



TOWN OF BOONSBORO

21 NORTH MAIN STREET ♦ BOONSBORO, MARYLAND 21713

WWW.TOWN.BOONSBORO.MD.US ♦ 301-432-5141

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 14, 2020

Subject: Recommendation to Reduce Fees for Domestic Chicken Permit

Recommendation to reduce the fees for the Domestic Chicken Permit from \$80 to \$50 with no 'per square foot' fee and to remove the annual \$50 Chicken Permit Renewal Fee.

Excerpts from Mayor and Council Meeting – September 2, 2014:

Ordinance 2014-03; Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance for Domestic Chickens: Mayor Kauffman stated that Ordinance 2014-03; *Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance for Domestic Chickens* was tabled at the August Regular Meeting and that Council further discussed the topic at the August Workshop Meeting. **Motion** by Council Member Wetzel, second by Council Member Solberg to approve Ordinance 2014-03; *Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance for Domestic Chickens*. Mayor Kauffman opened the floor for discussion, stating that Code Enforcement is a primary concern regarding Ordinance 2014-03. Town Manager Clark stated that both Town Engineer Hopkins and she will enforce the Ordinance. She stated that properties will be inspected after the chicken permit is issued, noting that any violation of the Ordinance would result in a Municipal Infraction and that the resident would be given 30-days to correct the permit violation, have their permit revoked or be issued a \$200 per day fine until the violation is corrected. Assistant Mayor Long stated concerns that changing too many Ordinances may set a wrong precedence and that the request to amend the Ordinance may have been reintroduced prematurely. Council Member Solberg stated that she feels that the Ordinance is clear and concise, and that out of respect for the number of residents in favor of the Ordinance she feels that property owners should be given the option to raise chickens on their own personal property. Council Members Wetzel and Schmidt agreed with Council Member Solberg, noting that the Council should have faith in the enforcement process and the recommendation from the Planning Commission. Council Member Cynthia Kauffman stated that she feels that residents who wish to have chickens should obtain their neighbors approval before applying for a permit. Council Member Haardt stated that he agrees with Council Member Cynthia Kauffman, that he spoke to the Town of Middletown to obtain their input after they unanimously voted down the request for chickens in their town, noting that it is a very difficult decision to make. Council discussed instating an \$80 permit fee plus \$.10 per square foot of the chicken coop, the same as a regular Town Building Permit, noting that all 'chicken permits' would require a site-visit as well as an annual \$50 chicken permit renewal fee. Town Manager Clark stated that the fees can be addressed later in the meeting under the 'Engineering Fees.'

Engineering Fees: Town Manager Clark stated that the Planning Commission approved a recommendation to the Council, at their August 26, 2014 meeting, to adopt Engineering Fees due to the hiring of the Town Engineer for the reviewing of Subdivision Plans and APFO documents at the same rates as Washington County's Development Fees. She stated that based on the approval of Ordinance 2014-03; *Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance for Domestic Chickens*, she is also making the recommendation to include an \$80 chicken permit fee, plus \$.10 per square foot of the chicken coop, and an annual \$50 chicken permit renewal fee. **Motion** by Assistant Mayor Long, second by Council Member Cynthia Kauffman to approve the adoption of Engineering Fees as well as the \$80 chicken permit fee, \$.10 per square foot of the chicken coop, and the annual \$50 chicken permit renewal fee, and motion carried.