council Meeting Minutes
Domestic Animals and Fowl**

Monday, October 18, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

A special meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of St. Paul, Nebraska was held at City Hall in said City on Monday, October 18, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Joel M. Bergman and Councilmembers: Katie Kowalski, Jerry Thompson, Chuck Schmid and Mike Feeken. Absent: None. Notice of the meeting was posted in four (4) places. Notice of this meeting was communicated in the advance notice. All proceeds thereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was opened to the attendance of the public.

Mayor Bergman opened the special meeting at 6:00 p.m., thanking the public for attending and announcing that the City of St. Paul abides by the Open Meetings Act, which is posted on the west wall as required by Nebraska State Law §84-1407 through §84-1414. Mayor Bergman also stated that the City Council may vote to go into Closed Session on any agenda item as allowed by NE State Law §84-1410.

A workshop took place for the purpose to discuss potential amendments to the City Municipal Code pertaining to Domestic Animals and Fowl.

City resident, Bobbie McCann, questioned the number of complaints that had been made regarding chickens in the city limits, and whether there is a need to change the current regulations. A discussion was had regarding the chickens on Mr. McCann's residence, and what City Code violations existed.

Arvilla Jacobs provided the City Council with information and guidelines for backyard poultry compiled by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Minnesota Department of Health pertaining to space requirements for each type of fowl, the amount of waste produced by fowl, and health & safety issues to consider.

Consideration should be given to the following issues for possible changes to the current regulations:

- (1) Remove the requirement that neighbors located within one hundred fifty (150) feet of an enclosure for fowl must sign off allowing the fowl; or in the alternative add an appeal process to the City Council to determine whether it is allowed;
- (2) Set minimum requirements on the size of enclosures;
- (3) Identify the type of material to be used for enclosures;
- (4) Limit the number of fowl on each property;
- (5) Limit the type of fowl allowed on property;
- (5) Allow fowl only on single family residential dwellings [not apartments];
- (6) Follow the USDA guidelines for the space required for each animal;
- (7) Set out requirements to ensure clean, safe and healthy conditions for animals and residents;
- (8) Require a license for each enclosure used to house fowl.

It was noted that crowing roosters would be addressed as a noise nuisance similar to barking dogs.


Zoning Administrator Helzer indicated that the Zoning Regulations require a zoning permit for any structure over 25 square feet. Depending on the size requirements of the enclosures, a zoning permit may be required. Mr. Helzer also indicated that according to the Zoning Regulations, livestock fencing material cannot be used in residential areas.

Mayor Bergman expressed appreciation for all the comments made during the open meeting. An ordinance would be drafted for further discussion on this issue.

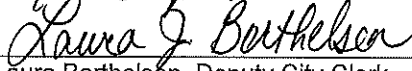
There was no further business to come before this session of the Council.

Mayor Bergman adjourned the workshop at 6:54 p.m.

DATE: November 1, 2021



Joel M. Bergman, Mayor



Laura Berthelsen, Deputy City Clerk