

ORDINANCE NO.: 2025-10
INTRODUCTION DATE: 05-05-2025
PUBLIC HEARING DATE: 06-16-2025

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCES OF THE
BOROUGH CODE TO ENACT REGULATIONS PERMITTING THE
KEEPING OF CHICKENS ON RESIDENTIAL LOTS

WHEREAS, the Borough of Roosevelt (the "Borough") seeks to protect the health, safety and general welfare of the residents of the Borough; and

WHEREAS, residents have requested that the Borough consider enacting regulations to permit the keeping of chickens on residential lots; and

WHEREAS, the Borough seeks to balance the ability of homeowners to keep chickens upon their properties with the rights of their neighbors to likewise use and enjoy their properties;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Roosevelt, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, that Article VI: "Supplementary Regulations" of the Zoning Ordinances of the Borough Code is hereby supplemented with *new* Section 6.800: "Keeping of Chickens" as follows:

6.800 KEEPING OF CHICKENS ON RESIDENTIAL LOTS.

Chickens may be kept and maintained on residential lots as an accessory use, provided a zoning permit is first obtained from the Zoning Officer, and subject to the following requirements:

- a. The number of chickens kept shall be determined by lot size, subject to the chart below, but in no case more than ten (10) chickens:

Number of Female Chickens	Minimum Lot size (square feet)
2	2,000
3	3,000
4	4,000
5	5,000
6	6,000
7	7,000
8	8,000

- l. A chicken shelter/coop and chicken run are only permitted in the rear yard and shall comply with the accessory structure setbacks for the zone, but in no case be less than seven (7) feet from the adjoining property line.
- m. In no case shall a chicken shelter/coop or chicken run be located closer than thirty (30) feet to any dwelling on an adjoining lot.
- n. The chicken shelter/coop shall comply with applicable impervious and building coverage standards for the zone.
- o. The fenced chicken run shall be well drained so that there is no accumulation of moisture. The floors and walls of the chicken shelter or coop shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition, with all droppings collected at least weekly. Droppings shall be kept in a covered and secured metal container until disposed of or transported off-premises.
- p. All chicken feed shall be kept in a covered and secured metal container off of the ground and inside the coop. All feedings shall occur inside of the coop and not in the chicken run.
- q. Permits shall be obtained for the chicken shelter/coop: construction, electric, and plumbing, as applicable. Electric lines shall be installed underground. Electrical connections to a coop must be done by permit and be permanent in nature.
- r. If, for any reason, an applicant no longer keeps and raises chickens, they shall be removed from the property in a humane manner.
- s. Any violation of these standards may be grounds for the revocation of the zoning permit permitting the keeping and maintenance of chickens.
- t. The Zoning Officer and/or Code Enforcement Officer shall have the right to periodically inspect the premises to ascertain compliance with these regulations.
- u. Chickens shall be kept and maintained at all times in a humane manner and in accordance with good agricultural practices. The Animal Control Officer/Cruelty Investigators shall have all powers under N.J.S.A. 4:19-15.16c to ensure the chickens are maintained in a humane way and under humane conditions. Any failure to comply with the Animal Control Officer/Cruelty Officer shall be grounds for revocation of the zoning permit permitting the keeping and maintenance of chickens.
- v. The Monmouth County Board of Health, and/or any similar body the Borough contracts with for public health services, shall have the power to investigate any claims under their jurisdiction related to the keeping and maintenance of chickens. Any failure to comply with such body shall be grounds for revocation of the zoning permit permitting the keeping and maintenance of chickens.

Number of Female Chickens	Minimum Lot size (square feet)
9	9,000
10	10,000+

- b. No person shall keep a rooster or a male chicken on any residential lot.
- c. No person who rents the property where chickens are proposed to be kept or maintained may obtain a zoning permit without first receiving written permission from an owner of the property. Such written permission shall be provided to the Zoning Officer.
- d. On properties where the owner is keeping the chickens, the zoning permit shall terminate in the case of change in ownership. On properties that are rented, and the tenants are keeping the chickens, the zoning permit shall terminate on change of tenant.
- e. Applicants for a zoning permit for the keeping of chickens shall present as part of the zoning permit application proof of an education class on the keeping of poultry. The only classes acceptable shall be those attended in person. Online classes will not qualify.
- f. Having received a zoning permit, a permit license shall be obtained from the Zoning and/or Code Enforcement Officer annually at a fee of \$25.00, regardless of the amount of chickens maintained. The Zoning and/or Code Enforcement Officer shall have the authority to determine the paperwork, filing deadlines and procedures for this licensing.
- g. No person shall keep or maintain chickens for consumption or sale. Chickens may not be slaughtered within the limits of the Borough.
- h. Chickens shall be kept in a roofed shelter or coop, which shall provide a minimum of three (3) square-feet per adult bird and shall also include a fully enclosed fenced chicken run that provides a minimum of five (5) square-feet per adult bird. The run shall be attached to the coop such that chickens are at no time outside of both the coop and run. The shelter/coop shall be counted as part of the accessory structure percentage which shall, in total, not exceed 1% of the subject property.
- i. Chickens are not permitted to roam freely beyond the limits of the shelter/coop or chicken run.
- j. The chicken shelter shall be bird-, rat- and predator-proof, and designed to be visually compatible with the residential area.
- k. Chain-link, metal wire or mesh fence shall fully enclose the chicken run and be securely constructed with fence or netting overhead to keep the chickens separated from other animals. Chicken run fencing shall not exceed a height of six (6) feet.

- w. If the zoning permit permitting the keeping and maintenance of chickens is revoked, the chicken shelter/coop and chicken run shall be removed from the premises within thirty (30) days of revocation of the permit.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phase of this ordinance be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, the remaining portion of this ordinance shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect, and to that end the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that, after introduction, the Borough Clerk is hereby directed to submit a copy of the within Ordinance to the Planning/Zoning Board of the Borough of Roosevelt for its review in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:55D-26 and N.J.S.A. 40:55D-64. The Planning Board is directed to make and transmit to the Borough's Mayor & Council, within 35 days after referral, a report including identification of any provisions in the proposed ordinance which are inconsistent with the master plan and recommendations concerning any inconsistencies and any other matter as the Board deems appropriate; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon (1) adoption; (2) publication in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey; and (3) filing of the final form of adopted ordinance by the Clerk with the Monmouth County Planning Board pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-16; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this amending ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of their inconsistencies only.

ATTEST:

APPROVED

Kathleen Hart, Borough Clerk

Peggy Malkin, Mayor