

**SPECIAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF
THE CITY OF NIXA, MISSOURI**

NIXA CITY HALL

MAY 17, 2021 6:00 P.M.

The Special Council Committee meeting of the Nixa City Council was called to order. Attending were Special Council Committee Members, Darlene Graham, Jarad Giddens and Shawn Lucas. Also attending were Jimmy Liles, Nick Woodman, Joe Campbell, Garrett Tyson and Elizabeth Gibson.

Giddens welcomed those in attendance and stated this will be an overview and Q&A session. There will be no voting at this meeting and the goal is to revamp and create an ordinance fitting for the issue. There will not be a time limit on visitor's comments this evening.

VISITORS:

Kayleigh Griffith 203 Pine Hill Ct. asked if clipping wings and enclosures has been decided for this ordinance.

Lucas added yes it has been discussed and currently clipped wings is to be removed and enclosures should be enclosed on all sides and have a roof and doors.

Griffith stated chickens will try to run if their wings are not clipped.

Lucas stated a fenced yard would be best so chickens would be able to roam.

Kenndra Janoski 311 N. Market St, currently has chickens and has moved them indoors. She would like to have more chickens if the city allows.

George Reeve 510 N. Montauk Dr. had moved from a town that allowed chickens and is not in favor of allowing chickens in Nixa. Reeve is highly against this ordinance.

Frank Horvath 877 Dustin Lane is against the ordinance. Horvath moved into a residential area with an HOA that does not allow certain animals. He asked if this ordinance would have precedence over his HOA and when will a vote take place. Horvath stated chickens are annoying, dirty and a health hazard.

Giddens added he is not sure what the timeframe will be and the ordinance will have to be revised before presenting it to City Council.

Horvath added chickens will attract predators such as coyotes and would like to know who would regulate this ordinance.

Corin Harskey 482 Tiffany Blvd. stated it is impossible to keep chickens one hundred (100) feet away from a property line as it states in Section 6-13 (c) of the ordinance.

Dr. Nancy Chilla 2 Hillside Dr. is a veterinarian and feels chickens should be allowed for health benefits and pest control. Chickens need to be raised in healthy conditions and their wings should be clipped by a

professional. There can be downside to chickens, they can carry salmonella, fungal diseases and these can be spread to humans via feces.

City Administrator Jimmy Liles added the requirement per square/foot has been removed from the ordinance.

Leah Kimberly 802 S. Creekwood Ct. requested the need for clarification for distance required from property lines. Clipping a chicken's wings is recommended for them. Allowing chickens to be free roaming would be best for them because at night they will bed down in their enclosures.

Andrew McGowan 1239 Tori St, is in favor of this ordinance. Chickens will eat ticks and typically lay eggs in the morning. The amount of noise a chicken makes is equivalent to that of dogs. McGowan does not agree that chickens are a health hazard.

Heath Emerson 301 N. Delaware asked about waste regulations and that he would use a chicken coop or a chicken tractor that would keep the accumulated waste until ready for disposal. He asked if the waste could be disposed of in the weekly trash pickups.

Liles added that Public Works/Assistant City Administrator Doug Colvin is research where chicken waste can be disposed at.

Reeve stated that chickens would change a residential environment into an agricultural environment and they should not be allowed in residential areas.

Janoski added that chickens can be domesticated.

Graham stated chickens have been a great learning tool for the students at John Thomas School of Discovery. The ordinance would allow up to six (6) hens.

Campbell had the opportunity to discuss chickens with Police Chiefs in the area and they have not had issues with chickens in their cities.

Emerson asked if a license would be required and would there be a fee associated with the license. In addition, Emerson asked about item #6 line fifty-eight (58) of the ordinance which discusses the need for contact information of the property owner.

City Attorney Nick Woodman stated #6 applies to agricultural properties.

Liles stated a fee for licenses would be used to recoup funds associated with the cost of tags. The Police Department does not have equipment or housing for animal control to catch stray chickens.

Giddens stated the committee will compare notes from this meeting and decide what the next step will be.

Reeve added chickens get diseases and it can be carried by wind.

Giddens closed by saying the committee will spend time over the next couple of days reviewing the ordinance and clear up the verbiage. The next meeting will be decided to bring back the proposed ordinance with changes and if agreed upon will announce when it will be presented to Council for approval.

Liles did state there will be another opportunity for public comments.

At 7:10 p.m. Giddens made a motion to adjourn with Lucas seconding.

Darlene Graham, Committee Chair

Elizabeth Gibson, Deputy City Clerk