

ORDINANCE NO. 2024

**AN ORDINANCE ALLOWING CHICKENS WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS
OF THE CITY OF BLYTHEVILLE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, the owning or possessing of chickens within the city limits of the City of Blytheville is currently prohibited; and

WHEREAS, the Blytheville City Council has deemed it in the best interests of the City to allow chickens subject to certain restrictions:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF BLYTHEVILLE, ARKANSAS:**

SECTION 1. It shall be unlawful for any person to permit or allow any domesticated fowl to run at large within the corporate limits of the city.

SECTION 2. It shall be lawful for any person to keep, permit, or allow fowl within the corporate limits of the City in all zones under the following terms and conditions:

- A. All poultry within the corporate limits of the City shall be maintained in suitable houses, pens, or other enclosures by the owner or person having responsibility for the care and maintenance of the poultry.
- B. Every poultry house maintained within the City shall be kept in a clean, sanitary condition and must be cleaned on a regular basis as to prevent offensive odors.
- C. No more than four (4) hens shall be allowed for each single-family dwelling. No birds shall be allowed in multifamily complexes, including duplexes or apartments.
- D. No roosters shall be allowed.
- E. There shall be no outside slaughtering of birds.
- F. All fowl must be kept at all times in a secure enclosure. Secure enclosure shall include a self-contained coop and within a fenced in yard. A fenced in yard shall only suffice as an enclosure if said fence is constructed from a solid, non-permeable material built with either solid wood, metal, or plastic components.
- G. Coops must be situated at least 25 feet from the nearest neighbor's property.
- H. Persons wishing to keep fowl within the city must obtain a permit from Blytheville Animal Services. An inspection will be scheduled by Blytheville Animal Services and, if approved, the permit holder must pay an annual fee of \$50.
- I. Fowl currently existing in the city shall not be "grandfathered" or permitted to remain after the effective date of this Ordinance.
- J. As part of the application process, a permit requires the notice and signature of each property owner directly connected to the applicant's property.

SECTION 3. Any fowl found running at large shall be presumed to have been allowed or permitted to do so by the owner or person having charge of the fowl. If Blytheville Animal Services should find a fowl running at large, they are hereby authorized and empowered to summon the owner or person having control of the fowl into court for allowing the fowl to run at large.

SECTION 4. Any person convicted of violating the provisions of this Ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00 and revocation of City permit if deemed necessary by the Blytheville District Court.

SECTION 5. All ordinances in conflict herewith are repealed to the extent of the conflict.

SECTION 6. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect thirty (30) days from the date of its passage and approval.

ADOPTED THIS 21st DAY OF MAY, 2024.

APPROVED:


MELISA LOGAN, MAYOR

ATTEST:


MELODY LAWSON, CLERK/TREAS

