

Email from Sissy Howell sent to Planning Commission, Council, Ms. Kayla Holbrook, Mayor. Same email content.

From: [Tom Kneeland](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: FW: Hi Mr. Kneeland. Plea to petition for my baby girls!
Date: Sunday, December 18, 2016 8:41:07 AM

FYI.

This is one of several I have received.

TOM KNEELAND
Mayor



CITY OF GAHANNA

200 S. Hamilton Rd.
Gahanna, Ohio 43230
614.342.4045 office
614.342.4047 direct
614.478.3333 cell
Tom.Kneeland@gahanna.gov
www.Gahanna.gov

From: Tom Kneeland
Sent: Sunday, December 18, 2016 8:38 AM
To: 'Sissy Howell'
Subject: RE: Hi Mr. Kneeland. Plea to petition for my baby girls!

Sissy,

I am so sorry about this situation. Unfortunately I am not allowed to make exceptions to selectively enforce our code. Now that the ruling has been made by the Planning Commission to deny the change to our code, the original informal moratorium I put in place while this issue was being reviewed is no longer in place which means as the administrator of daily city business I am compelled to enforce the law which includes our zoning code.

My folks do not actively seek out violators, we simply do not have time to be proactive which means someone in the community made us aware of the code violation similar to the others that have been sent to us.

I would recommend contacting your council representatives and see if they are willing to help in some way since they are the folks that create the laws which, once passed, are incumbent on me and my folks to enforce. They have the ability through legislative action to consider viable options for the public.

If you should choose to contact council you can use the email address council@gahanna.gov which sends a copy of your email to all members.

Again, I am sorry I can't help you based on the position my administration is now placed in.

Thank You

TOM KNEELAND

Mayor



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Tom.Kneeland@gahanna.gov

www.Gahanna.gov

From: Sissy Howell [<mailto:europa20002@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Sunday, December 18, 2016 1:23 AM

To: Mayor

Subject: Hi Mr. Kneeland. Plea to petition for my baby girls!

Hello Mr. Kneeland,

My name is Sissy and I am writing this letter on behalf of my little girls, my hens (chickens): Olive, Stella, Amelia and Marlyn.

PLEASE DON'T STOP READING. I BEG YOU TO CONTINUE.... =) I have been following what has been going on regarding the proposal to approve chickens. It's not my intention to make this long email, however, PLEASE, I BEG YOU, hear my plea of help on behalf of my girls, please!

My girls are not just Chickens- they are my "pets", my family and we have been together for a long time. They recognize me and they respond to their names.

I checked and the permit from Franklin County seemed sufficient. Their approval seemed sufficient at the time. I also checked with my immediate neighbors and they were ok with that, a couple of them even got excited. My neighbors are so wonderful. They enjoy the chickens and even volunteer to take care of them if I am ever out of town!

As of today:

I participated in the survey and I was hoping for a change. Sadly, I just discovered the city did not change the old law. I therefore wish to ask for a variance.

I wish to say that I am opposed to quite a few arguments I heard were made against having chickens and the enforcement of the law. I can tell that the people that made those arguments they only "imagine" what it's like to have chickens, but not "actually" own chickens. I understand that because I used to be one of them prior to getting chickens.

First, my chickens are not farm animals. They are not treated, cared, or housed as such. On the contrary, they receive the loving attention and care that any dog, cat or or any other pet should receive by its owner. As far I am aware, they are no more a farm animal than rabbits, or hamsters that I know people have, including kids as their pets. So, should the city also prohibit owning rabbits (farm animals)??

In regards to the question of diseases, I will bring up the fact that in Creekside there are a a lot of ducks and geese that are fed by the public. They are not monitored and nest and live in the City! Which means that they are not receiving shots to keep them free from diseases, and as wild animals this seems a greater concern and treat since they also nest in areas where people can go eat outside and close to restaurants. While on the other had, my chickens are inspected and treated as healthy birds and are in a specific area where they are away from people and where it is not possible for them to jump the fence.

In regards to the smell and noise, I am very sensitive to many smells and noises and have allergies to cats and some dogs. However, chickens make a lot less noise than a dog does which by the way some dogs in the neighborhood bark non stop, specially during the night, and no one seems to bother about that. Most of my neighbors didn't even know when I obtained the chickens exactly because the noise didn't bother them, after all they are not roosters.

As for the smell, just like any animal, if you don't clean them, it will smell bad. Or if you have a lot of them, like if you would live in a farm or bread them, it could possibly smell bad. I clean my girls every single day and they don't smell. Their waste is ordorless unlike dogs and cats. Furthermore, neighbors' cats have come to my property and poop there as well as in other people's properties. Should cats need to be prohibited too?? Cats enjoy being outdoors, thus creating other problems.

Finally, I would agree that the enforcement of the law is very, very unfair. I know of people in Gahanna that have chickens and their yards are very well covered and fenced where no one can tell they have chickens. Therefore, those who have fences that keep people from looking into their yard, can have chickens unnoticed and unbothered. Does that seem fair??

In conclusion, I am a good citizen, I have always been a person that follows the law, and ask, BEG actually that my case be grandfathered in, or for me to file a variance allowing my girls, my chickens, to survive and remain in my care where I know they will receive the proper care

and attention. If my girls are far away from me, where they are used to their surroundings and where they have always received excellent care and attention on my end, could potentially mean their death.

I respectfully ask with my heart, that either an exception or a trial case be made out of my situation to re-evaluate allowing chickens in Gahanna by gathering the actual complaint data or support for them to make an educated decision for a change of the law. My girls need me. Please don't take them away from me! I beg you!

Sincerely and Best regards,

Sissy H.

614-946-8795

europa20002@hotmail.com

From: [Cindy Aksel](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Cc: [Council](#)
Subject: A huge Thank YOU!
Date: Tuesday, December 13, 2016 10:40:08 AM

To the Gahanna Planning Commission,
Thank you so very much for listening to the citizens, and voting against the Gahanna Chickens. This is a wonderful city! The city managers, staff, boards & commissions have worked hard through the years, in helping to make Gahanna a great place to live. Thank you for continuing this positive goal.

It is important to look at the long term impact of short term wants. You did a great job in making the decision of voting against the chicken issue.

With Appreciation,
Cindy Aksel

From: [Tom Kneeland](#)
To: [Priscillia Kell](#); [Council](#)
Cc: [Donna Simmons](#)
Subject: RE: Support The Decision Of Our Planning Commission
Date: Monday, December 12, 2016 4:00:51 PM

Priscillia,

I am not sure what the waste you reference is at this point. Planning Commission made a decision and we aren't spending any more time on this issue. Our current code will be enforced. If the 2017 appropriations are passed we will address the code violations on the weekends you reference below with a new part time person in code enforcement based on feedback from the community through the GoForward Gahanna initiative completed earlier this year. We welcome all members of the community to sit in on our financial discussions leading up to our appropriation legislation as it is presented to city council for prioritization.

Thank you for your note.

TOM KNEELAND

Mayor



CITY OF GAHANNA

200 S. Hamilton Rd.

Gahanna, Ohio 43230

614.342.4045

tom.kneeland@gahanna.gov

www.Gahanna.gov

Twitter [@CityOfGahanna](#)

From: Priscillia Kell [mailto:percyllynn0602@wowway.com]
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2016 3:38 PM
To: Council; Tom Kneeland
Cc: Donna Simmons
Subject: Re: Support The Decision Of Our Planning Commission

I want agree 100 percent, the planning commission made the correct decision and urge the mayor and council to let it stand.

I also would like to know how the city plans to enforce this, all one has to do is drive our development any Saturday or Sunday and see all the yard waste piled on the curb when city code states yard waste or trash for that matter should not be placed on the curb prior to 5:00 p.m. the day before your scheduled pick-up, if you can't or won't enforce regulations for what is in plain sight what is the plan for dealing with what can't not been seen from the street.
Priscillia Kell

----- Original Message -----

From: Donna Simmons <psimmons10@aol.com>

To: council@gahanna.gov, tom kneeland <tom.kneeland@gahanna.gov>

Cc: bobbielaye@gmail.com, chil6m@aol.com, mkappaone@yahoo.com,
mreal4352@aol.com, cindy@gahannait.com, valleew1@aol.com, pkell@lb.com,

percylynn0602@wowway.com, wziminski1@gmail.com, dolloffsl@gmail.com,
thecrossingsgahanna@gmail.com, draperhpond@gmail.com, nahssports@yahoo.com,
dvictors@columbus.rr.com, mtobin@columbus.rr.com, lscott@grovecityohio.gov,
ineedaprofit@sbcglobal.net, rdyarman64@gmail.com, rfickle@columbus.rr.com, marilyn
kring <marilyn.kring@sbcglobal.net>, amy slotterbeck <amy.slotterbeck@wowway.com>,
1626ajwoo07@gmail.com

Sent: Mon, 12 Dec 2016 15:08:12 -0500 (EST)

Subject: Support The Decision Of Our Planning Commission

Mayor Kneeland and City Council,

Must we continue to waste our city dollars and countless man hours on this issue. Our Planning Commission has voted and decided that having backyard chickens in Gahanna is not what is best for ALL OF THE RESIDENTS OF GAHANNA AND FOR THE CITY OF GAHANNA. I understand that the handful of individuals that still want chickens are challenging our charter and planning to appeal. They simply don't care what it will do to our city or what the majority want.

Don Shepherd said it best when he commented, "As a realtor for 10 years I know it will hurt property values in our city and that he is speaking for the silent majority." He further said, "Everyone he has spoken with, and that was a lot of people, said they didn't want to live next door to chickens."

As the next steps are taken, all of those who represent our city need to stand up and say "NO" just as our Planning Commission has done. You have a responsibility to do what is right for all of Gahanna. If the supporters of the proposed fowl legislation want to pursue approval then obtain the signatures and put it on the ballot for the people of Gahanna to decide. We all know what way that will go and that is exactly why they are trying to backdoor their way to get this approved. Residents of Gahanna will not support this proposed legislation. Getting the required signatures will be a challenge and they know that.

I will also say that if there is a member or members of city council that are supporting and advising individuals to pursue these avenues then you are doing a disservice to the city and its residents. While this can't be addressed at this time it can be done at the time of reelection. There should be no person sitting on council that doesn't make decisions for the good of the entire community!

Donna Simmons

From: [Tom Wester](#)
To: [Kayla Holbrook](#)
Subject: Fwd: Chicken code
Date: Thursday, December 08, 2016 6:47:56 PM

FYI

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Donna Perry <djp1321@yahoo.com>
Date: December 8, 2016 at 6:42:04 PM EST
To: <bobbie.burba@ghanna.gov>, <Jennifer.Price@gahanna.gov>, <joe.keehner@gahanna.gov>, <kristin.rosan@gahanna.gov>, <tom.wester@gahanna.gov>, <david.andrews@gahanna.gov>, <don.shepherd@gahanna.gov>
Subject: Chicken code

I'm writing to express how extremely disappointed I am in the members that voted the chicken code down. I've been a content resident of Gahanna for 15 years and last night I witnessed you take the voice of the people away from them. You lectured Mrs. Price on overstepping her station when asking for more information and then you overstepped by making a decision that should've been left to the elected council. You quieted the proponents by saying not to repeat ourselves, while letting the opponents rail on and on about the same things. And the silent majority? Who is this group and why were they silent if they were so opposed? More likely they didn't care enough either way to voice an opinion. It sounds more like the New Albany wannabes disagreed with it and you didn't want to upset the "popular kids." All you did was cater to a loudmouth bully who does nothing with her spare time but find fault in her neighbors.

"I don't want chickens!" I heard Mr. Andrews say as he walks out of the room with a smug smile after the vote. Well nobody is forcing you to own chickens but you get to prevent me because of your bias?? Mr. Keener was

right to be concerned. Police state indeed. What about the public survey? Wasn't that intended to give you an idea of the communities voice? I noticed that it was cast aside once it didn't suit your agenda. You had an obligation to the community to put it through to city council based on that alone. I guess I'll know not to bother taking anymore next time if they're inconsequential. You let your personal opinions cloud the issues and there's absolutely no reason a committee that is appointed should have this much power over the people without repercussions.

If you truly value your positions on the Planning Commission, I highly suggest you work for all the people and not just your friends or the squeaky wheel. We all get the same number of votes no matter how much money we have.

Regretfully,

Donna Perry

1321 Haybrook dr

Gahanna OH 43230

Sent from my iPad

From: [Kim Banning](#)
To: [Krystal Gonchar](#); [Kayla Holbrook](#)
Subject: FW: My feathers are all ruffled.
Date: Thursday, December 15, 2016 3:32:49 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image008.png](#)

KIMBERLY BANNING, CMC
Clerk of Council


CITY OF GAHANNA
200 S. Hamilton Rd. Gahanna, OH 43230
614.342.4090
kim.banning@gahanna.gov

COUNCIL OFFICE MEETING AGENDAS & MINUTES 

From: Brian Reynolds
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2016 3:27 PM
To: Bonnie Gard <Bonnie.Gard@gahanna.gov>; Robert Priestas <Robert.Priestas@gahanna.gov>;
Kim Banning <Kim.Banning@gahanna.gov>
Subject: FW: My feathers are all ruffled.

FYI

From: Edouard Petit [<mailto:edfrenchie@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2016 3:16 PM
To: Karen Angelou <Karen.Angelou@gahanna.gov>
Cc: Nancy Mcgregor <Nancy.Mcgregor@gahanna.gov>; Mayor <Mayor@gahanna.gov>; Shane Ewald <Shane.Ewald@gahanna.gov>; Brian Reynolds <Brian.Reynolds@gahanna.gov>

Subject: My feathers are all ruffled.

My feathers are all ruffled.

Ms Karen Angelou, Gahanna City Council Clerk

On Thursday the 15th I meet with our Mayor Tom Kneeland, who strongly suggested that I reach out to you in regards to changes in the Chapter 5 ordinance, Specifically 505.08.

Therefore, I wish to speak to you and have a chance to express my views in regards to my ability to keep my girls: Shara, Elise, and Moustache - my Chickens.

First, I would challenge that my chickens are not “farm animals” but pets. They are treated and cared for, as well as housed in a similar fashion as any dog, cat, or other loved pet could possibly be. I understand that they could be farm animals and raised and housed as such with production and efficiency that are characterized by an egg production farm. I beg you to see the difference between the production farm chickens and my girls, who are like a part of my family as much as a dog or cat becomes part of a loving family in most homes.

Second, I would bring to your attention that the current law needs rewriting. Currently it includes farm chickens, but does not limit having other animals such as ducks or rabbits. According to the current law, I could “replace” my chickens with ducks and be abiding by the City ordinance! A lot of teenagers own and care for small animals such as rabbits and hamsters that are considered as farm animals. Some people also have mini pigs instead of cats and dogs. Therefore does the Gahanna city law prohibit these?

Third, I would bring to your attention the disease and necessity for shots and medication. Ducks and geese are an attractive factor to Creek Side. The public gets in close contact with them to feed them, and these animals have access to zones where people dine, such as terrace restaurants. These in my view are a much greater concern and create a greater threat and exposure to diseases than my chickens who are kept within a secluded, gated part of my garden with no public contact. Finally, cat and dog owners aren't required by the city to register their pets or require health inspections, therefore I do not understand why the City of Gahanna should be “involved” in health inspections. Should they be, then in all fairness they should also be equally involved in making sure dogs, cats, and other pets are equally “registered” and inspected. I disagree with the facts brought forward and cited in your minutes that chickens pose a greater risk of disease than other pet animals. Cats and dogs - especially the cats that are allowed to roam free are equally if not more prone to spread diseases.

Finally, in regards to smell and noise nuisance. Most of my neighbors are unaware of me having chickens. Chickens make a lot less noise than dogs. There is no smell associated with them. I understand that may be different in a breeding or eggs facility where birds are kept in cages and in a farm set up.

Therefore I would ask you to reconsider your view on the situation, review the documents I submitted to you as well as my Petition and request for a variance. I wish to speak to you and express my views and solicit your understanding. I believe my pets should be authorized as such instead of being considered as farm animals. They are not a nuisance in my opinion or my neighbors, as supported by their comments in these letters.

I am hoping to have a chance to express my view and be allowed to keep my girls.

Sincerely,

Edouard Petit

--

Edouard Petit

Edfrenchie@gmail.com

Cell 832-338-6953

From: [Priscillia Kell](#)
To: [Council: Tom Kneeland](#)
Cc: [Donna Simmons](#)
Subject: Re: Support The Decision Of Our Planning Commission
Date: Monday, December 12, 2016 3:37:41 PM

I want agree 100 percent, the planning comission made the correct decision and urge the mayor and council to let it stand.

I also would like to know how the city plans to enforce this, all one has to do is drive our development any Saturday or Sunday and see all the yard waste piled on the curb when city code states yard waste or trash for that matter should not be placed on the curb prior to 5:00 p.m. the day before your scheduled pick-up, if you can't or won't enforce regulations for what is in plain sight what is the plan for dealing with what can't not been seen from the street.

Priscillia Kell

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To: council@gahanna.gov, tom kneeland <tom.kneeland@gahanna.gov>
Cc: bobbielaye@gmail.com, chil6m@aol.com, mkappaone@yahoo.com, mreal4352@aol.com, cindy@gahannait.com, valleew1@aol.com, pkell@lb.com, percylynn0602@wowway.com, wziminski1@gmail.com, dolloffsl@gmail.com, thecrossingsgahanna@gmail.com, draperhpond@gmail.com, nahssports@yahoo.com, dvictors@columbus.rr.com, mtobin@columbus.rr.com, lscott@grovecityohio.gov, ineedaprofit@sbcglobal.net, rdyarman64@gmail.com, rfickle@columbus.rr.com, marilyn kring <marilyn.kring@sbcglobal.net>, amy slotterbeck <amy.slotterbeck@wowway.com>, 1626ajwoo07@gmail.com
Sent: Mon, 12 Dec 2016 15:08:12 -0500 (EST)
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As the next steps are taken, all of those who represent our city need to stand up and say "NO" just as our Planning Commission has done. You have a responsibility to do what is right for all of Gahanna. If the supporters of the proposed fowl legislation want to pursue approval then obtain the signatures and put it on the ballot for the people of Gahanna to decide. We all know what way that will go and that is exactly why they are trying to backdoor their way to get this approved. Residents of Gahanna will not support this proposed legislation. Getting the

required signatures will be a challenge and they know that.

I will also say that if there is a member or members of city council that are supporting and advising individuals to pursue these avenues then you are doing a disservice to the city and its residents. While this can't be addressed at this time it can be done at the time of reelection. There should be no person sitting on council that doesn't make decisions for the good of the entire community!

Donna Simmons

From: [Donna Simmons](#)
To: [Council: Tom Kneeland](#)
Cc: [bobbilaye@gmail.com](#); [chil6m@aol.com](#); [mkappaone@yahoo.com](#); [mreal4352@aol.com](#); [cindy@gahannait.com](#); [valleew1@aol.com](#); [pkell@lb.com](#); [percylynn0602@wowway.com](#); [wziminski1@gmail.com](#); [dolloffsl@gmail.com](#); [thecrossingsgahanna@gmail.com](#); [draperhpond@gmail.com](#); [nahssports@yahoo.com](#); [dvictors@columbus.rr.com](#); [mtobin@columbus.rr.com](#); [lscott@grovecityohio.gov](#); [ineedaprofit@sbcglobal.net](#); [rdyarman64@gmail.com](#); [rfickle@columbus.rr.com](#); [marilyn.kring@sbcglobal.net](#); [amy.slotterbeck@wowway.com](#); [1626ajwo07@gmail.com](#)
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Date: Monday, December 12, 2016 3:08:12 PM

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Donna Simmons

From: [Walt Ziminski](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#); [Council](#); [Shane Ewald](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Re: Gahanna Chickens - Lets use this to make a difference
Date: Friday, December 09, 2016 3:45:55 PM

Thank you for not passing the "chicken" legislation! I may have an unseen bias, but I do believe what you have done is for the overall good of the community.

Walt

On Tue, Dec 6, 2016 at 8:11 PM, Walt Ziminski <wziminski1@gmail.com> wrote:

I appreciate you for looking at another email concerning the above mentioned. By now you have heard most of the arguments of the pros and cons of allowing chickens in Gahanna. Please consider the following:

Recently, it has become more popular to hate on police personnel across our country. It is harder than ever to function in their role. What would be the positive effect of leadership and the community coming together to support our law enforcement personnel?

Our law enforcement personnel did not join the police force to administer yard code violations, but to make a difference. These types of duties are morale deflators, though you will not hear that from them. Though they are not perfect, these men and women are positive difference makers in a way most of us could never be. Keep them in their "sweet spot" for the sake of their morale and our well being. Many of us have tasks that we do not enjoy doing as part of our jobs, but strong leaders attempt to keep these to a minimum.

As leaders you are aware that you can make something happen even if it takes extra effort. Why wouldn't we come together as a community to support our law enforcement personnel in a small way and state why we are doing it? Why wouldn't we support our law enforcement personnel by denying additional chicken administration? I know that it wouldn't be politically correct, but as a leader you also want to make a difference.

Everyone wins in this scenario. Those for and those against the chicken legislation seem to be relatively evenly split. Those who are currently for allowing chickens gain the most. They will get the most joy because they gave the most for a good cause.

If none of this matters to you, consider the next time that you have an urgent police request and it takes them a couple minutes longer to get to you as they were involved in a chicken dispute.

On a side note, I recently visited an area in western Pennsylvania where I grew up and saw that efforts to allow chickens in the suburbs are also going on there. The reported results shared in the local newspaper showed that those communities that were thriving did not allow chickens and some of those communities that were not thriving did allow chickens. I would imagine that you are already aware of the reasons why this would be the case.

Locally, there are those who propose that since Bexley, which would be viewed as a thriving community, is supporting chicken legislation that it reinforces that Gahanna should also. Is Bexley the norm for thriving communities or an anomaly?

Thank you for leading,

Walt

From: [Josh Kittle](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Chickens in Gahanna
Date: Wednesday, December 07, 2016 5:53:46 PM

I would love to attend the planning commission meeting tonight, however, I have other commitments. I did want to take a moment to voice my opinion and support for the consideration of chickens in Gahanna. Having reasonable and responsible rules in place, while allowing residents the flexibility to keep chickens is a positive in my book. Nobody wants a nuisance (roosters, etc), but somebody with a chicken coop in their backyard and a handful of animals is likely not going to cause any more displeasure or harm than most common domesticated animals. Let's set some common-sense rules, and I'm all for it!

Josh Kittle, Gahanna Resident

From: [Susy Brittan](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: No to chickens in neighborhoods
Date: Tuesday, December 06, 2016 6:07:40 PM

We strongly oppose allowing chickens to be kept in neighborhood yards within the city limits of Gahanna. Susan and Jim Brittan 88 walnut words Ct. Gahanna

From: [Susan b](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#); [Council](#); shane.ewald@gahanna.com; [Mayor](#)
Subject: Backyard Chicken opposition
Date: Tuesday, December 06, 2016 8:03:59 PM

I oppose the Backyard Chicken proposal. We do not want Chickens to be permitted within the city limits irregardless of lot size. I feel it would create a filth, odor, health and noise problem. I feel it would decrease our property values and quality of daily life,
Thank you.

Susan Brittan
88 Walnut Woods Ct
Gahanna, Ohio

From: [Donna Simmons](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#); [Council](#)
Subject: Backyard chickens...Just Say NO
Date: Wednesday, December 07, 2016 9:28:23 AM

It is not about farm to table, sustainability, or even knowing where your food is coming from. It is simply the latest trend, a hobby or a new pet. Something that neighbors will also have to live with 24/7 and 365 days of the year.

I have lived farm to table (knowing where your food comes from) and it **cannot be done by living on a parcel of land this small**. I know how to plant seeds, work a garden and pick crops (all by hand). We canned hundreds of jars of vegetables, made homemade jellies and froze (fruits and vegetables) what couldn't be canned. Potatoes were dug and kept in a cool dark area and apples were hand picked from our apple trees (we climbed the trees). We used chest freezers (2 large) for a cow, pig and chickens that were slaughtered and dressed. These farm animals were raised in a totally different area. They were raised on **Animal Farms**. That is another lifestyle and not meant for subdivisions, small parcels of land and certainly not the city.

I watch as I see members of the planning commission commend those who "have come out of the shadows," breaking our city law and violating their deed restrictions. Homeowners are speaking out that they own chickens and they will remove them if this legislation doesn't pass, but they still plan to violate their deed restrictions? These individuals have admitted they have more than the allowed number of chickens (even if legislation passes) but still continue to keep them. They know what they are doing and should be getting rid of their chickens now. As one of our law enforcement officials said, "**they just keep pushing until someone says NO.**" More individuals doing things illegally and then trying to make it legal, sound familiar. That No should come from YOU, our planning commission. Compliance with this issue won't happen, no matter how strict the code. It will be a constant enforcement for our code enforcement department.

I have spoken to local real estate agents in Gahanna who have said it will have a negative effect on our property values and that means less taxes. Another commented that it will definitely make a buyer think twice and some buyers will be turned off completely. Again not what our city needs. Some of you have spoken with them also and you need to listen to their comments.

We have now allocated funds to hire a part time code enforcement officer to help Brian get caught up, (we have a fence that has been down in our development for at least 3 months and now another section has a board that is falling. Just one example of his plate being full). If this chicken legislation passes then we are back to square one with enforcement. He has to personally see the violation and take pictures. Many times this requires multiple visits and also permission to go on a neighbors property. So we hired this additional code enforcement officer for the chickens? This expense should be passed on to those individuals who have chickens, correct? Our new officer isn't benefitting the entire community and we shouldn't have to pay for services we aren't getting.

In addition we will be adding a part of the chicken enforcement to our police department. Do you really feel this is the best use of our department? Do the residents of Gahanna want to see their tax dollars spent in this way, wasted dollars? I can answer that with a solid NO!

I won't even get into the issues of flies (as a pest control company says there will be more of), odors, noise, predators, etc.

I understand a handful of individuals have or want to make a lifestyle change but this means they need to change their location instead of making everyone around them change. Residents moved to Gahanna where we had no farm animals and that is how we want to live.

You need to listen to your residents who have voiced there concerns and said they don't want farm animals in Gahanna. Say **NO** when you vote on this issue. You need to represent all of us in Gahanna and not just a few.

Thanks for your time and all you do for Gahanna.
Donna

From: [Walt Ziminski](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#); [Council](#); [Shane Ewald](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Gahanna Chickens - Lets use this to make a difference
Date: Tuesday, December 06, 2016 8:11:56 PM

I appreciate you for looking at another email concerning the above mentioned. By now you have heard most of the arguments of the pros and cons of allowing chickens in Gahanna. Please consider the following:

Recently, it has become more popular to hate on police personnel across our country. It is harder than ever to function in their role. What would be the positive effect of leadership and the community coming together to support our law enforcement personnel?

Our law enforcement personnel did not join the police force to administer yard code violations, but to make a difference. These types of duties are morale deflators, though you will not hear that from them. Though they are not perfect, these men and women are positive difference makers in a way most of us could never be. Keep them in their "sweet spot" for the sake of their morale and our well being. Many of us have tasks that we do not enjoy doing as part of our jobs, but strong leaders attempt to keep these to a minimum.

As leaders you are aware that you can make something happen even if it takes extra effort. Why wouldn't we come together as a community to support our law enforcement personnel in a small way and state why we are doing it? Why wouldn't we support our law enforcement personnel by denying additional chicken administration? I know that it wouldn't be politically correct, but as a leader you also want to make a difference.

Everyone wins in this scenario. Those for and those against the chicken legislation seem to be relatively evenly split. Those who are currently for allowing chickens gain the most. They will get the most joy because they gave the most for a good cause.

If none of this matters to you, consider the next time that you have an urgent police request and it takes them a couple minutes longer to get to you as they were involved in a chicken dispute.

On a side note, I recently visited an area in western Pennsylvania where I grew up and saw that efforts to allow chickens in the suburbs are also going on there. The reported results shared in the local newspaper showed that those communities that were thriving did not allow chickens and some of those communities that were not thriving did allow chickens. I would imagine that you are already aware of the reasons why this would be the case.

Locally, there are those who propose that since Bexley, which would be viewed as a thriving community, is supporting chicken legislation that it reinforces that Gahanna should also. Is Bexley the norm for thriving communities or an anomaly?

Thank you for leading,

Walt

From: [michael.stewart](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Backyard Chicken Legislation
Date: Tuesday, December 06, 2016 10:25:37 AM

I have been a resident of Gahanna For almost 30 years. I understand that Some Legislation allowing residents to keep chickens in their backyards is being considered. I am opposed to this. I do not live on a farm and do not want to. There are a lot of things to consider here like waste, odor, flies, noise, property value. If I decide to sale my home, no one would want to purchase it because of chickens next door. People that want chickens should be on a farm. The majority of residents in Gahanna are not aware of this, why is that? I am opposed to this and certainly hope that it will no pass. Thank You

From: [michael.stewart](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Backyard chickens
Date: Tuesday, December 06, 2016 9:07:13 AM

I have been a resident of Gahanna for almost 30 years. I would like to express my opposition to the legislation to allow residents to keep chickens in their back yards. If they want chickens they should live on a farm. This will affect property value, this would affect the resale of my home (I would not buy a house next to chickens).. a few other concerns would be waste, noise, odor, flies, and if they come in my yard, I would call the police to get them out and I am sure they have better things to do. Please consider this. A lot of residents are not even aware that this legislation is being considered, it seems like someone is trying to slip this through. Please consider all the negative impacts and do not pass this legislation. Thank You

From: [Shane Ewald](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: FW: Backyard Chickens
Date: Tuesday, December 06, 2016 9:01:42 AM

From: michael stewart [mkappaone@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 06, 2016 8:58 AM
To: Shane Ewald
Subject: Backyard Chickens

Good Morning , I have been a resident of Gahanna For almost 30 years and I want to express my opposition to the legislation that would allow residents to keep chickens in their backyards. If people want to keep chickens then need to move on a farm. I do not want to look at them, smell them or hear them. What type of predators would they attack also.I hope this legislation is not passed. Thank You

From: [Garry and Marianne DeVictor](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Chickens in Gahanna
Date: Saturday, December 03, 2016 6:05:23 PM

Ladies & Gentleman:

We are residents of Gahanna and live at 134 Creekside Green Drive and would like to express our opposition to allowing residents of Gahanna to keep chickens. We believe that all residents of the city are entitled to have expectations of residing in a city and not on a farm. If individuals would like to keep chickens they should move to an area greater than one acre.

Respectfully yours,

Garry & Marianne DeVictor

From: [Cindy Aksel](#)
To: [Council](#)
Cc: [Kayla Holbrook](#); [Kim Banning](#)
Subject: FW: chickens?? in gahanna??
Date: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 2:10:09 PM

To City Council,

There are a few people who have chosen to live in this city, and then decide they want to raise chickens, while living in the city.

This is rude.

Common sense should prevail.

Raising farm animals, in this case-**chickens**, should be done in the country or on a farm, not in a city. The wants of a handful of people who want chickens should not overrun the wants of the majority of people who do not want chickens in their neighborhood.

The collective Real Estate property values of the Residents of Gahanna should pull much more weight, than the nominal value of a carton of eggs, organic or otherwise.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

Cindy Aksel

From: Cindy Aksel [<mailto:cindy@gahannait.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2016 10:55 AM
To: 'planningcommission@gahanna.gov'
Subject: FW: chickens?? in gahanna??

From: Cindy Aksel [<mailto:cindy@gahannait.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2016 10:20 AM
To: 'council@gahanna.gov'
Cc: 'planningcomission@gahanna.gov'
Subject: chickens?? in gahanna??

Good Morning,

chickens?? in Gahanna??

Please do NOT consider a city ordinance which allows chickens to be raised within our city. chickens....

....smell

.....make noise

.....attract predators

.....LOWER property values within the city.

Please do not allow chickens within the city. The citizens of Gahanna chose to live in a CITY, not a rural community.

Many people have worked hard to make this a great community, including all of you.

Do not go backwards from the wonderful progress and improvements Gahanna has made over many years.

Thank you for your service,
Cindy Aksel

From: [Marcia Childs](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: No Chickens!
Date: Sunday, November 20, 2016 1:14:02 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

Please keep us from getting chickens for neighbors! Keep Gahanna progressing and not sliding backward. Let us continue to gather without the stench and sound of barnyard animals.

Please help us! Block anything that would allow me to get chickens for neighbors!

Sincerely, Marcia Childs

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Shane Ewald](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#); [Council](#); [Tom Kneeland](#)
Subject: FW: No Chickens
Date: Monday, November 21, 2016 8:02:15 AM

From: Marcia Childs [mrsmlchilds@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, November 20, 2016 1:09 PM
To: Shane Ewald
Subject: No Chickens

To Whom It May Concern,

Please keep Gahanna moving forward rather than sliding backward. No chickens for neighbors. Please block Gahanna moving forward!
Thank you. Marcia Childs

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Marcia Childs](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: No Chickens!
Date: Sunday, November 20, 2016 12:57:58 PM

Dear Planning Commission,

Please hear the voices of those that do now wish to have chickens for neighbors! Please keep Gahanna the up and coming community I have been proud to belong to for over 20 years. I enjoy being able to visit neighbors and sit outside with out smell or barnyard sounds, only sounds of children laughing and playing. Please oppose anything that would move our community. Backward rather than forward.

Thank you,
Mrs. Marcia Childs

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Nancy McGregor](#)
To: [Bobbie Laye](#); [Planning Commission](#); [Council](#); [Shane Ewald](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: RE: Backyard chickens
Date: Saturday, November 19, 2016 8:22:22 PM

Good evening,

I can address some of your questions.

**The results of the Town Hall Forum can be found here.
http://www.gahanna.gov/forum.aspx#peak_democracy

**One of the proposed criteria for obtaining a permit to house chickens would be showing a copy of your deed restrictions to show that chickens are not prohibited.

** The permit would be renewed each year.

** The number of chickens permitted is small, either 3 for a lot up to .5 acre and 5 for lots up to 1 acre. No roosters are permitted.

**Chickens are the only animals permitted under the proposed code.

** I cannot have chickens because of our deed restrictions and I am allergic to birds. But before I developed allergies, I had chickens in Gahanna (30 years or so ago) when we lived in a different neighborhood and also when we lived in Morning Sun Ohio. Our children enjoyed them, we loved the eggs and shared them with family and neighbors.

The city of Bexley allows backyard chickens. They have about 20 homes with chickens. There have been no issues.

Thanks so much,
Nancy McGregor

From: Bobbie Laye [bobelay@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, November 19, 2016 7:02 PM
To: Planning Commission; Council; Shane Ewald; Mayor
Subject: Backyard chickens

Hi

As a long time resident of Gahanna, I responded to the "Should the City of Gahanna allow chickens ?" survey.

I am opposed to chickens here in the Villages of Gahanna. We have enough problems with the natural habitat (squirrels, rabbits, deer, possums, and raccoons). I did not move to Gahanna to live in a "farm" area with chicken or any other livestock.

Chickens produce awful smelling droppings. We have ordinances and rules for cleaning up after dogs, what about chickens ? It's bad enough when people don't clean up after their dogs !!! Rodents are attracted to chicken coops and feed. Additional predators could now be attracted to our neighborhood.

What happens when these neighbors go on vacation ? What happens if any of the chickens get outside of their yard ? Who will be responsible for overseeing the cleanliness and health issues of this backyard ?

If the legislation passes (which of course would not be via a citywide ballot vote), it's wrong that it would then be up to us individual "homeowners" to get rid of the chickens via the legal process. Thus, the city of Gahanna washing

their hands of a problem which city council would have created.

As a resident of Gahanna, I would assert my right to never ever vote for another levy in the future if this is allowed. It is my feeling that if someone wants chickens in their backyard, they should have purchased farm land (or appropriately zoned land with plenty of acreage) that would not infringe upon their "neighbors. Allowing the backyard chickens could lead to allowing other livestock, and a far less expensive way for people to own a "farm". I moved here to live in a friendly neighborhood community, not to be living among smelly livestock.

Can you tell me what the survey results were ? I responded to the survey, yet never heard what the actual results are. Why not put this issue on a ballot and allow all residents of Gahanna to vote on it ? Once it gets started, I can see it spreading to other backyards. Is Gahanna supposed to remain a "city", or are there hidden plans for it to become a "farm". There have always been urban vs. rural areas for a reason.

Would you want the chickens in a backyard near your home ?

A sincerely concerned Gahanna resident,
Barbara Laye

From: [Priscillia Kell](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Fwd: Chickens in backyards
Date: Monday, November 21, 2016 7:35:47 AM

I understand you are considering allowing Gahanna residents to keep chickens in their backyard. I would like to take this opportunity to strongly urge you not to take that actions. I am a 20+ year resident of Villages of Gahanna and the last thing I want in my neighborhood is chickens.

I have to wonder how many of you would like to view or smell a chicken coop or while sitting on or deck, porch or patio

Much of our development borders Columbus Academy's property and we already have issues with vermin, allowing backyard chickens would only increase the instances of raccoons, foxes and possums that we must deal with

If I wanted to chickens in my neighborhood I would live on a farm not in a city subdivision.

Again I respectfully request that you do not permit this to happen.

Priscillia Kell

1295 Granfield Ct

Gahanna, Oh 43230

From: [Shane Ewald](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#); [Council](#); [Tom Kneeland](#)
Subject: FW: Chickens in backyards
Date: Monday, November 21, 2016 8:03:00 AM

From: Priscillia Kell [percylynn0602@wowway.com]
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2016 7:38 AM
To: Shane Ewald
Subject: Fwd: Chickens in backyards

Shane,

I understand Council is considering allowing Gahanna residents to keep chickens in their backyard. I would like to take this opportunity to strongly urge you not to take that actions. I am a 20+ year resident of Villages of Gahanna and the last thing I want in my neighborhood is chickens.

I have to wonder how many of you would like to view or smell a chicken coop or while sitting on or deck, porch or patio

Much of our development borders Columbus Academy's property and we already have issues with vermin, allowing backyard chickens would only increase the instances of raccoons, foxes and possums that we must deal with

If I wanted to chickens in my neighborhood I would live on a farm not in a city subdivision.

Many of the residents have supported you over the years, I am requesting that you support us in preserving our neighborhood.

Again I respectfully request that you do not permit this to happen.

Priscillia Kell

1295 Granfield Ct

Gahanna, Oh 43230

From: [Mike Tobin](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Chickens
Date: Monday, November 21, 2016 6:44:38 AM

Good morning. I'm writing to express my opposition to allowing chickens in our neighborhoods.

Gahanna is a 21st-century suburb and is not a 19th century "Walnut Grove" where the "Little House on the Prairie" folks would live. Chickens should obviously be allowed in rural local areas, but in my view are not appropriate in suburbs like Gahanna.

thank you

Mike & Jodi Tobin
Midhurst Rod
Gahanna

From: [Shane Ewald](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#); [Council](#); [Tom Kneeland](#)
Subject: FW: Chickens
Date: Monday, November 21, 2016 8:02:40 AM

From: Mike Tobin [mtobin@columbus.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2016 6:44 AM
To: Shane Ewald
Subject: Chickens

Good morning. I'm writing to express my opposition to allowing chickens in our neighborhoods.

Gahanna is a 21st-century suburb and is not a 19th century "Walnut Grove" where the "Little House on the Prairie" folks would live. Chickens should obviously be allowed in rural local areas, but in my view are not appropriate in suburbs like Gahanna.

thank you

Mike & Jodi Tobin
Midhurst Rod
Gahanna

From: [Scott, Laura](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Oppose - chickens
Date: Wednesday, November 16, 2016 12:46:31 PM

I am a Gahanna resident and the Planning & Zoning official for the City of Grove City. I oppose any ordinance that permits chickens in a residential district. I don't believe this legislation is necessary as it represents the desire of a very small group of residents, is trendy and will be more of a nuisance over time than a desirable feature for Gahanna neighborhoods. This is an activity to be reserved for lots of 5 acres or more. Thank you for your consideration.

Laura Scott

151 Mill St #402
Gahanna OH 43123

614 738-4366

From: [Donna Simmons](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Cc: [Kayla Holbrook](#); [Kim Banning](#)
Subject: Backyard Chickens Proposed Legislation
Date: Tuesday, October 25, 2016 8:49:28 PM

Good morning,

I'm not sure how members of the planning commission are interpreting the results of the informal survey on the above subject, however, I'd like you to consider the following:

With only 247 responses, it would be difficult to conclude the survey results are representative of the 44,300 Gahanna registered voters. Twelve of the responses were from outside Gahanna, leaving 235. The 235 responses represent less than 1% of the registered voters in the city of Gahanna. Therefore these survey results would be statistically inaccurate.

If you look at the detail of the 235 responses, 99 responded No and only 44 indicated Yes they would own chickens. The balance of the responses indicate to me they don't have an opinion and are really non-committals.

If you choose to believe the results are an accurate reflection of the Gahanna population and nearly 20% of the households will own chickens, then are you ready to inspect, permit, and enforce 2,000 chicken coups in Gahanna? (assuming 10,000 households in Gahanna).

A couple of additional items to be considered. How will you propose to address deed restrictions and homeowner associations who prohibit poultry? How do you regulate and enforce the top concerns of odor, waste, predators and noise?

I would also encourage you to seek out local real estate agents and gather their points of view on what the impact to Gahanna property values will be as a result of passing legislation allowing backyard chickens. A reduction in property values is not what Gahanna needs.

Thanks for your consideration,

Donna Simmons

From: [Donna Simmons](#)
To: [Kayla Holbrook](#); [Planning Commission](#); [Shane Ewald](#)
Subject: Backyard Chickens Survey
Date: Tuesday, October 04, 2016 5:35:36 PM

Good afternoon everyone. Can someone please tell me how you are verifying that the responses to the survey represent the residents of Gahanna? The reason I ask is because, I have found 8 individuals that say they are "Inside Gahanna" but the County Auditors website list them residing/owning property **outside** our city. There are 6 more that cannot be found on the website as an owner at all. This could be because they are not on the deed. I have researched using first and last name and then by just the last name (little more time consuming but it works).

I am able to research only those names that appear on the survey and there are a lot of "YES" responses that do not show names. There are 112 responses that say "YES" in some fashion and I have found 8 of 53 (the number who have given their name), or 15% who do not live in Gahanna, own property in Gahanna or pay Gahanna taxes. I have a feeling this number is higher, don't you?

My concern is that if individuals will break the law to have chickens, what lengths will they go to keep them.

I also would like to know how planning commission plans to address the issue of a HOA and deeds that prohibit chickens? Will a homeowner be required to provide documentation verifying chickens are permitted? What happens if you permit them and they aren't allowed? Is the city prepared to rescind the permit and enforce the chickens be removed? You aren't putting this burden on homeowners are you? You have individuals saying yes on this issue that live in areas where they legally cannot have chickens!

Thanks for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.
Donna Simmons

From: [Bonnie Gard](#)
To: [Kayla Holbrook](#)
Subject: FW: Chickens
Date: Thursday, September 29, 2016 10:02:45 AM

FYI

BONNIE GARD
Planning & Zoning Administrator
Department of Public Service
Division of Building & Zoning

CITY OF GAHANNA

200 S. Hamilton Rd.
Gahanna, Ohio 43230
614.342.4025
614.342.4127(fax)
bonnie.gard@gahanna.gov
www.Gahanna.gov
Twitter @CityOfGahanna

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert & Mary Knapp [<mailto:knapp1225@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2016 9:59 AM
To: Bonnie Gard <Bonnie.Gard@gahanna.gov>
Subject: Chickens

Dear Bonnie,

I can't wait any longer, to let you know, how much I am against neighbors having chickens. I have already experienced this first hand. I live on Venetian Way, with my backyard, backed up to the yard of a house on E Johnstown Rd. My neighbor had 6-7 chickens and a rooster. While they were chicks, they would escape under the fence into my yard and run all over the place. As they grew larger, so did the rooster, which crowed at all hours of the day. One day when the owner was gone for a long period of time, a hawk swooped down, cornered a chicken, and feasted on it for the next five hours. It was completely disgusting! I would have been beside myself if that had happened in my yard.

None of my neighbors were happy about the chickens. Several of us started making phone calls to complain. We found, you need to live on at least a half an acre to have farm animals, in Jefferson Township, so he had to find another home for them. I really don't want to deal with something like that again.

I just wanted to get in my two cents worth.

Thank You,
Mary Knapp

Sent from my iPad

From: [Donna Simmons](#)
To: [Kim Banning](#)
Cc: [Planning Commission](#); [Shane Ewald](#)
Subject: Re: Backyard Chickens Survey
Date: Friday, October 07, 2016 4:18:27 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image008.png](#)

Thanks so much for getting back with me Kim. I know in our family there are three of us that responded. My husband and I own our home in Gahanna, our daughter (recent college grad) and my husband both work and pay Gahanna taxes, and all three of us are registered voters. I feel comfortable with all three of us responding.

I just want to make sure that each individual voting truly lives in Gahanna and not outside our city limits. When I researched and found several voting "YES" had addresses in Columbus, Grove City, Hilliard and Worthington, I became concerned (9 of 53 or 17%). Given that individuals are comfortable not following our current laws, I am not sure what lengths they will go to skew the numbers.

Thanks so much for the form and getting back to me so timely. I look forward to hearing from you on the agenda and the next time this matter is discussed. Have a great weekend.

Donna Simmons

-----Original Message-----

From: Kim Banning <Kim.Banning@gahanna.gov>
To: 'Donna Simmons' <psimmons10@aol.com>
Cc: Planning Commission <PlanningCommission@gahanna.gov>; Shane Ewald <Shane.Ewald@gahanna.gov>
Sent: Fri, Oct 7, 2016 3:40 pm
Subject: RE: Backyard Chickens Survey

Dear Ms. Simmons,

We contacted the company regarding your concerns with the survey. Although respondents are not required to give their name or address, they indicated the application has demographic controls in place to identify the property location by IP Address. There is not a background check to identify whether the responders rent or own. There are controls in place that flag when the same email address is used more than once or if several responses (different emails) come from the same IP Address.

We also asked about the browser setting. The browser setting that is requested in a pop up window is to allow cookies, which is a feature required for the software application. The cookies are packets of data that serve as memory so the system can retain information when moving on to the next webpage. For those who do not wish to change their browser settings, I've attached a form they

can complete and send via U.S. mail to the address below or it can be scanned and emailed to me.

Please note that the data collected is not scientific and is meant to be an informal questionnaire to be used for purposes of engagement and to receive community feedback. The survey will not be the sole method used in determining whether or not the code change will be recommended to City Council.

In response to your other questions, Planning Commission will discuss in more detail how they wish to proceed and if they want to make additional code amendments. This phase of the process is preliminary and there will be more discussion before any decision is made. I will make sure I email you a copy of the Agenda when this matter is discussed again.

If you have additional questions, please let me know. Thank you for your input.

KIMBERLY BANNING, CMC
Clerk of Council



COUNCIL OFFICE MEETING AGENDAS & MINUTES 

From: Donna Simmons [mailto:psimmons10@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 05, 2016 7:22 PM
To: Kim Banning <Kim.Banning@gahanna.gov>
Cc: Kayla Holbrook <Kayla.Holbrook@gahanna.gov>; Planning Commission <PlanningCommission@gahanna.gov>; Shane Ewald <Shane.Ewald@gahanna.gov>
Subject: Re: Backyard Chickens Survey

Thanks so much Kim. Also there were complaints from people that when they tried to take the survey they were being ask to make changes in their browser settings. They opted not to take the survey because they weren't comfortable making the changes. I know there are paper

copies but they won't drive down to get them. Thought I would let you know this also. Thanks again.

Donna

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 5, 2016, at 5:38 PM, Kim Banning <Kim.Banning@gahanna.gov> wrote:

Donna,

Thank you for taking the time to give us your feedback. I will speak with the survey company and will respond to your email as soon as possible.

KIMBERLY BANNING, CMC
Clerk of Council

<image001.png>

200 S. Hamilton Rd. Gahanna, OH 43230

<image003.png> 614.342.4090

<image005.png> kim.banning@gahanna.gov

<image007.jpg>

<image008.png>

From: Donna Simmons [mailto:psimmons10@aol.com]

Sent: Tuesday, October 04, 2016 5:36 PM

To: Kayla Holbrook <Kayla.Holbrook@gahanna.gov>; Planning Commission <PlanningCommission@gahanna.gov>; Shane Ewald <Shane.Ewald@gahanna.gov>

Subject: Backyard Chickens Survey

Good afternoon everyone. Can someone please tell me how you are verifying that the responses to the survey represent the residents of Gahanna? The reason I ask is because, I have found 8 individuals that say they are "Inside Gahanna" but the County Auditors website list them residing/owning property **outside** our city. There are 6 more that cannot be found on the website as an owner at all. This could be because they are not on the deed. I have researched using first and last name and then by just the last name (little more time consuming but it works).

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My concern is that if individuals will break the law to have chickens, what lengths will they go to keep them.

I also would like to know how planning commission plans to address the issue of a HOA and deeds that prohibit chickens? Will a homeowner be required to provide documentation verifying chickens are permitted? What happens if you permit them and they aren't allowed? Is the city prepared to rescind the permit and enforce the chickens be removed? You aren't putting this burden on homeowners are you? You have individuals saying yes on this issue that live in areas where they legally cannot have chickens!

Thanks for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.
Donna Simmons

From: [Donna Simmons](#)
To: [Kim Banning](#)
Cc: [Kayla Holbrook](#); [Planning Commission](#); [Shane Ewald](#)
Subject: Re: Backyard Chickens Survey
Date: Wednesday, October 05, 2016 7:22:34 PM

Thanks so much Kim. Also there were complaints from people that when they tried to take the survey they were being ask to make changes in their browser settings. They opted not to take the survey because they weren't comfortable making the changes. I know there are paper copies but they won't drive down to get them. Thought I would let you know this also. Thanks again.

Donna

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 5, 2016, at 5:38 PM, Kim Banning <Kim.Banning@gahanna.gov> wrote:

Donna,

Thank you for taking the time to give us your feedback. I will speak with the survey company and will respond to your email as soon as possible.

KIMBERLY BANNING, CMC
Clerk of Council

<[image001.png](#)>

200 S. Hamilton Rd. Gahanna, OH 43230

<!--[if !vml]--><[image003.png](#)>614.342.4090

<!--[if !vml]--><[image005.png](#)>kim.banning@gahanna.gov

<!--[if !vml]--><!--[endif]-->

<[image007.jpg](#)>

<[image008.png](#)>

From: Donna Simmons [<mailto:psimmons10@aol.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, October 04, 2016 5:36 PM

To: Kayla Holbrook <Kayla.Holbrook@gahanna.gov>; Planning Commission
<PlanningCommission@gahanna.gov>; Shane Ewald <Shane.Ewald@gahanna.gov>

Subject: Backyard Chickens Survey

Good afternoon everyone. Can someone please tell me how you are verifying that the responses to the survey represent the residents of Gahanna? The reason I ask is because, I have found 8 individuals that say they are "Inside Gahanna" but the County Auditors website list them residing/owning property **outside** our city. There are 6 more that cannot be found on the website as an owner at all. This could be because they are not on the deed. I have researched using first and last name and then by just the last name (little more time consuming but it works).

I am able to research only those names that appear on the survey and there are a lot of "YES" responses that do not show names. There are 112 responses that say "YES" in some fashion and I have found 8 of 53 (the number who have given their name), or 15% who do not live in Gahanna, own property in Gahanna or pay Gahanna taxes. I have a feeling this number is higher, don't you?

My concern is that if individuals will break the law to have chickens, what lengths will they go to keep them.

I also would like to know how planning commission plans to address the issue of a HOA and deeds that prohibit chickens? Will a homeowner be required to provide documentation verifying chickens are permitted? What happens if you permit them and they aren't allowed? Is the city prepared to rescind the permit and enforce the chickens be removed? You aren't putting this burden on homeowners are you? You have individuals saying yes on this issue that live in areas where they legally cannot have chickens!

Thanks for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.
Donna Simmons

From: [Virginia Hoffman](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Cc: [Stephen Renner](#)
Subject: clarifications from 9-21 meeting
Date: Wednesday, September 28, 2016 1:46:58 PM

Planning Commission members,

First off thank you for keeping an open mind and thoroughly looking at the possibility of allowing backyard chickens in Gahanna. I can see from the letters you are receiving it is a very controversial topic.

I would also like to thank Bobbi Burba and David Andrews for taking me up on my offer to stop by and see my coop. I hope the visit was a helpful and cleared up some misunderstandings that are being portrayed by some opponents such as noise and smell.

I wanted to clarify some things after reading the minutes from the planning commission workshop on 9-21-2016. I am not good at speaking off the cuff. Much of what I said may not have been as clearly communicated as I would have liked. I was not planning on speaking at that meeting, but am certainly happy that I was given the opportunity to share the many benefits of backyard chickens and hear some of your concerns, I only wish I had been more prepared. When it comes time for the public comment I will be more prepared and concise in my communication.

First, I want to say that I am the only person I know that is keeping chickens knowingly against the current code. I don't think I explained that very well and did not want to leave you with that impression. I know one of the things that keeps getting mentioned is that if these people are breaking the law now, what will they do when it is legal to keep chickens.

I have been speaking to my ward rep about backyard chickens for years. He has always said the timing has to be right and he is a proponent. This does not make him bias, it simply means he sees the value in sustainability, property rights, and above all representing his constituents, many of whom have been asking for years that this to be brought forward, allowing the proper process and vetting to take place for this controversial topic.

I regularly attend committee of the whole and regular council meetings. When my ward rep brought up the chicken subject at a committee meeting I was thrilled. I mean really thrilled. As I stated in the meeting I have been researching for years. I took this mention that legislation would be brought forward as my opportunity to take the leap. I knew I was taking a risk, but to me at the time the risk was worth it. If I didn't do it then I would have to wait until the following spring to order my chicks. That would add a whole year to my already long wait to get chickens. I ordered my chicks online and patiently waited for the confirmation email that they hatched and would soon arrive at the post office. My thought was if I order them now, by the time I get them and they are old enough to be moved outside the legislation would have passed, in which case I was in the clear, or it would have failed, in which case I could build their coop at my daughter or son's house. I kept waiting and waiting

and it was time to move the little chicks from the house to outside. I built the coop. Legislation still had not been introduced. My understanding is that it was being worked on by the city attorney and zoning and that takes time, I clearly misjudged how much time.

It wasn't long until I received the dreaded code violation letter in the mail. I spoke with Brian Reynolds and learned that another code violation was issued the same day for housing of chickens at an address on Coronation. I requested a copy of that violation and went and knocked on the door of the homeowner. After talking with her I found out she had no idea that it was illegal to keep chickens. She had been turned in anonymously according to the documents I got from code enforcement. The other residents that I know of that have chickens either called the city and were told incorrectly that it was ok. Thought that since Franklin County allowed chickens that would include Gahanna. Checked the city code and saw that you could have fowl in the city and chickens are fowl and would fall under that portion of the code. The final reason I have heard is they just flat out never even thought that there would be a reason you could not have few chickens in your very own backyard. I hope you did not walk away from that meeting thinking that everyone who currently has chickens is happily and knowingly breaking the law. I do not believe that to be the case at all.

I would also like to point out that chickens are not an impulse purchase. Unlike a puppy or a kitten, you are not likely to come home with a cute baby chick from a trip to the pet store. You generally have to order them well ahead of time in the early spring, either online or from Tractor Supply or other feed stores. You can also pre order from stores like City Folks Farm Shop in Clintonville. Without the proper supplies (warming lights, bedding, feeders, electrolytes, vitamins, special food, a safe box, and daily cleaning of bedding) a little chick would die before it even lost its fluff and started getting its feathers. They take a lot of work in the first few weeks. Those who have or want chickens have had to invest from a few hundred dollars up to a thousand dollars into their care, a coop and chicken run. These people are serious about their chickens and the care of them otherwise they would not make the upfront investment. A chick is just a few dollars, their housing and early care is not. Yes, I understand that there will always be people who get animals and do not care for them as well as they should. Having an annual inspection written into the code should alleviate this concern for many.

Thank you for your time, I will have much more to share when it comes time for the formal public hearing. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me at 614-570-3778.

Jeannie Hoffman
708 Waybaugh Drive

From: [Anita J. Proffitt](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Chickens in City Limits
Date: Wednesday, September 28, 2016 10:18:28 AM

To whom it may concern:

I live at 420 Denwood Court, Gahanna and have lived in Gahanna for over 20 years. I was raised on a large farm and I'm totally against allowing CHICKENS in the city limits of Gahanna.

CHICKENS can flog unsuspecting children and also bring flies down to their frisée.

Please do not pass this bill. I don't want to see a child hurt or have to deal with flies in my home because neighbors have them.

Sincerely

Anita J Proffitt

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Richard Yarman](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Chickens
Date: Thursday, September 22, 2016 10:24:46 AM

I just read the letter in This Week Rocky Fork written by Bob Fickle that council is considering an ordinance change that would allow people to keep chickens in their back yard. As a 20 plus year resident of Gahanna, I am completely opposed to this. If they want to have chickens, they need to move to the country.

--

Richard

From: [Rick Duff](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Pending Chicken Legislation
Date: Tuesday, September 27, 2016 8:43:03 AM

I'm writing to urge your support for the pending Backyard Chicken law in Gahanna.

While I don't plan on keeping chickens myself, I feel people have a right to keep them in the manors outlined in the proposed law. The only thing I'd like to see is Ducks being allowed as well.

Those against the measure say that chickens belong on farms and in the country. This is silly when 19 of the 20 largest cities, and 48 of the 50 largest cities already allow them.

Those against also warn against the smell from feces, rodents, and predators being attracted. The same can be said for bird feeders. If we don't pass this legislation then we should pass one to outlaw bird feeders. I've seen rodents, raccoons, possums, deer, and skunks at neighborhood bird feeders.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service.

Rick Duff

312 Dunbarton Rd.

From: [Sarah Stepp](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Email regarding the reasons backyard chickens should be legalized
Date: Wednesday, September 21, 2016 4:15:35 PM

Hello!

I wanted to contribute some thoughts to consider. I have friends with chickens, in an urban Columbus neighborhood, and have spent a substantial amount of time in their backyards (and caring for the chickens when they were out of town).

1) They keep the chickens ten feet from the property line, they have four chickens, and there is absolutely no smell, whatsoever.

I've inquired about the cleaning of the coop, and they clean the inside out regularly for food safety reasons, but the outside area of the coop only gets cleaned once or twice a year... and still, no smell. At all!

2) No roosters should be allowed, at all. Roosters are a nuisance in a neighborhood, and I absolutely agree that hens raised ONLY for eggs are the way to go.

3) I don't think they will be a nuisance to neighbors. Truthfully, outdoor cats are more of a nuisance. Cats are predators. Chickens might eat bugs, but that's about it.

4) Also, if chicken poo is kept in a designated compound area, it can be GREAT for next year's garden! This saves money, and helps motivate the community to grow vegetables even more.

5) Not to mention, the obvious healthy, vitamin and mineral-rich eggs we will all be able to access. Free range chicken that are not raised in large egg farms, lay the BEST eggs!

6) Chickens are peaceful, and I have never known a chicken to be a violent or obnoxiously loud creature. Ever.

I am absolutely FOR Gahanna adopting the Franklin County rules about chickens. I want very much for this to happen.

Thank you,
Sarah Stepp

From: [Winger, Matt](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Cc: [Brian Larick](#)
Subject: Yes to Chickens In Gahanna
Date: Wednesday, September 21, 2016 4:07:10 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to see the residents of Gahanna permitted to have a few chickens. I believe the proposal that has been presented would allow for the responsible citizen to have these animals and not cause any issue with noise, smell, predators or property values.

For those that do not want chickens, maybe they just need a bit of education on how they can improve communities and families. I found some really good info and supporting arguments on a website I have pasted below:

<http://grist.org/article/food-2011-01-05-how-to-get-your-city-to-allow-backyard-chickens/>

Why cities should <3 chickens

Make sure to communicate clearly why chickens belong in the city. Here's a few easy reasons:

- Chickens are fun, friendly pets with educational value for children about where food like eggs comes from
- They can provide food security for poor families
- They lay healthier eggs compared to store-bought eggs
- They give gardeners high-quality fertilizer
- They control flies and other pests, not add to them, and dispose of weeds and kitchen scraps that otherwise might end up in the landfill

Don't fear the cheeper

Be prepared for people to raise concerns about allowing chickens into your city. Some of the most common concerns are: noise, smell, predators eating the chickens, and chickens turning up in local animal shelters. The first three issues are the easiest to answer:

Noise: If you don't have roosters, chickens aren't noisy. Hens cluck and peep softly all day long, and then go to bed at dusk and remain quiet all night.

Smell: A small flock of four or five chickens will poop about as much as an average dog, and their coop won't smell if it is kept clean. This is where crafting a good chicken law comes into play. If the law only allows chickens in a "well-maintained coop," then a chicken owner with a messy, filthy, smelly coop is out of compliance and can be cited under the law.

Predators: The sad fact is that chickens are food — not just for humans, but for foxes, coyotes, opossums, raccoons, hawks, and sometimes neighboring dogs. It should be the responsibility of the chicken owner to keep his or her chickens safe from predators — just like it is for cat owners, say — , and there is ample

advice available on how to do so. Even though a careless owner may lose chickens to predators, I fail to see how this is a municipal problem, as it is not something that causes a nuisance to anyone except for the chicken owner.

Please let me know if there is anything else I can do to show my support in the approval of the chicken proposal.

Thank you,

Matt Winger
107 Heil Dr.
Gahanna OH 43230
614-465-6288

From: rfickle@columbus.rr.com
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Backyard Chickens
Date: Wednesday, September 21, 2016 1:15:08 PM

Commissioners:

Allowing backyard chickens is one of those ideas that sounds good, in theory, but fails, in practical application.

Chickens are farm animals, not pets. Keeping chickens is an agricultural activity, not a trendy hobby.

Chickens carry several diseases some transferable, to humans, including Salmonella; which can be transmitted, by handling chickens and through eggs. Chickens also carry lice and mites.

Chickens coops create dust, odor, harbor bacteria and attract flies.

Even with a strict ordinance coupled, with aggressive enforcement, allowing backyard chickens carries the risk of unintended consequences.

Not all those living next-door, to backyard chickens, will share their neighbor's enthusiasm and may suffer quietly. Columbus and other municipalities around the country require input, from all adjoining neighbors; if one neighbor objects, no permit is issued.

The scent, of a backyard coop, will attract coyotes, foxes and other opportunistic predators, into neighborhoods.

Rodents will also be attracted. A "predator proof" shelter and "rodent proof" feed storage will not prevent this.

Animal Control for the city of Bexely caught a fox, in a chicken coop.

Property values could be affected when the yard next-door has chickens.

The City of Dublin and other municipalities around the country have denied ordinance changes allowing backyard chickens due to the "high risk of unintended consequences".

Keeping backyard chickens is a trend that can turn into boredom and neglect.

All things considered, the negatives, to allowing backyard chickens, outweigh the few benefits.

Allowing

backyard chickens would satisfy a few, at the expense of many.

Respectfully,

Bob Fickle

Gahanna resident

From: [Beth](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Backyard Chickens
Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2016 10:44:08 AM

It's my understanding that the issue of backyard chickens will be discussed at your meeting tonight.

My vote is yes to allowing the chickens.

Thanks
Beth Myers
682 Mistletoe St

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Gail Durany](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: "Regarding Ordinance 505.08 – Housing of Animals"
Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2016 9:20:41 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear City of Gahanna Planning Commission Members:

I live in the City of Gahanna (1292 Granfield Court). I have lived in Gahanna for several years and enjoy the feel of the community, access to nearby businesses, the park system, excellent public and safety services, and the quiet that comes with living in a planned subdivision within the City limits.

I recently found out that Planning Commission is looking at modifying ordinance 505.08 (Housing of Animals). I read the ordinance, and it appears that the revised ordinance will allow keeping chickens on residential lots smaller than one acre. It looks like the ordinance would address the usual concerns that people who oppose chickens would raise.

I absolutely **support** the revised ordinance and I would like to see this adopted by the City. And I also think that this is a good way to give property owners more freedom with their property without infringing on the rights of others to use their properties.

However, while I was looking into this issue more, I realized that some people, even those within my very own neighborhood, are very opposed to this. Many of these issues have been raised by the Villages of Gahanna HOA. It seems as though most of the worries are often accurate concerns; but looking at the ordinance, these are addressed in the City's revised ordinance. I want you to understand that I support the ordinance, but also to say how excited I am to see this ordinance. I think the negative issues have been addressed well by the proposed ordinance. Any of the other negatives seem to be based mainly in what-ifs instead of facts.

Thanks to the Planning Commission for reading this, and also thank you for choosing to debate the best way to keep Gahanna a city that makes us all proud and excited to live here.

Best regards,

Gail Durany | Merchandiser – Classic Casual
810 DSW Drive | Columbus, OH 43219
T: 614-872-1643 | E: GailDurany@dswinc.com



From: [Riehl, Nick](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Cc: nrr4352@aol.com
Subject: Allowing Chickens in Gahanna???
Date: Monday, September 19, 2016 8:47:23 PM

I read with surprise in last weeks paper that Gahanna is considering allowing chickens to be raised inside the City limits on larger lots.

We have been a residents of Gahanna for 18 years and this is the first time that I felt the need to write to the Planning Commission.

I believe allowing chickens to be raised inside the city is a very bad idea and should never be allowed. Here are my immediate thoughts on this topic:

1. Once allowed there will be continual challenges to the ordinance: wanting to allow for more chickens and to do so on less property.
2. Next will come the goats, reference Columbus Dispatch article last week.
3. Does Gahanna have the resources to start policing chickens? Someone will have to be available to start counting chickens every time there is a complaint, you will need to have a odor ordinance and a new noise level ordinance. Aren't things lean in City government?
4. Is the City prepared to appear in court and possibly compensate every neighbor that loses money on the sale of their property because there are chickens being kept next door? Residents could be faced with sizable loses when they sell their neighboring homes.

Thanks for listening

Nick Riehl

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Donna Simmons](#)
To: [Council](#); [Kayla Holbrook](#); [Planning Commission](#)
Cc: [Mayor](#)
Subject: Backyard Chickens Proposed Legislation
Date: Friday, September 09, 2016 10:02:20 AM
Attachments: [CHICKEN COOP.docx](#)
[Health and Common Diseases in Chickens.docx](#)
[CIMG4306.jpg](#)

Good Morning,

Since the proposed legislation has moved to planning there are a few things I would like to address.

First, I would like to know how you are planning to handle homeowners that run a daycare and babysit in their home. With the small lots, it will be impossible to keep these very young children from being exposed to the healthcare issues accompanied with having chickens. I have attached health and common diseases that chickens carry. What about children with allergies or asthma that will be exposed to the allergens chickens produce?

How will these (disease/health concerns) be prevented from transferring to adjacent neighbors either airborne or water run off? Will neglected pens allow animal waste to wash onto adjoining property/ This would affect both children in neighboring yards as well as small pets.

What diseases are homeowners required to immunize their chickens against (see attached "Health and Common Diseases in Chickens")? Are homeowners required to present documentation showing their chickens have been immunized?

Mr. Renner said that chickens can be purchased from the NPIP to ensure they are healthy. Will chickens being purchased at this site be a requirement to the proposed legislation? If so, will homeowners need to present documentation that their chickens were purchased at this location only?

Are those involved educated on all health issues pertaining to the chickens, how to identify and treat them, and how to keep diseases from spreading to other chickens? How do we guarantee chicken owners are educated on this new hobby/pet?

Are the homeowners in Gahanna actually able to absorb the expenses to permit, build, maintain, and care for these chickens, i.e. shelters, runs, fences, vaccinations, proper food, veterinarian expense, etc.? This is a big commitment and not a short-term hobby/pet.

How much are misdemeanor offenses? Fines should be steep enough to encourage compliance with ordinances and for failing inspections.

Who will be responsible for enforcing and inspecting the coops and chickens? Brian already has a lot on his plate and adding this responsibility could be overwhelming and make things much more difficult for him. We have at least 37 homes in our subdivision that have violations. Some homes have multiple violations and this does not include illegal fences. There are homeowners that currently have chickens knowing it is against the law. What makes you think they will go by the guidelines that are set if this legislation passes?

What happens if they get a rooster? I am told it is almost impossible, even by experts, to determine the difference as babies. Where do they take the rooster if they get one?

According to this legislation they are free to roam around a backyard however, Nancy McGregor said they would be kept in a run and not free range. Hopefully this is addressed by Planning and Zoning given that most of our lots are under .25 acres. I have watched as homeowners allowed their chickens to run around freely in a backyard, defecating throughout. Where do you think some of this will run off when it rains, a drainage easement or a neighbors yard?

Questions Concerning Proposed Legislation:

Section 1170.04 TYPES and NUMBER of ANIMALS

(b) What is the definition of a point? Is this the equivalent of 1 adult animal?

505.09 - ANIMAL NUISANCE CONDITIONS PROHIBITED

(f) It says 4 adult animals, but I was told the total will be 5. Is it true that the total number of domestic pets and chickens cannot exceed 5 per household? This needs to be further defined so it is understood that the chickens count towards the total of 5 animals. For example, if you have 3 domestic pets you can only have 2 chickens (size of the coop should be based on the number of chickens; not a "one size fits all." See attached specs for coops/runs).

Section 1170.05 Development Standards

(b) Sheltering Structures and Outdoor Areas:

#1- Materials to construct the structure need to be defined, i.e. gauge of wire, wood etc.

#3- There shall be no more than one (1) sheltering structure 65 square feet or smaller in size. This is much larger than needed for 3 chickens. Please see "CHICKEN COOP" for reference. They need 10 sf. per chicken and that includes the run/coop/nesting box/roosting perch. Three chickens would need 30 sq ft. and 5 would need 50 sf.

(e) Manure:

#3 Directly applied onsite. The manure does not need to be composted, but can be applied directly in the yard area? What if the chickens have some disease and have diarrhea. This is allowed to be spread throughout the yard? Clearly a health issue.

How do you guard against the influx of additional predators? Raccoons will climb over fences, trees etc. to get to their prey. Fox, coyote, and groundhogs, etc. will dig under a fence to gain access. It is impossible to keep a hawk or other birds from gaining access. Birds also carry diseases that can be carried to the chickens. We already have problems with skunks and raccoons and this is inviting even more. What about rats and mice that are attracted to chicken feces and food storage?

Will text be added to the proposed legislation stating that permits will not be issued to those homeowners if deed restrictions or HOA's prohibit chickens? Are homeowners required to provide documentation showing they are allowed? Can a HOA provide a map and deed restrictions for their development as documentation to prohibit a permit being issued?

Is there a back up plan to care for the chickens should the homeowner get sick, go on vacation, etc.? Chickens cannot just be boarded at a kennel.

If chickens get loose and are captured and the owner identified are there penalties? If the owner is not found what do you do with the fowl?

What are the screening requirements from neighbors and what materials are required to be used; how tall? Are the requirements tall enough to block visual sight lines? Permits must be obtained to build a fence, correct? Remember rodents can dig under a fence and will, to gain access to chickens and food.

How about getting approval from neighbors with visual proximity?

I ask myself why the following cities haven't passed legislation or require larger lot size restrictions on this type of legislation:

Westerville (only in Rural Residential Zoning which has a minimum lot size of 3 acres, 4 code enforcement officers)

Worthington (must be 150 yards from neighboring property)

New Albany (No Chickens Allowed)

Dublin (No Chickens Allowed and 5 code enforcement officers)

Grove City, (No Chickens Allowed)

Whitehall (Yes, see attached photo of a neglected coop, stagnant filthy water, feces, dirt floor)

Hilliard (No Chickens Allowed)

Reynoldsburg (No Chickens Allowed and 2 code enforcement officers)

Canal Winchester (No Chickens Allowed)

Upper Arlington (No Chickens Allowed)

Pickerington (No Chickens Allowed)

**Do they know something we don't? I quit checking after I kept getting the same response.

Yes, Bexley and Columbus have passed the legislation, but they have a Board of Health, Animal Control Officer, and Code Enforcement Officer(s). Throwing Columbus in the mix is not comparing apples to apples.

Both Planning Commission and City Council have a lot of information to consider on this proposed legislation. We live in subdivisions, our lots are small and close together. If there are not strict guidelines we will have problems. I hope that your recommendation is the risk for a few owners, to have a new or short term hobby/pet with chickens, is not in the best interest for Gahanna and its homeowners. Please vote or recommend not to move forward with this proposed legislation.

Thank you,
Donna Simmons

From: rfickle@columbus.rr.com
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Backyard Chickens
Date: Friday, August 19, 2016 2:25:35 PM

Members of Council:

Sometimes an idea sounds good, in theory, only to fail, in practical application. Allowing backyard chickens is one such idea. Chickens are farm animals. Coop-keepers consider their birds pets; nevertheless it's an agricultural activity conducted by farmers.

Backyard chicken proponents advocate a few benefits, but fail to mention the numerous health and other negative aspects. Chickens carry several diseases, some zoonotic (human transfer). Chickens also carry lice and mites. Coops create dust, odor, harbor bacteria and draw flies. They require ongoing meticulous cleaning and maintenance. While most of the health issues associated with chickens, are a danger to the keeper and others through improper or inadequate safety and hygiene precautions; during and after being in contact with their birds. There is one disease that can be easily transmitted to others... Salmonella. Salmonella can be transmitted to others by eggs, from unvaccinated chickens. The current proposed ordinance change does not require Salmonella vaccinations. It prohibits selling eggs, but not giving them away. There's no doubt, those keeping chickens have and still do give eggs to others.

Backyard chickens are a trend, which can turn to boredom and neglect. The current draft ordinance is lacking, in several sections, of 505. and 1170. Even a strict ordinance coupled, with aggressive enforcement;

allowing backyard chickens carries the risk of “unintended consequences”, to neighbors, neighborhoods and the City.

Neighbors: The obvious issue is will those living next to backyard chickens share, in their neighbors

enthusiasm. I suspect not all will and may suffer quietly. Some municipalities(Columbus)

require input from all adjoining neighbors; if one neighbor objects, no permit is issued.

Neighborhood: Attract new and existing coyotes, foxes(opportunistic carnivores), raccoons, opossums,

skunks (opportunistic omnivores), and rodents to backyard coops. A “predator proof”

shelter”and “rodent proof” food storage will not prevent this. The City of Bexley has

caught a fox inside a backyard chicken coop.

Property values could be effected when the yard next door has backyard chickens.

City: Department cost increase associated with the regulation and enforcement.

Possible City liability

The City of Dublin and other municipalities around the country have denied ordinance changes allowing backyard chickens due to the high risk of “unintended consequences”.

When all things are considered it’s obvious that the negatives far outweigh the few positives. Therefore,

no real reason exists for changing the existing ordinance, to allow backyard chickens.

Respectfully,

Bob Fickle

From: [Donna Simmons](#)
To: [Council](#)
Cc: [Mayor](#); mkuhlman@thisweeknews.com
Subject: Chicken Legislation
Date: Tuesday, August 23, 2016 4:17:31 PM
Attachments: [Health and Common Diseases in Chickens.docx](#)

Good Afternoon,

It was great attending the council committee meeting yesterday evening. Thanks to all the city council members who ask questions on the above issue. You can see that there are lots of unanswered questions and details to work out. I did see that the annual permit and immunization was added to the proposed legislation. Thank you. The documentation from HOA or deed restrictions allowing or not allowing the chickens wasn't added. Is this still being considered.

I've attached a copy of some "Health and Common Diseases in Chickens."

Immunizing the chickens won't protect them from some of these things. In reading about these diseases and health issues, it's hard for owners to detect some of the illnesses. Unfortunately this could be spread unknowingly. I'm not sure how Planning and Zoning proposes to prevent the spread of these diseases and health concerns to neighboring yards that may have young children and small pets. Water run off and wind are hard to contain and control in relation to adjacent property. We live very close to each other in our subdivision and this will be a challenge to prevent. Seems like a lot of risk for a few eggs, wouldn't you agree? There are a few questions on this attachment that need to be answered or at least considered.

Thanks for your time and attention.

Donna Simmons

From: [Paul Simmons](#)
To: [Council](#)
Cc: [Mayor](#); mkuhlman@thisweeknews.com
Subject: Chicken Legislation
Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 2:29:50 PM

Good Afternoon,

It looks like I'm a little late to this party but I'll voice my concerns and questions against the above subject legislation. Thanks to The Rocky Fork for making us aware of this issue. We have our City Council focused and spending their time so that 5-7 homeowners can raise chickens in their back yard. I'm not sure where to even start after reading the article. This seems like a very small percentage of our community that is in favor and wants to live next door to chickens. Exactly what is that percentage of homeowners to the total in our community? I'm not sure what the "needs" of these homeowners are that warrants raising fowl in their back yard, please explain. What diseases do the fowl carry? Do you know how many eggs a chicken produces in a week and when their production starts to decline? Is it different by the breed of chicken you have? What breed is appropriate for our climate? Does one have to do anything to keep them producing? What happens to these fowl when they stop producing? These will be pets at that point and nothing more!!

How is their manure disposed of which I'm told can be 2lbs per chicken per week, recycle, yard waste or trash? What about children that get sick from playing in the backyard amongst the manure or neighbors that become ill from the dried manure in the air? Wouldn't City Council/ City of Gahanna have some liability if someone becomes ill since they approved this legislation? My tax dollars is why I ask.

You won't be able to enforce this legislation as we can't enforce current homeowner violations. Brian, our code enforcement officer, simply doesn't have the time to inspect everything that currently needs addressed. I'll make a list of everything in our sub division that is a violation and you tell me if the "chicken issue" will be addressed when violated, as it will be. Individuals had chickens illegally in our neighborhood and it took at least a year to get something done, it simply won't happen! You also say that if it violates the homeowner association rules, that would supersede the city's code. So you are putting the "Financial" responsibility to enforce this back on the homeowners or is the city going to step in and enforce the violation and absorb the cost for the association? Your pitting neighbors against neighbors! I hope we aren't looking to have our local police department involved in the enforcement. One of the reasons our community is safe is because they are out there doing what they were hired to do and that isn't "policing chicken violations."

Are these chickens allowed to run freely in the yard pooping everywhere, only to have that dry up and blow throughout the neighborhood? I understand the restrictions on shelter but are they required to stay in it 24/7? I know from history they were allowed to run freely in the yard of our neighbor. If allowed to run they won't be 10 feet from the property line, right? Cleanliness and farm animals do not go hand and hand. Nancy McGregor now suggests that we allow "8" adult animals per household. Have you seen how small some of our lots are and how close we live to our neighbors? Many of us don't want to listen to chickens when we sit on our decks and patios, we want it quiet and peaceful!

What about predators? Are we not inviting more of those into our neighborhoods as a result of a food source for them? We already have too many raccoons coming out each evening and now here is one more reason. Fox, snakes, hawks, etc are just a few other examples. if you think we don't already have fox you are sadly mistaken. There was one in the neighborhood last week. Hawks were already an issue when the chickens were here before.

Be realistic and think this through! It looks like our City Council, or at least two of them, along with 5-7 homeowners, are the driving force behind this agenda. I'm sure if this was put before the residents of the City of Gahanna we know what the outcome would be. As our City Council you have a responsibility to all of the residents of Gahanna. Your decisions are to be made for the majority of us not for the few and certainly not for your personal agenda. I saw your posting Mr. Renner on The Backyard Chickens Facebook page and it makes me question if you can look at this issue objectively. I know the answer.

Thank you,
Donna Simmons

From: [Ginnie Andrews](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Chickens & Roosters
Date: Thursday, September 15, 2016 8:54:34 AM

My husband and I never realized that it was not legal to have chickens and roosters in Gahanna until an article in the Rocky Fork in August. Our neighbors have chickens and a Rooster and have had for about a year.

I called the City to ask what could be done about the Rooster and was told that since legislation was pending that any complaints were not being acted upon. If something is not legal, it is not legal. I guess I must be stupid to think that a law should be enforced until it has been changed not while it is being contemplated.

Our neighbors are wonderful people. I have no issue with their chickens, I am sure they are well cared for and contained as opposed to the first time they had chickens that escaped all the time into my yard and across the street. They did learn from their first mistake.

The Rooster however is another story. I have already written one letter to the planning commission but want to be very sure that my opinion has been taken into consideration. The Rooster crows all day and sometimes well into the night. I can not open the windows in my home to sleep because the Rooster will wake me. We can not sit in our back or front yard in peace because of the Rooster.

The Rooster is on 3 acres, zoned residential but I do not care where the Rooster is on the property it can still be heard loud and clear.

Gahanna is a city not a farm. We have noise ordinances and other rules and laws so that we can all co-exist. I am well aware of the movement back to growing and raising ones own food nothing bad about that. Where does it end? If allowed to keep chickens for eggs is the next step slaughtering them for Sunday dinner?

Whatever is decided, I beg you to make sure that keeping a Rooster is excluded on property zoned as residential.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

Ginnie Andrews
614-472-3700 Office
614-472-3701 Fax
1-866-255-3700
Andrews Group Solutions
179 Springbrook Drive
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

From: [Matt Olds](#)
To: [Brian Larick](#)
Cc: [Council: Tom Kneeland](#)
Subject: Chickens in Gahanna
Date: Saturday, September 03, 2016 9:03:21 PM

Hello,

My name is Matthew Olds and my family lives here in Gahanna. When we decided to move to Gahanna from California, buying a home in January 2015, we made the decision because of Gahanna's obvious growth-oriented, pro family/community, forward thinking atmosphere. A year and a half later, we are still very excited to live and raise our growing family in Gahanna and are so happy to call Gahanna home. Thank you for helping make Gahanna what she is...simply wonderful.

I wanted to share that we would love to see Gahanna become more chicken friendly. Having raised/kept chickens before in previous forward inclined cities/urban areas, we are well aware of the value chickens bring to families, as well as communities. Locally raised chickens produce local eggs, which are then eaten and sold by community members...creating revenue (however large or small) to be put right back into the community. It all stays local.

Another item that should be considered is what are families looking for? Safe food. It is clear that urban gardening has been growing and we are proud to grow our produce in our garden. Local food is a growing demand, as are farmer's markets...individuals and families are seeking connections with the food they choose to eat.

Chickens are wonderful for children to experience as well. From caring for the chickens, collecting eggs and keeping coops clean, children feel pride and are taught how to responsibly care for animals...and we need to be raising caring, empathic individuals.

Lastly, I want to note that some bring up concerns regarding chicken poop. We take our daughter for stroller rides and bike rides through our Gramercy Park Estates neighborhood all the time and often see dog poop left on the newly installed sidewalks, or in neighbor's front yards. Regarding chickens, responsible owners would clean their coops, which would be located away from their front yards...so unlike the dog poop that is left on sidewalks, any chicken poop that an individual would leave, would be away from such common areas.

This is an important issue for us and we would love to see Gahanna continue to set the standard for other urban and suburban communities...proving that Gahanna is a leading community that supports the values of her community members, and welcomes positive change for the well being of those that call Gahanna home.

Thank you for your time.

All the best,

Matthew T. Olds BASW, LSW
270 Flint Ridge Drive
Gahanna, OH 43230
208/699-5334

From: [Marilyn](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Chickens
Date: Thursday, September 15, 2016 1:06:08 PM

I am very much against having a chicken coop in a neighbors back yard. I think it could open up a lot of problems in the area....noise, rodents, unwanted wild animals, irritating my dog.

Sent from my iPad

From: [Jason Shamroski](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Chickens
Date: Thursday, September 15, 2016 7:40:12 AM

I just read the ThisWeek News article about chickens in gahanna. The author obviously is slanted against the issue, I argue that 3 hens in a backyard coup is not going to affect property values. Allowing people to be more self sufficient is a good thing, it's a choice that many people want to have.

If the argument is that the chickens will attract other wild animals, they are already here. We have deer, coyotes, foxes and eagles - chickens are not going to attract another predator when we have 3 already here.

Is a well maintained coup an eye sore? No. Is a car leaking fluids, sitting on the street and noisy when it does run an eye sore - yes. Giant grease and oil spots on the road, that makes people think twice when they buy a house.

From: [Don Jensen](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: chickens?
Date: Sunday, August 07, 2016 3:57:03 PM

Honorable Council—

I am writing in OPPOSITION to the proposed “chicken” ordinance. Why are we bending to a vocal minority? What ‘value’ does it offer? One homeowner who’s vocal gets their way?

Would you, as a homeowner, want a chicken coop next to your backyard? And where does this stop? How about goats, turkeys, rabbits, a calf (‘baby cow’)??

I see noise and neighbor issues, health issues, smell issues and ENFORCEMENT issues.

Besides, what are we, a Third World city? Other central Ohio communities would have a ‘hay day’ with it?

If these folks want to raise farm animals, let them move to the country.

Don Jensen
Gahanna resident since 1988
509 Mechwart Place
614.352.8990

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Cindy Aksel](#)
To: [Council](#)
Cc: planningcomission@gahanna.gov
Subject: chickens?? in gahanna??
Date: Thursday, September 15, 2016 10:20:28 AM

Good Morning,
chickens?? in Gahanna??
Please do NOT consider a city ordinance which allows chickens to be raised within our city.
chickens....
....smell
.....make noise
.....attract predators
.....LOWER property values within the city.

Please do not allow chickens within the city. The citizens of Gahanna chose to live in a CITY,
not a rural community.
Many people have worked hard to make this a great community, including all of you.
Do not go backwards from the wonderful progress and improvements Gahanna has made over
many years.
Thank you for your service,
Cindy Aksel

From: [Amy Slotterbeck](#)
To: [Council](#)
Cc: [Brian Larick](#); Rylin_s@yahoo.com
Subject: Citizen Concern - File#: ORD-0085 2016
Date: Saturday, August 06, 2016 11:52:46 AM

Dear Sirs and Madams –

I am a 12 year resident in Ward 3 of Gahanna. It has come to my attention that there will be a draft presented at a meeting tonight allowing residents to house chickens on their property. I am writing to express my opposition to that proposal.

I am sure it will be argued that people will be expected to maintain a clean environment etc. much like they must maintain other pets and their property. However, unlike an unsightly property or an annoying, barking dog, chicken feces are prolific and create a terrible stench quickly. In addition, improperly cared-for coops increase disease carrying insects and flies which are a very real health concern. In a city where spraying for mosquitoes regularly occurs because of health concerns, I don't see it beneficial to the health of its citizens to house animals that may contribute to disease.

Also, I hope council will take into consideration the financial well-being of the community. As my property value has not recovered to the point where I could resell my property at even close to what I paid for it in 2005, a foul smelling odor from a neighbor's chicken coop could deter would-be buyers and further be a detriment to Gahanna's fiscal growth. Lower property values equals lower tax revenue for the city, as I am sure you are aware.

I am unable to attend tonight's meeting as I am out-of-town. However, I hope that the members of city council will take my voice into account tonight and continue to make good decisions regarding the health, safety and financial well-being of Gahanna's citizens. Thank you for your continued service and concern for our community.

Respectfully,
Amy D. Slotterbeck
623 Codrington Circle
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

From: [Dottie Franey](#)
To: [Council: Tom Kneeland](#); [Directors](#)
Subject: Follow Up to Question in Monday's Committee Meeting
Date: Wednesday, September 14, 2016 3:57:04 PM

Hi, all –

I am following up on a question that was asked in Monday night's Committee Meeting regarding the Franklin County Health Contract. The question was whether or not Franklin County provides any services related to chicken immunizations and, if so, would there be an extra charge.

I was told the following in a phone conversation with Franklin County:

- Regarding immunizations, they do NOT have an animal health program outside of rabies control and would not offer any type of immunizations or verification that an animal has been immunized.
- They would respond to a complaint of animal waste and enforce their regulation 102.01(B)(4) below as a part of our contract.

102.01(B)(4) Animal waste and manure. All Exterior Property, Yards, and Structures shall be free from any accumulation of animal waste, animal feces or manure that causes a rank odor, Insect breeding or Infestation, Rodent Infestation, pollutes surface water or a private water system, or may adversely affect public health.

- They would respond to a complaint of dead animals and enforce their regulation 102.01(B)(5) below as a part of our contract.

102.01(B)(5) Dead animals. The carcass of a dead animal shall not be placed on any Premises or Exterior Property. The carcass shall be removed and properly disposed of at a licensed municipal Solid Waste disposal facility, or by cremation, rendering, composting or burial. Rendering shall be performed only by a facility licensed by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Composting shall comply with Ohio Revised Code 1511.022. Burial is permitted if the animal carcass is buried under soil at least four (4) feet deep, and not less than fifty (50) feet from any private or public water system, occupied structure, road, stream or body of water.

Please let me know if you have additional questions.

Thanks,

DOTTIE A. FRANAY

Director of Public Service



CITY OF GAHANNA

200 S. Hamilton Rd.
Gahanna, Ohio 43230
614.342.4003
614.342.4103(fax)
dottie.franey@gahanna.gov
www.Gahanna.gov
Twitter @CityOfGahanna

From: [Kim Banning](#)
To: [Kayla Holbrook](#)
Subject: FW: backyard chickens
Date: Monday, August 15, 2016 5:18:17 PM
Attachments: [Why cities should.docx](#)
[chicken research.docx](#)

Please put this with the other documents on this subject matter. Thank you.

KIMBERLY BANNING, CMC

(formerly McWilliams)

Clerk of Council

CITY OF GAHANNA

200 S. Hamilton Rd.

Gahanna, OH 43230

614.342.4090

614.342.4190(fax)

kim.banning@gahanna.gov

www.Gahanna.gov

From: Jeannie Hoffman [mailto:jeanniecustom@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, August 15, 2016 5:17 PM

To: Mayor <Mayor@gahanna.gov>; Michael Schnetzer <Michael.Schnetzer@gahanna.gov>; Stephen Renner <Stephen.Renner@gahanna.gov>; Brian Larick <brian.larick@gahanna.gov>; Jamie Leeseberg <Jamie.Leeseberg@gahanna.gov>; Karen Angelou <Karen.Angelou@gahanna.gov>; Brian Metzbower <Brian.Metzbower@gahanna.gov>; Nancy Mcgregor <Nancy.Mcgregor@gahanna.gov>

Cc: Kim Banning <Kim.Banning@gahanna.gov>

Subject: backyard chickens

Council Members and Mayor,

I am sharing this document I have with links to various sources on why keeping backyard chickens can be such good thing. Mr. Renner shared many of the reasons at the committee of the whole last week. I have been researching for a few years now and there are many viable reasons why having backyard chickens isn't just for farmers anymore. I hope reading the information in the links provided in the word document attached will be helpful to you. If you have questions, I would be glad to talk with you.

Jeannie Hoffman

614-570-3778

From: [Donna Simmons](#)
To: [Nancy Mcgregor](#); **Council:** [Michael Schnetzer](#); [Brian Larick](#); [Jamie Leeseberg](#); [Karen Angelou](#); [Brian Metzbower](#); [Stephen Renner](#)
Cc: [Mayor](#); mkuhlman@thisweeknews.com; provank@hotmail.com; dwjensen50@hotmail.com; [Brian Reynolds](#); [Bonnie Gard](#)
Subject: Fwd: Chicken Legislation
Date: Wednesday, August 17, 2016 9:53:05 AM
Attachments: [Screen Shot 2016-08-17 at 8.14.01 AM.png](#)
[Screen Shot 2016-08-17 at 8.24.45 AM.png](#)
[Screen Shot 2016-08-17 at 8.43.49 AM.png](#)
[Screen Shot 2016-08-17 at 8.46.44 AM.png](#)
[Screen Shot 2016-08-17 at 8.51.13 AM.png](#)
[Screen Shot 2016-08-17 at 8.51.38 AM.png](#)
[Screen Shot 2016-08-17 at 8.54.34 AM.png](#)

I started doing a little more research on the "chicken issue" and found it so interesting that our City Council president could in no way be unbiased and impartial on this issue. I've attached a few of his comments for your reading. Even more interesting is the perception our Mayor is supportive of chickens. Aren't you supposed to make decisions for the good of the entire community not just a few and not let your personal opinions influence your actions?

Thank you to Brian, Bonnie and our City Attorney for enforcing our laws and representing our community. This is the representation our city needs.

I find it very enlightening that those you are fighting for are still breaking our city laws. Still buying and raising chickens in The City of Gahanna even though it is illegal! I'm sure history will repeat itself if this legislation/ordinance passes and they will certainly follow all the guidelines as outlined, I think not. Brian, your job just got a little harder and bigger!

Thank you Marla for doing your job and letting us know that some members of city council and a very few homeowners were trying to quietly pass this ordinance.

I believe our Ward 2 representative is Michael Schnetzer and I hope you and the other members of city council support the people you and they represent. Don't be influenced by two council members (and a few homeowners) who are letting their personal feelings lead you into voting for an issue that isn't in the best interest of our community! Instead of making a change because their personal lifestyle has changed, these individuals are trying to change the community around them. Vote "NO" for the homeowners you represent, you are our voice!

Thank you,
Donna Simmons

-----Original Message-----

From: Donna Simmons <psimmons10@aol.com>
To: Nancy.Mcgregor <Nancy.Mcgregor@gahanna.gov>; Council <Council@gahanna.gov>; michael.schnetzer <michael.schnetzer@gahanna.gov>; brian.larick <brian.larick@gahanna.gov>;

jamie.leeseberg <jamie.leeseberg@gahanna.gov>; Karen.Angelou <Karen.Angelou@gahanna.gov>;
Brian.Metzbower <Brian.Metzbower@gahanna.gov>; stephen.renner <stephen.renner@gahanna.gov>
Cc: Mayor <Mayor@gahanna.gov>; mkuhlman <mkuhlman@thisweeknews.com>
Sent: Tue, Aug 16, 2016 5:26 pm
Subject: Re: Chicken Legislation

Mrs McGregor,

Thank you for your prompt response. The ordinance allows for 3 chickens for up to a half acre lot plus 5 adult pets, is that correct? There should be a requirement that after a chicken quits producing eggs they need to be removed because at that point they become a pet. The initial purposes of this is a "food source" correct?

I personally have no desire to have chicken poop composting and blowing onto our property as we sit on our patio. There can be no health benefit to that. That's why we moved to a subdivision and not a farm. I don't want to live near farm animals.

There will be predators and there will be more of them. If they don't get the chickens they'll get someones cat or small dog. They don't give up easily.

Knowing where your food comes from is as important to me as the next person but I grew up planting gardens and having chickens, cows and hogs slaughtered, dressed and frozen for future use. There's nothing about fresh or Farm to Table that I don't understand. I wasn't raised in the city but that's the life we chose. These people you are supporting who want chickens haven't even begun to know what Farm to Table means. Are they canning and freezing for the winter months? Where is their meat coming from? The small gardens we plant in our yards can't even supply our weekly food requirements. We simply don't have the space. Unfortunately they will know where a few of their summer vegetables and fruits come from and a few eggs for a short amount of time.

I'm sure the city wouldn't enforce deed restrictions but you open a can of worms for the association to fight should chickens be an issue if the city approves this legislation. Many associations simply don't have the funds to hire an attorney and the city should never put them in that position. Homeowners know their associations can't enforce this so the chickens will stay. These homeowners won't play by the rules as shown in the past. They feel they just don't apply to them.

At this point we can only agree to disagree on this issue. My hope is that the people we elected make a decision that is for the good of everyone in the community and not for just a few. Vote "NO " on the proposed chicken legislation.

Respectfully
Donna Simmons

-----Original Message-----

From: Nancy McGregor <Nancy.Mcgregor@gahanna.gov>

To: Paul Simmons <psimmons10@aol.com>; Council <Council@gahanna.gov>

Cc: Mayor <Mayor@gahanna.gov>; mkuhlman <mkuhlman@thisweeknews.com>

Sent: Tue, Aug 16, 2016 3:57 pm

Subject: RE: Chicken Legislation

Hi Mrs. Simmons, I can answer a some of your questions. It may be a small number of people who want to raise backyard chickens but I would guess more than you think. That doesn't mean we should ignore the issue. I think it is fair to propose the ordinance, look at the pros and cons and vote it up or down. The ordinance allows for 3 chickens for up to a half acre lot. My lot is less than .5 acre so I would be allowed 3 chickens. There are many people who are growing their own food and really want to know where their food is coming from. The whole local food movement is geared toward people knowing under what conditions their food is raised and what chemicals are involved in their food production. Chicks can be inoculated against Salmonella. My son had this done when he ordered chicks, it cost .15/chick. I am going to ask that this be a provision in the ordinance. A chicken after it is about 14 weeks old will produce 1 egg/day. This production drops off somewhat in the winter. Hens lays well for about 2 years. No roosters are permitted. As far as I know most breeds of chicken will survive in our climate. There are breeds better for pets and/or egg production but that is personal taste. When fowl stop producing they can be maintained as pets or butchered. The ordinance prohibits butchering, but they can be taken outside the city for this purpose. The manure can be composted or bagged and put out with the trash. Chickens have be be contained within their coop. They cannot run free in the yard. I don't know of any chicken diseases in this area that are air borne. As you say predators are already here. If a coop is built properly it will deter most predators. I don't think having chickens will cause there to be more predators. Most animals are looking for food, if they don't find it they move on. We have wonderful hawks in our neighborhood that like to eat snakes and frogs among other things. Since they moved into the neighborhood three years ago, we have not had any snakes in our garden pond. We have had to share a few frogs with them and a few fish with the herons. The city does not enforce deed restrictions. That is for the neighborhood association to do. The police department does not enforce zoning regulations. You mention that I wanted 8 adult animals. Gahanna currently allows only 5 adult animals per residence. At the meeting where we discussed the issue, I thought my lot was over .5 acre, and therefore I would be allowed 5 chickens. But I have two dogs, so I was asking if the chickens would count towards the 5 adult animals. If so I would only be allowed to have 3 chickens or would the chickens be counted separately. I would be OK either way but I wanted to make sure we didn't have conflicting sections in the code. A permit to keep chickens will have to be obtained. The coop will be inspected at the beginning. My deed restrictions prohibit fowl so I would not be allowed to have the chickens, so this is not my personal agenda. I have raised chickens in the past and enjoyed the chickens and the fresh eggs they produced. I would like for other like minded citizens to be able to raise a few backyard chickens if they want. The city of Bexley, the city of Columbus and Franklin County allow backyard chickens. I think Bexley has about 20 people raising chickens with no problems, to date, that I am aware of. Thanks for writing and asking some great questions. Nancy McGregor City Council Member at Large

From: Paul Simmons [psimmons10@aol.com] Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 2:29 PM To: Council Cc: Mayor; mkuhlman@thisweeknews.com Subject: Chicken Legislation Good Afternoon, It looks like I'm a little late to this party but I'll voice my concerns and questions against the above subject legislation. Thanks to The Rocky Fork for making us aware of this issue. We have our City Council focused and spending their time so that 5-7 homeowners can raise chickens in their back yard. I'm not sure where to even start after reading the article. This seems like a very small percentage of our community that is in favor and wants to live next door to chickens. Exactly what is that percentage of homeowners to the total in our community? I'm not sure what the "needs" of these homeowners are that warrants raising fowl in their back yard, please explain. What diseases do the fowl carry? Do you know how many eggs a chicken produces in a week and when their production starts to decline? Is it different by the breed of chicken you have? What breed is appropriate for our climate? Does one have to do anything to keep them producing? What happens to these fowl when they stop

producing? These will be pets at that point and nothing more!! How is their manure disposed of which I'm told can be 2lbs per chicken per week, recycle, yard waste or trash? What about children that get sick from playing in the backyard amongst the manure or neighbors that become ill from the dried manure in the air? Wouldn't City Council/ City of Gahanna have some liability if someone becomes ill since they approved this legislation? My tax dollars is why I ask. You won't be able to enforce this legislation as we can't enforce current homeowner violations. Brian, our code enforcement officer, simply doesn't have the time to inspect everything that currently needs addressed. I'll make a list of everything in our sub division that is a violation and you tell me if the "chicken issue" will be addressed when violated, as it will be. Individuals had chickens illegally in our neighborhood and it took at least a year to get something done, it simply won't happen! You also say that if it violates the homeowner association rules, that would supersede the city's code. So you are putting the "Financial" responsibility to enforce this back on the homeowners or is the city going to step in and enforce the violation and absorb the cost for the association? Your pitting neighbors against neighbors! I hope we aren't looking to have our local police department involved in the enforcement. One of the reasons our community is safe is because they are out there doing what they were hired to do and that isn't "policing chicken violations." Are these chickens allowed to run freely in the yard pooping everywhere, only to have that dry up and blow throughout the neighborhood? I understand the restrictions on shelter but are they required to stay in it 24/7? I know from history they were allowed to run freely in the yard of our neighbor. If allowed to run they won't be 10 feet from the property line, right? Cleanliness and farm animals do not go hand and hand. Nancy McGregor now suggests that we allow "8" adult animals per household. Have you seen how small some of our lots are and how close we live to our neighbors? Many of us don't want to listen to chickens when we sit on our decks and patios, we want it quiet and peaceful! What about predators? Are we not inviting more of those into our neighborhoods as a result of a food source for them? We already have too many raccoons coming out each evening and now here is one more reason. Fox, snakes, hawks, etc are just a few other examples. if you think we don't already have fox you are sadly mistaken. There was one in the neighborhood last week. Hawks were already an issue when the chickens were here before. Be realistic and think this through! It looks like our City Council, or at least two of them, along with 5-7 homeowners, are the driving force behind this agenda. I'm sure if this was put before the residents of the City of Gahanna we know what the outcome would be. As our City Council you have a responsibility to all of the residents of Gahanna. Your decisions are to be made for the majority of us not for the few and certainly not for your personal agenda. I saw your posting Mr. Renner on The Backyard Chickens Facebook page and it makes me question if you can look at this issue objectively. I know the answer. Thank you, Donna Simmons

From: [Walt Ziminski](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Gahanna Chickens
Date: Sunday, August 21, 2016 8:08:54 PM

Concerning the legislation to allow Gahanna residents to raise chickens I would like to provide a couple obvious issues that allowing this would cause:

Chickens may transmit diseases to people. The most common is the salmonella infection, according to Pam Nixon, assistant barn manager at the Massachusetts Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Nevins Farm. The bacterium may linger in chickens' feces and bodies, as chickens constantly come into contact with their droppings.

Salmonella infection can lead to diarrhea, fever, stomach pain, nausea, vomiting and headaches within six to 72 hours of contact, and it may last for two to seven days, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Most people recover without treatment, but the infection may be fatal to children under 5, the elderly and people with weakened immune systems, according to the Food and Drug Administration. To cut to the chase, this could put vulnerable people in harms way if you approve this measure. Are you comfortable with that?

I believe farm animals belong on the farm where it would be more appropriate to have chickens. Chickens attract rats, raccoons, hawks, foxes, cats and dogs. When our neighbors previously had chickens and a rooster we saw multiple hawks. These hawks would perch in our trees and I would have to chase them off. Hawks Aloft, an organization that works to conserve and educate on avian life, suggest that dogs under 15 pounds should be supervised at all times while outside and that cats never be allowed outside when hawks are in the area.

Slowly, but surely, property values will decrease. That negatively affects the tax base. Would you want to live close by to a yard that has chickens based upon earlier stated truths?

I am very sensitive to the needs of those who are financially struggling and may view raising chickens in the suburbs as a food alternative. My heart cries out for those needs. However, I believe there are better win/win solutions that are in place (e.g., Gahanna Residents In Need, etc.) and more (e.g., mentoring, housing, etc.) that can be brought about and I would be glad to discuss.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter and I appreciate the work that you do.

Walt Ziminski

From: [Abigail Rivera](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Go Backyard chickens!!
Date: Friday, September 16, 2016 11:25:35 AM

Dear Members of Gahanna city council,
Please consider approving backyard chickens! This is a great article that sums up many of the misconceptions that the dissenters cite as the reasons they are so opposed! It answers the oppositions points much better than I could. Please take a minute to read it. Thanks so much for your hard work! Abby Rivera

https://www.chickensandyou.com/7_Myths.html

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Eva Woodruff](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: No chickens in city limits!
Date: Sunday, August 21, 2016 11:21:47 PM

Hello,

Just because 7 residents of our city want chickens does not mean the city should permit this. Let those 7 move out to the country and do as they please.

No chickens in city limits!

Thank you,
Eva & Ted Woodruff
879 Ludwig Drive
Gahanna

From: [Jim Draper](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Proposed Legislation for allowing chickens in neighborhoods
Date: Sunday, August 21, 2016 7:31:08 PM

To our Gahanna City Council,

As a member of our Harrison Pond HOA Board of Directors, I am writing on behalf of our board and thus the 561 homes in Harrison Pond. It has come to our attention that legislation has been introduced to allow backyard chickens in the city of Gahanna. This is legislation that we are opposed to. I have read the language in the proposed legislation and it is clear that it was written with the intent to minimize some of the cons to this idea. I applaud you for that. Unfortunately there is no way to prevent many of the problems that arise when you remove the barriers that limit people with little knowledge of caring for farm animals from keeping them. This is best left to those who are skilled in this practice. Below is a list of just some of the cons to backyard chickens.

1. The cute fluffy chicks that arrive need an extreme amount of care and knowledge to keep them healthy. People love the idea of a chick but have no idea what it takes to care for them.
2. Chicks are cute and fluffy for about 2 weeks. They start getting their feathers in in about a week and turn into very awkward looking teenagers. It's amazing how quickly they look like chickens and not babies.
3. Chickens are very social animals, so they need friends. In other words, one can't just get one chicken or it will be depressed and lonely.
4. Chickens don't like being confined in a small space. They can get bored, which leads to gruesome acts such as feather picking (Where they pull feathers out of their companions). Once they see blood, they pick even more, which can actually lead to cannibalism.
5. Chickens need special diets for different stages of their lives. If they don't get the proper, balanced nutrition they might have problems with feathers breaking off, or eggs coming out with soft shells (or no shells!)
6. Chickens like to scratch and peck. If they are let out in your yard, and they most definitely will be, they will turn a small bare spot into a big, bare spot. They like to dig into the dirt and take dust baths.
7. People need to check on your chickens every day. In the summer they need to have plenty of water and that they aren't overheating. In the winter people will need to make sure their water hasn't frozen. In the rain they still need to be checked on. How many suburbanites do you think will have this kind of discipline?
8. Chickens like to eat chicken eggs also. If they owner doesn't gather the eggs every day, the chicken might accidentally break one. Chickens like to eat just about everything, so they will try the broken egg. That is the point where they decide they love the taste. You now have an egg-eater, who will deliberately break eggs to eat. When on vacation, they homeowner will need to find someone to gather eggs every day to prevent this from happening.
9. Bird droppings smell. The coop must be cleaned regularly to keep the ammonia from building up. Ammonia is bad for the birds to breathe and it is bad for us to smell. Droppings will attract flies and will repel our friends and neighbors.
10. Chickens are prone to getting parasites. Whether a new bird is introduced that has lice, or wild birds with mites fly into the yard, people will inevitably have to battle external parasites. The owner will have to scrub down the coop, spray or dust in every crevice and spray or dust their birds. I hope none of you live next door to this when it happens.
11. Chickens lay eggs reliably for about 2-3 years. Chickens can live for about 10 years. What are you people to do with an old chicken that doesn't lay anymore? I'll tell you what - they will set them free.
12. Chickens are pretty delicate animals and can get sick. There are not many vets who take chickens. Are people willing/able to diagnose what's wrong with their chicken? Will they be able to massage an egg out of a hen if it is stuck? Would they feed thier chicken with an eye dropper if it stopped eating? Would they be able to humanely kill their chicken if it got mauled by a predator? If so - where? Again, most vets won't take chickens, even to put them down.
13. Chickens do need a safe and secure hen house which is provided for in the legislation. But even with this animals such as raccoons, hawks, foxes and coyotes will be attracted. This is a scary thought for those of us with small children and pets.
14. Chicken feed can attract rodents. I don't think I need to elaborate on that one.

To sum it up the raising of livestock should be left to the professionals with the proper facilities. Allowing those without the proper skill and facilities to do so opens the door to cruelty to the livestock, an undesirable neighborhood to live in and an invitation for predators. This is a big price to pay for a few free range eggs that can be purchased very inexpensively at most farmers markets nearby. I hope that you will not pass this legislation. Let's keep Gahanna a desirable place to live.



Jim Draper
Harrison Pond HOA Board

From: [Stephen Renner](#)
To: [Donna Simmons](#); [Council](#)
Cc: [Mayor](#); mkuhlman@thisweeknews.com
Subject: RE: Chicken Legislation
Date: Tuesday, August 23, 2016 5:20:13 PM

Ms Simmons,

Thank you for your continued interest in this draft legislation. I fully understand the anxiety that this may cause some residents. New ideas can do that. Also, I've always known that this was going to be a very slow but methodical process to review and understand this issue. I have full faith in my colleagues to carefully consider this as they do with all legislation that comes before us. I have had the pleasure of serving with some of them for a while, and I can tell you that none of them run from hard, complex subjects.

Please understand that this, like all our legislation, has been in the full open for all to see, participate, and consider. Likewise, it is our duty to consider the needs or wants of our constituents, regardless the number. Proper governance is meant to give voice to the minority opinion in a fair and open way. And that is what I have done.

Because of my background and exposure to newer ideas of urban agricultural programs, I would like to offer a few points of interest. For example, while there is just concern about chickens in unsanitary and unkept environments, there are many proper sources to purchase chicks that have already undergone testing for all the diseases. In fact, when you purchase these chicks, each will come banded and with NPIP (National Poultry Improvement Plan) certificates that document successful passing and free of viruses or diseases. This is as opposed to purchasing chicks and a local feed or tractor supply store, which not always carry NPIP certified chicks. Furthermore, as my colleague Nancy McGregor has pointed out in our meetings, immunizing against salmonella is a very simple and cheap process. Finally, it's important to understand how and why chicks or full fledge chickens come down with diseases and therefore prevent them (e.g. keeping coops clean, proper storage of food from rodents, etc). Both the City of Bexley and the City of Columbus have good programs that support "backyard chickens" and have permitting and inspection processes that help keep this in check. It has always been my intent that our permitting process replicates what had already been done by other municipalities as we try to model it for Gahanna.

Because much of Gahanna's subdivisions do have limiting deed restrictions or active HOAs, I do not see this ever where there would be a large numbers of residents with chickens. But, if we can provide an alternative option for a small number of family's by providing a legal, healthy, and safe way to do so, then why not? I have done my duty and given voice to that very small group. Again, this is a long process for all involved. Whether or not it is ultimately decided that it's good for Gahanna remains to be seen.

Thank you again,
Stephen

Stephen A. Renner
Council Member, Ward 1
City of Gahanna
(614) 316-1280

From: Donna Simmons [psimmons10@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 23, 2016 4:17 PM
To: Council
Cc: Mayor; mkuhlman@thisweeknews.com
Subject: Chicken Legislation

Good Afternoon,

It was great attending the council committee meeting yesterday evening. Thanks to all the city council members who ask questions on the above issue. You can see that there are lots of unanswered questions and details to work out. I did see that the annual permit and immunization was added to the proposed legislation. Thank you. The documentation from HOA or deed restrictions allowing or not allowing the chickens wasn't added. Is this still being considered.

I've attached a copy of some "Health and Common Diseases in Chickens."

Immunizing the chickens won't protect them from some of these things. In reading about these diseases and health issues, it's hard for owners to detect some of the illnesses. Unfortunately this could be spread unknowingly. I'm not sure how Planning and Zoning proposes to prevent the spread of these diseases and health concerns to neighboring yards that may have young children and small pets. Water run off and wind are hard to contain and control in relation to adjacent property. We live very close to each other in our subdivision and this will be a challenge to prevent. Seems like a lot of risk for a few eggs, wouldn't you agree? There are a few questions on this attachment that need to be answered or at least considered.

Thanks for your time and attention.
Donna Simmons

From: [Donna Simmons](#)
To: [Stephen Renner](#); [Council](#)
Cc: [Mayor](#); mkuhlman@thisweeknews.com
Subject: Re: Chicken Legislation
Date: Tuesday, August 23, 2016 9:35:53 PM

Mr. Renner,

It was great to hear from you. Please note that this "chicken issue" causes me no anxiety or stress and it really isn't a new idea from you or my neighbor. If you'll remember, you and I spoke regarding her illegal chickens (last year) on my front porch and you informed me at that time (when you were our council representative) you were in support of them. You also informed her that I called about them and she hasn't spoken to my family since then. I knew this issue would surface again and my position is to help your colleagues hear the other side of the argument so they can make informed decisions. I can only hope that they make a decision that is in the interest of the whole and not the small part.

I would disagree that there has been transparency with this legislation. There has been earlier support shown in favor of the legislation because those homeowners were kept in the loop. I applaud you for listening to the minority, but let me be frank, I believe you personally feel so strongly about this issue that both pros and cons were never explored thoroughly before this was presented for legislation. I think only now the other position is being considered. There are too many unanswered questions and the legislation is too broad and/or vague; It simply lacks the details necessary to enforce violations.

I have no doubt that healthy chicks can be purchased through NPIP, but I did not see in the legislation where homeowners are required to purchase from them. As it stands, they can buy them from anyone. In addition, they are now required to be immunized but against what diseases? You can immunize against 2 strains of salmonella, *S. Enteritidis* and *S. Typhimurium*, and as such chickens can pick up other salmonella species.

It's interesting you bring up the City of Columbus program because I happened to have a phone conversation today with a lady who lives off of Morse Road in the City of Columbus. She works for MI Homes and explained to me that she lives next door to a home with chickens and it is terrible. She said they get in her yard and have ruined the grass and plants as well as defecate. She said the only way she can keep them out of her yard is to let her dogs out and that the City will not do anything. This was unsolicited and a total surprise to hear, but definitely noteworthy. Finally, I think the list of health concerns and diseases speak for themselves as they relate to chickens.

As I have noticed in my research, I think you'll find that there are many homes in Gahanna that have no deed restrictions or HOAs to prevent chickens. I have to ask the question, "**why do we need to allow homeowners to have farm animals in their backyards?**" That's how they were even referred to by some in the committee

meeting last night. They are not domestic animals (used in last night's meeting). You have homeowners out there now, buying and raising chickens in their backyards illegally. What makes you think they are going to comply with this legislation if it passes?

Then we have the issue of enforcement and inspections. Does this mean Brian Reynolds, himself, will be assuming this additional responsibility? I'm currently making a list of the violations in our subdivision that have been here for months. These violations are not being addressed because Brian isn't doing his job, but due to the amount of responsibilities he already has. Adding this additional task does not seem manageable. I spoke with Brian on Friday and he said he would be in our area towards the end of the season, maybe not his exact words, but it wasn't going to be soon.

As you stated, this is a long process for all involved. It is my responsibility as a resident of Gahanna, for 29 years, to speak up and become involved when decisions are being made that have the potential to hurt our homeowners and our community.

Thank you,
Donna

-----Original Message-----

From: Stephen Renner <Stephen.Renner@gahanna.gov>
To: Donna Simmons <psimmons10@aol.com>; Council <Council@gahanna.gov>
Cc: Mayor <Mayor@gahanna.gov>; mkuhlman <mkuhlman@thisweeknews.com>
Sent: Tue, Aug 23, 2016 5:20 pm
Subject: RE: Chicken Legislation

Ms Simmons,

Thank you for your continued interest in this draft legislation. I fully understand the anxiety that this may cause some residents. New ideas can do that. Also, I've always known that this was going to be a very slow but methodical process to review and understand this issue. I have full faith in my colleagues to carefully consider this as they do with all legislation that comes before us. I have had the pleasure of serving with some of them for a while, and I can tell you that none of them run from hard, complex subjects.

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Because of my background and exposure to newer ideas of urban agricultural programs, I would like to offer a few points of interest. For example, while there is just concern about chickens in unsanitary and unkept environments, there are many proper sources to purchase chicks that have already undergone

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Because much of Gahanna's subdivisions do have limiting deed restrictions or active HOAs, I do not see this ever where there would be a large numbers of residents with chickens. But, if we can provide an alternative option for a small number of family's by providing a legal, healthy, and safe way to do so, then why not? I have done my duty and given voice to that very small group. Again, this is a long process for all involved. Whether or not it is ultimately decided that it's good for Gahanna remains to be seen.

Thank you again,

Stephen

Stephen A. Renner
Council Member, Ward 1
City of Gahanna
(614) 316-1280

From: Donna Simmons [psimmons10@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 23, 2016 4:17 PM
To: Council
Cc: Mayor; mkuhlman@thisweeknews.com
Subject: Chicken Legislation

Good Afternoon,

It was great attending the council committee meeting yesterday evening. Thanks to all the city council members who ask questions on the above issue. You can see that there are lots of unanswered questions and details to work out. I did see that the annual permit and immunization was added to the proposed legislation. Thank you. The documentation from HOA or deed restrictions allowing or not allowing the chickens wasn't added. Is this still being considered.

I've attached a copy of some "Health and Common Diseases in Chickens." Immunizing the chickens won't protect them from some of these things. In reading about these diseases and health issues, it's hard for owners to detect some of the illnesses. Unfortunately this could be spread unknowingly. I'm not sure how Planning and Zoning proposes to prevent the spread of these diseases and health concerns to neighboring yards that may have young children and small pets. Water run off and wind are hard to contain and control in relation to adjacent property. We live very close to each other in our subdivision and this will be a challenge to prevent. Seems like a lot of risk for a few eggs, wouldn't you agree? There are a few questions on this attachment that need to be answered or at least considered.

Thanks for your time and attention.

Donna Simmons

From: [Nancy Mcgregor](#)
To: [Donna Simmons](#); [Council](#); [Michael Schnetzer](#); [Brian Larick](#); [Jamie Leeseberg](#); [Karen Angelou](#); [Brian Metzbower](#); [Stephen Renner](#)
Cc: [Mayor](#); mkuhlman@thisweeknews.com
Subject: RE: Chicken Legislation
Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 8:29:25 PM

I know we don't agree, but I want to answer your question at the beginning of your email. As it stands now, there are 5 adult animals allowed. On a lot of less than .5 acre three chickens would be allowed. So in theory I could have three chickens to go with my 2 dogs. But if I had three dogs, I could only have 2 chickens.

Someone with over .5 acre could have 5 chickens but would be limited by the 5 adult animals total as I understand. So 3 chickens and 2 dogs or 4 chickens and 1 dog.

Thanks so much,
Nancy

From: Donna Simmons [psimmons10@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 5:26 PM
To: Nancy Mcgregor; [Council](#); [Michael Schnetzer](#); [Brian Larick](#); [Jamie Leeseberg](#); [Karen Angelou](#); [Brian Metzbower](#); [Stephen Renner](#)
Cc: [Mayor](#); mkuhlman@thisweeknews.com
Subject: Re: Chicken Legislation

Mrs McGregor,

Thank you for your prompt response. The ordinance allows for 3 chickens for up to a half acre lot plus 5 adult pets, is that correct? There should be a requirement that after a chicken quits producing eggs they need to be removed because at that point they become a pet. The initial purposes of this is a "food source" correct?

I personally have no desire to have chicken poop composting and blowing onto our property as we sit on our patio. There can be no health benefit to that. That's why we moved to a subdivision and not a farm. I don't want to live near farm animals.

There will be predators and there will be more of them. If they don't get the chickens they'll get someones cat or small dog. They don't give up easily.

Knowing where your food comes from is as important to me as the next person but I grew up planting gardens and having chickens, cows and hogs slaughtered, dressed and frozen for future use. There's nothing about fresh or Farm to Table that I don't understand. I wasn't raised in the city but that's the life we chose. These people you are supporting who want chickens haven't even begun to know what Farm to Table means. Are they canning and freezing for the winter months? Where is their meat coming from? The small gardens we plant in our yards can't even supply our weekly food requirements. We simply don't have the space. Unfortunately they will know where a few of their summer vegetables and fruits come from and a few eggs for a short amount of time.

I'm sure the city wouldn't enforce deed restrictions but you open a can of worms for the association to fight should chickens be an issue if the city approves this

legislation. Many associations simply don't have the funds to hire an attorney and the city should never put them in that position. Homeowners know their associations can't enforce this so the chickens will stay. These homeowners won't play by the rules as shown in the past. They feel they just don't apply to them.

At this point we can only agree to disagree on this issue. My hope is that the people we elected make a decision that is for the good of everyone in the community and not for just a few. Vote "NO " on the proposed chicken legislation.

Respectfully
Donna Simmons

-----Original Message-----

From: Nancy Mcgregor <Nancy.Mcgregor@gahanna.gov>
To: Paul Simmons <psimmons10@aol.com>; Council <Council@gahanna.gov>
Cc: Mayor <Mayor@gahanna.gov>; mkuhlman <mkuhlman@thisweeknews.com>
Sent: Tue, Aug 16, 2016 3:57 pm
Subject: RE: Chicken Legislation

Hi Mrs. Simmons, I can answer a some of your questions. It may be a small number of people who want to raise backyard chickens but I would guess more than you think. That doesn't mean we should ignore the issue. I think it is fair to propose the ordinance, look at the pros and cons and vote it up or down. The ordinance allows for 3 chickens for up to a half acre lot. My lot is less than .5 acre so I would be allowed 3 chickens. There are many people who are growing their own food and really want to know where their food is coming from. The whole local food movement is geared toward people knowing under what conditions their food is raised and what chemicals are involved in their food production. Chicks can be inoculated against Salmonella. My son had this done when he ordered chicks, it cost .15/chick. I am going to ask that this be a provision in the ordinance. A chicken after it is about 14 weeks old will produce 1 egg/day. This production drops off somewhat in the winter. Hens lays well for about 2 years. No roosters are permitted. As far as I know most breeds of chicken will survive in our climate. There are breeds better for pets and/or egg production but that is personal taste. When fowl stop producing they can be maintained as pets or butchered. The ordinance prohibits butchering, but they can be taken outside the city for this purpose. The manure can be composted or bagged and put out with the trash. Chickens have be be contained within their coop. They cannot run free in the yard. I don't know of any chicken diseases in this area that are air borne. As you say predators are already here. If a coop is built properly it will deter most predators. I don't think having chickens will cause there to be more predators. Most animals are looking for food, if they don't find it they move on. We have wonderful hawks in our neighborhood that like to eat snakes and frogs among other things. Since they moved into the neighborhood three years ago, we have not had any snakes in our garden pond. We have had to share a few frogs with them and a few fish with the herons. The city does not enforce deed restrictions. That is for the neighborhood association to do. The police department does not enforce zoning regulations. You mention that I wanted 8 adult animals. Gahanna currently allows only 5 adult animals per residence. At the meeting where we discussed the issue, I thought my lot was over .5 acre, and therefore I would be allowed 5 chickens. But I have two dogs, so I was asking if the chickens would count towards the 5 adult animals. If so I would only be allowed to have 3 chickens or would the chickens be counted separately. I would be OK either way but I wanted to make sure we didn't have conflicting sections in the code. A

permit to keep chickens will have to be obtained. The coop will be inspected at the beginning. My deed restrictions prohibit fowl so I would not be allowed to have the chickens, so this is not my personal agenda. I have raised chickens in the past and enjoyed the chickens and the fresh eggs they produced. I would like for other like minded citizens to be able to raise a few backyard chickens if they want. The city of Bexley, the city of Columbus and Franklin County allow backyard chickens. I think Bexley has about 20 people raising chickens with no problems, to date, that I am aware of. Thanks for writing and asking some great questions. Nancy McGregor City Council Member at Large

From: Paul Simmons [psimmons10@aol.com] Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 2:29 PM To: Council Cc: Mayor; mkuhlman@thisweeknews.com Subject: Chicken Legislation Good Afternoon, It looks like I'm a little late to this party but I'll voice my concerns and questions against the above subject legislation. Thanks to The Rocky Fork for making us aware of this issue. We have our City Council focused and spending their time so that 5-7 homeowners can raise chickens in their back yard. I'm not sure where to even start after reading the article. This seems like a very small percentage of our community that is in favor and wants to live next door to chickens. Exactly what is that percentage of homeowners to the total in our community? I'm not sure what the "needs" of these homeowners are that warrants raising fowl in their back yard, please explain. What diseases do the fowl carry? Do you know how many eggs a chicken produces in a week and when their production starts to decline? Is it different by the breed of chicken you have? What breed is appropriate for our climate? Does one have to do anything to keep them producing? What happens to these fowl when they stop producing? These will be pets at that point and nothing more!! How is their manure disposed of which I'm told can be 2lbs per chicken per week, recycle, yard waste or trash? What about children that get sick from playing in the backyard amongst the manure or neighbors that become ill from the dried manure in the air? Wouldn't City Council/ City of Gahanna have some liability if someone becomes ill since they approved this legislation? My tax dollars is why I ask. You won't be able to enforce this legislation as we can't enforce current homeowner violations. Brian, our code enforcement officer, simply doesn't have the time to inspect everything that currently needs addressed. I'll make a list of everything in our sub division that is a violation and you tell me if the "chicken issue" will be addressed when violated, as it will be. Individuals had chickens illegally in our neighborhood and it took at least a year to get something done, it simply won't happen! You also say that if it violates the homeowner association rules, that would supersede the city's code. So you are putting the "Financial" responsibility to enforce this back on the homeowners or is the city going to step in and enforce the violation and absorb the cost for the association? Your pitting neighbors against neighbors! I hope we aren't looking to have our local police department involved in the enforcement. One of the reasons our community is safe is because they are out there doing what they were hired to do and that isn't "policing chicken violations." Are these chickens allowed to run freely in the yard pooping everywhere, only to have that dry up and blow throughout the neighborhood? I understand the restrictions on shelter but are they required to stay in it 24/7? I know from history they were allowed to run freely in the yard of our neighbor. If allowed to run they won't be 10 feet from the property line, right? Cleanliness and farm animals do not go hand and hand. Nancy McGregor now suggests that we allow "8" adult animals per household. Have you seen how small some of our lots are and how close we live to our neighbors? Many of us don't want to listen to chickens when we sit on our decks and patios, we want it quiet and peaceful! What about predators? Are we not inviting more of those into our neighborhoods as a result of a food source for them? We already have too many raccoons coming out each evening and now here is one more reason. Fox, snakes, hawks, etc are just a few other examples. if you think we don't already have fox you are sadly mistaken. There was one in the neighborhood last week. Hawks were already an issue when the chickens were here before. Be realistic and think this through! It looks like our City Council, or at least two of them, along with 5-7 homeowners, are the driving force behind this agenda. I'm sure if this was put before the residents of the City of Gahanna we know what the outcome would be. As our City Council you have a responsibility to all of the residents of Gahanna. Your decisions are to be made for the majority of us not for the few and certainly not for your personal agenda. I saw your posting Mr. Renner on The Backyard Chickens Facebook page and it makes me question if you can look at this issue objectively. I know the answer. Thank you, Donna Simmons

From: [Nancy Mcgregor](#)
To: [Paul Simmons](#); [Council](#)
Cc: [Mayor](#); mkuhlman@thisweeknews.com
Subject: RE: Chicken Legislation
Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 3:57:58 PM

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When fowl stop producing they can be maintained as pets or butchered. The ordinance prohibits butchering, but they can be taken outside the city for this purpose.

The manure can be composted or bagged and put out with the trash.

Chickens have be be contained within their coop. They cannot run free in the yard.

I don't know of any chicken diseases in this area that are air borne.

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City Council Member at Large

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Subject: Chicken Legislation

Good Afternoon,

It looks like I'm a little late to this party but I'll voice my concerns and questions against the above subject legislation. Thanks to The Rocky Fork for making us aware of this issue. We have our City Council focused and spending their time so that 5-7 homeowners can raise chickens in their back yard. I'm not sure where to even start after reading the article. This seems like a very small percentage of our community that is in favor and wants to live next door to chickens. Exactly what is that percentage of homeowners to the total in our community? I'm not sure what the "needs" of these homeowners are that warrants raising fowl in their back yard, please explain. What diseases do the fowl carry? Do you know how many eggs a chicken produces in a week and when their production starts to decline? Is it different by the breed of chicken you have? What breed is appropriate for our climate? Does one have to do anything to keep them producing? What happens to these fowl when they stop producing? These will be pets at that point and nothing more!!

How is their manure disposed of which I'm told can be 2lbs per chicken per week, recycle, yard waste or trash? What about children that get sick from playing in the backyard amongst the manure or neighbors that become ill from the dried manure in the air? Wouldn't City Council/ City of Gahanna have some liability if someone becomes ill since they approved this legislation? My tax dollars is why I ask.

You won't be able to enforce this legislation as we can't enforce current homeowner violations. Brian, our code enforcement officer, simply doesn't have the time to inspect everything that currently needs addressed. I'll make a list of everything in our sub division that is a violation and you tell me if the "chicken issue" will be addressed when violated, as it will be. Individuals had chickens illegally in our neighborhood and it took at least a year to get something done, it simply won't happen! You also say that if it violates the homeowner association rules, that would supersede the city's code. So you are putting the "Financial" responsibility to enforce this back on the homeowners or is the city going to step in and enforce the violation and absorb the cost for the association? Your pitting neighbors against neighbors! I hope we aren't looking to have our local police department involved in the enforcement. One of the reasons our community is safe is because they are out there doing what they were hired to do and that isn't "policing chicken violations."

Are these chickens allowed to run freely in the yard pooping everywhere, only to have that dry up and blow throughout the neighborhood? I understand the restrictions on shelter but are they required to stay in it 24/7? I know from history they were allowed to run freely in the yard of our neighbor. If allowed to run they won't be 10 feet from the property line, right? Cleanliness and farm animals do not go hand and hand. Nancy McGregor now suggests that we allow "8" adult animals per household. Have you seen how small some of our lots are and how close we live to our neighbors? Many of us don't want to listen to chickens when we sit on our decks and patios, we want it quiet and peaceful!

What about predators? Are we not inviting more of those into our neighborhoods as a result of a food source for them? We already have too many raccoons coming out each evening and now here is one more reason. Fox, snakes, hawks, etc are just a few other examples. if you think we don't already have fox you are sadly mistaken. There was

one in the neighborhood last week. Hawks were already an issue when the chickens were here before.

Be realistic and think this through! It looks like our City Council, or at least two of them, along with 5-7 homeowners, are the driving force behind this agenda. I'm sure if this was put before the residents of the City of Gahanna we know what the outcome would be. As our City Council you have a responsibility to all of the residents of Gahanna. Your decisions are to be made for the majority of us not for the few and certainly not for your personal agenda. I saw your posting Mr. Renner on The Backyard Chickens Facebook page and it makes me question if you can look at this issue objectively. I know the answer.

Thank you,
Donna Simmons

From: [Nancy Mcgregor](mailto:Nancy.Mcgregor)
To: magyart@yahoo.com
Cc: [Council](#)
Subject: RE: Chickens
Date: Saturday, August 13, 2016 1:26:10 PM

Hi Mr. Magyar,
I wanted to let you know some of the provisions in the proposed ordinance.

Lots under .5 acre could have 3 chickens, from .5 to 1 acre there could be 5 chickens. No roosters are allowed. The chickens have to be enclosed in a coop. A permit has to be obtained and the area inspected.

My lot is under .5 acre so I could have 3 chickens, but my deed restrictions prohibit this and so I will not have chickens. This ordinance does not supercede deed restrictions or HOA regulations.

Chickens are the only animals this ordinance permits. It could be a fun and nutritious way for citizens to obtain some of their food. Chicks can be inoculated against Salmonella to provide even more food security.

Thanks for writing,
Nancy McGregor
Council Member at Large

From: magyart@yahoo.com [magyart@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, August 13, 2016 11:23 AM
To: Nancy Mcgregor
Subject: Chickens

HELL NO ! Renner is out of his mind to let people raise chickens. Chickens need a rooster and they make lots of noise. Let people buy eggs from a local farmer if they want to know where their eggs come from. I want peace and quite.

My daughter lives in Lexington, KY and her neighbor has chickens and rabbits. Their yard lots like a shit hole with pens, ramps, special plants for feed, and a ugly fence. The damn rooster crows all day long. Bringing this to Gahanna is NOT the right thing to do.

Terry Magyar
994 Turcotte Dr
Gahanna, OH 43230
614-946-1883

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Nancy McGregor](#)
To: [Don Jensen](#); [Council](#)
Subject: RE: chickens?
Date: Sunday, August 07, 2016 9:57:06 PM

Sorry Don, I have to disagree. Bexley has allowed chickens for a couple of years and had very few problems. The proposed ordinance would allow me to have three hens in my yard. They have to be contained in an enclosure. Three chickens would not produce more manure than my two medium sized dogs. A well maintained coop does not smell. I have raised chickens before and had no complaints from neighbors. And I had 10 at the time. Someone in Old Gahanna had them about 5 years ago and once the rooster (there were complaints about the rooster) was moved on, he had the hens for a few years. Roosters would not be allowed. The coops would have to be registered and inspected.

I do appreciate your input though.
Thanks,
Nancy

From: Don Jensen [dwjensen50@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, August 07, 2016 3:56 PM
To: Council
Subject: chickens?

Honorable Council—

I am writing in OPPOSITION to the proposed “chicken” ordinance. Why are we bending to a vocal minority? What ‘value’ does it offer? One homeowner who’s vocal gets their way?

Would you, as a homeowner, want a chicken coop next to your backyard? And where does this stop? How about goats, turkeys, rabbits, a calf (‘baby cow’)??

I see noise and neighbor issues, health issues, smell issues and ENFORCEMENT issues.

Besides, what are we, a Third World city? Other central Ohio communities would have a ‘hay day’ with it?

If these folks want to raise farm animals, let them move to the country.

Don Jensen
Gahanna resident since 1988
509 Mechwart Place
614.352.8990

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: toddyr@aol.com
To: [Kayla Holbrook](#)
Subject: Re: Planning Commission Agendas
Date: Sunday, September 11, 2016 5:31:03 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image007.jpg](#)
[image008.png](#)

Kayla:

Please forward this question to the Planning Commission; should the ordinance specify that Guinea Fowl are also not allowed under this ordinance?

Thank you.

Diana Redman
598 Codrington Circle
Gahanna, Oh

-----Original Message-----

From: Kayla Holbrook <Kayla.Holbrook@gahanna.gov>
To: trinitysigngroup <trinitysigngroup@gmail.com>; adampaulrich <adampaulrich@gmail.com>
Sent: Fri, Sep 9, 2016 12:54 pm
Subject: Planning Commission Agendas

Dear applicants & residents –

Attached is the Planning Commission Agenda for next Wednesday. It is also available on our Legislative Calendar [site](#). Also attached is the Workshop agenda for 9/21.

The Commission may caucus at 6:30 p.m. in the Committee Room and the meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. The attached agenda includes a link to each application packet (which includes the application, staff comments, legal advertisements, contiguous property owner letters) and the minutes from the last regular meeting. You will find parking at City Hall, 200 S. Hamilton Rd. Gahanna, OH 43230. The Committee Room is located in the back of the building on the right hand side. The meeting will be held in Council Chambers which is directly to the left of the Committee Room.

If you have any questions between now and Wednesday evening please feel free to respond to this email or call the Council office at 614.342.4090.

Enjoy the weekend 😊

Kayla Holbrook
Deputy Clerk of Council

cid:image001.png@01D1F7A5.2754D2F0



200 S. Hamilton Rd. Gahanna, OH 43230

614.342.4090

kayla.holbrook@gahanna.gov



From: [Matt Montecalvo](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Regarding Ordinance 505.08 – Housing of Animals
Date: Monday, September 19, 2016 9:34:54 PM

Dear City of Gahanna Planning Commission Members:

I reside in Gahanna in the Villages of Gahanna subdivision (1292 Granfield Court). I have lived in Gahanna for several years and enjoy the feel of the community, access to nearby businesses, the park system, excellent public and safety services, and the quiet that comes with living in a planned subdivision within the City limits.

Recently, I understand that the City's Planning Commission has taken up modification of our ordinance 505.08 (Housing of Animals). The topic of this revision is, as I understand it, to allow the keeping of chickens on residentially zoned lots smaller than one acre. I have taken the time to review the ordinance change. I believe it is fair, and it seems to address typical concerns raised by opponents of permitting chickens on smaller residential lots and in platted, residential subdivisions.

To be completely clear, I support the revision and implementation of this ordinance as it has been presented most recently to the Planning Commission. I believe this is an excellent step in affording property owners more latitude with their own property without infringing on the rights and uses of other, neighboring property owners. I have sent a similar message to my City Council Representative, Councilman Michael Schnetzer.

However, in the process of understanding this issue better, I have come across some opposition from folks in my very own subdivision. Based on my review of information associated with the issues raised by the so-called Villages of Gahanna HOA and other citizens, I feel compelled to offer some data and facts associated with same.

I have heard opponents say that the presence of backyard chickens lowers property values. However, no research has revealed data that corresponds to that claim. In fact, the information that I found runs contrary to that. In 2010, Forbes magazine reported that of the top 10 housing markets in the United States, all of them permitted chickens. Furthermore, the same article indicated that of the ten sickest cities in the US, only 30% permitted chickens. In 2013, Bedford County, Virginia voted to permit "backyard chickens". The Lynchburg Business Magazine reported on the passing of the zoning ordinance indicating that: "...real estate figures in other areas have shown that property value has been unaffected by domestic chicken regulations." Furthermore, real estate values in Bedford County, Virginia (as reported by Trulia) have increased over the last five years.

On the other side of the argument, information is certainly available that reports on the negative aspects of backyard chickens. A recent Realtor.com article suggests that negative aesthetic perceptions should be managed by well-constructed, stylish coups or screening. Another Forbes article, from 2013, listed this as well as noise caused by roosters and risk of predation as significant negatives to keeping backyard chickens. However, as I mentioned earlier, these are common and often accurate concerns; but these are all addressed in the City's revised ordinance. And more importantly, none of this credible information even discusses declining property values; and that is because there is no data to support that conclusion.

Once again, I want to articulate my support and enthusiasm for this revision to our City's ordinances. I think the small number of potentially negative issues have been addressed well within the language of the proposed ordinance. I also believe that the remaining negatives focus on hearsay and speculation instead of facts or data. They appear, truthfully, to have the ring of neighbor-to-neighbor disputes; or perhaps these negative arguments stem more from a sense of superiority or entitlement than an actual desire to protect or preserve anything.

I want to thank the Planning Commission for taking the time to read my thoughts. I also want to thank you for volunteering to do the sometimes difficult job of moving our community past the handful of negative issues, and choosing to evaluate and debate and select the best path to keep Gahanna moving in a direction of which we can all be proud.

Thank you again.

Matt

Matthew J. Montecalvo, P.E.
Principal

450 Grant St.
Akron, Ohio 44311
Phone: 330.375.1390
Cell: 440.241.1827

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