

ORDINANCE NO. 2798

AN ORDINANCE CREATING CHAPTER 6.07 OF THE MOSES LAKE MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED "CHICKENS"

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOSES LAKE, WASHINGTON ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 6.07 of the Moses Lake Municipal Code entitled "Chickens" is created as follows:
Sections:

6.07.010 Chicken Management: Chickens may be kept within the city limits of Moses Lake, provided:

- A. No more than four (4) hens, including chickens and pullets, may be kept per single-family residential lot pursuant to subsection (N) of this section. In no event shall the four (4) allowed hens, including chickens or chicks, count toward the accumulative total of household pets pursuant to MLMC 18.10.140.
- B. No roosters are allowed.
- C. Chickens, except for pullets, shall not be kept inside any permitted dwelling.
- D. Hen houses, coops and chicken tractors must be set back at least ten feet (10') from all property lines. No hen house, coop or tractor may be located within ten feet (10') of any neighboring residence.
- E. Hen houses, coops and chicken tractors shall be kept at least five feet (5) from any other structure including decks.
- F. Hen houses, coops and chicken tractors shall provide for adequate shelter, be kept clean and maintained so that dust, manure and odors are not detectable beyond any property line. When a conflict arises as to the proper care and housing of chickens the standards set forth as found in the February 2009 Humane Farm Animal Care (HFAC) Standards for chickens shall apply.
- G. Hen houses, coops and chicken tractors including chicken runs shall not exceed one hundred twenty (120) square feet in size and shall not exceed eight feet (8') in height at the structure's highest point.
- H. Hen houses and coops shall provide at least four (4) square feet of space per chicken.
- I. Chicken tractors shall provide at least four (4) square feet of space per chicken.
- J. Hen houses, coops and chicken tractors shall be restricted to the backyard area of a single-family residential lot.
- K. Hen houses, coops and chicken tractors shall be set back from any body of water in compliance with the City of Moses Lake's shoreline master plan and critical areas ordinance as each are currently enacted or hereinafter amended.
- L. Hen houses, coops and chicken tractors shall be set back one hundred feet (100') from any public or private well.
- M. Chickens shall not be allowed to run at large and shall be enclosed within a hen house, coop or chicken tractor at all times.
- N. Chickens shall be allowed only on single-family residential lots containing a maximum of one (1) residence.

- O. Chicken manure shall be managed so as not to create a nuisance or be in violation of MLMC Chapter 8.14 as currently enacted or hereinafter amended.
- P. Chickens shall not be slaughtered outside within the City limits.
- Q. All chicken feed or food set aside for chickens shall be stored in rodent proof containers and feeders.
- R. All structures used to house or care for chickens, including hen houses, coops and chicken tractors, shall be maintained in a manner to ensure that rodents are not present.
- S. Any rodent activity in the vicinity of any chicken structure or enclosure shall require the licensed owner of the chickens to eradicate the rodents in compliance with local, state and federal laws.

6.07.020 Chicken License:

- A. Annual License: A single license to keep up to four (4) chickens per single-family residential lot shall be obtained annually by the owner as provided for in MLMC 6.07.030.
- B. License Expiration: A chicken license shall expire one (1) year from the date of issuance.
- C. Exemptions from License Fees: The following are exempt from license fees:
 - 1. Chickens in the temporary custody of a veterinarian or animal welfare organization whose owners are unknown.
 - 2. Chickens owned, and available for retail sale, by the owner or operator of a licensed commercial pet facility.

6.07.030 Chicken License Procedure: The City Clerk, animal control authority, or the authorized agents thereof shall issue an annual license as specified in this section:

- A. An annual license shall be obtained prior to the introduction of chickens on any property within Moses Lake. Said license shall be renewed each year.
- B. The annual license fee is ten dollars (\$10).
- C. The annual license shall contain the following:
 - 1. Date of issuance and date of expiration.
 - 2. A serial number.
 - 3. The name, address, and telephone number of the owner of the chicken(s).

6.07.040 Right to Enter Property for Purpose of Inspection: The annual license shall contain provisions allowing for designated City representatives to enter the property of the licensee for the purpose of verifying compliance with this chapter.

6.07.050 Keeping of Existing Chickens: Any citizen legally possessing chickens at the time the ordinance codified in this chapter is repealed or amended to prohibit the keeping of chickens, shall be allowed to maintain those chickens unless ordered otherwise pursuant to this title until the chickens expire or are removed by the owner. In no event shall any owner be allowed to add to the number of chickens kept, or to replace any of those existing chickens which expire, after the ordinance codified in this chapter is repealed or amended to prohibit the keeping of chickens.

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force five (5) days after its passage and publication of its summary as provided by law.

Adopted by the City Council and signed by its Mayor on February 23, 2016.



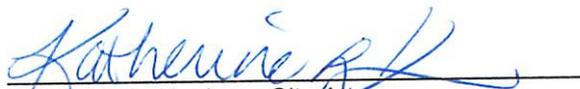
Todd Voth, Mayor

ATTEST:



W. Robert Taylor, Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Katherine L. Kenison, City Attorney