

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Buoy called the regular meeting of the City of Rockford Planning and Zoning Commission to order on **August 22, 2013** at 7:01 p.m. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 6031 Main Street, Rockford, MN.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken and the following members were present: Buoy, Fuller, Petersen-Biorn, Sand and Werman. The following members were absent: none. Also in attendance were Council Member Martinson and Deputy Clerk Etzel.

SET AGENDA

MOTION was made by Buoy, seconded by Sand to approve all items on the consent agenda.

MOTION CARRIED – Voting In Favor – Buoy, Fuller, Petersen-Biorn, Sand and Werman

Approve Regular Planning and Zoning Minutes/July 25, 2013

MOTION was made by Fuller, seconded by Buoy to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2013 Regular Planning and Zoning Meeting.

MOTION CARRIED – Voting In Favor – Buoy, Fuller, Sand and Werman – Abstained - Petersen-Biorn

OPEN FORUM

Chair Buoy called for open forum, no one from the public spoke.

Deputy Clerk's Report

The Deputy Clerk's report included: chicken ordinance, September 12th meeting cancelled, potential senior housing developer and health care provider, and Movie in the Park.

Consider Allowing Chickens in the Residential Districts

On July 25th the Planning Commission asked staff to contact the following cities to find out why they do not allow chickens and the one city that does allow to find out how it is going:

Cities that do not allow chickens:

Buffalo – Agricultural District Only. The Planning Commission and City Council has considered the issue. They felt cities that allow chickens in Residential Districts tend to be larger (Minneapolis, for example), where they have neighborhood zones and can regulate them. In essence the Agricultural Districts serve that purpose in a town their size.

Delano – Their council considered allowing and decided their city lots were too small, had concerns for health and safety, and felt it was a better fit for the surrounding townships.

Hanover – Recently updated their ordinance, like the City of Rockford, to clarify that chickens were not allowed. They do allow in their Agriculture District, like the City of Rockford.

Howard Lake – Their ordinance currently dictates that non domestic animals are simply prohibited, this includes chickens. Their Council has not considered changing.

Maple Plain – Not addressed in their ordinance (doesn't state chickens are not allowed or allowed). Their Council has not considered changing.

St. Michael – Classifies chickens as an agricultural animal, which are permitted in any zoning district if the lot is at least 4 acres or larger in size (you are allowed one ‘animal unit’ per acre consistent using Wright County’s animal unit calculations).

Cities that do allow chickens:

Loretto – Since January 2013 it is going good with the two licenses they have issued.

On August 14, 2013 - Deputy Clerk Etzel and Planning Commissioner Buoy visited 8630 Park Street to see the chicken coup belonging to the Rogich family. The house is setback about 34’ from the coup, the garage about 29’, the side yard about 5-6’ and the neighbor to the south is about 45’. The chicken coup had eleven chickens. The chickens appeared to be clean and healthy upon review. Since the visit the family has given away two of the chickens.

If the Planning Commission would have modeled Golden Valley’s ordinance, the Rogich coop is within 50’ of their neighbor’s home and less than 10’ from the side yard; not meeting their requirements.

The Rogich family made the following comments. Their neighbors miss the rooster they had. They spend about \$100 for three months feed for the chickens. The chickens produce eggs and this is a growing trend. Feels chickens should be allowed if neighbors agree.

Commissioner Petersen-Biorn asked why 9 chickens and not just two if the chickens are just hobby. Mr. Rogich stated he purchased two sets of six.

The commission further discussed if the neighbors want the chickens and some may agree to allow to avoid conflict. Not all the neighbors like viewing the clutter of a chicken coop. Also, should a resident move it may be a conflict for the new neighbor moving in next door to the chickens.

Council Member Martinson stated the Council will wait until they receive Planning Commission’s recommendation. They want to be a neighbor to all.

The Planning Commission made the following motion.

MOTION was made by Buoy, seconded by Fuller to recommend leaving the ordinance as written allowing chickens only in the Agricultural District.

MOTION CARRIED – Voting In Favor – Buoy, Fuller, Sand and Werman
Opposed - Petersen-Biorn

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN was made by Buoy, seconded by Fuller.

MOTION CARRIED – Voting In Favor – Buoy, Fuller, Petersen-Biorn, Sand and Werman

Chair Buoy adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

Submitted by Audra Etzel, Deputy Clerk