
Sec. 6-30. Chicken licenses.

- (a) *Purpose.* The purpose and intent of sections 6-30 through 6-32 is to permit the keeping of chickens in certain zoning districts in a manner that is clean and sanitary and unlikely to become a nuisance or otherwise become detrimental to the public health, safety and welfare of the community. These sections are intended to only allow hens pursuant to the requirements contained herein and the keeping or harboring of roosters and other poultry is expressly prohibited.
- (b) *License required.* No person may keep, harbor, maintain, care for, or control chickens in the city without a license issued pursuant to this section. Chicken licenses may only be issued to persons located in requesting to keep chickens in the city's R-1 zoning districts (R-1-A, R-1-B, R-1-C, R-1-D, R-1-E) and Institutional Districts.
- (c) *Application for license.* A person applying for a chicken license must supply the information required on a city-provided license application, which shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the number of chickens to be kept, dimensions and materials of a chicken coop and/or chicken run, a site plan showing the location of a proposed chicken coop and/or chicken run in relation to other existing structures and lot lines, and a written plan for keeping the premises clean and free of waste material, objectionable odors, and predators. For non-homesteaded properties, written permission from the owner of the property must also be submitted with any license application.
- (d) *License fee.* A license fee may be established by the city and included in the city's fee schedule, and said fee must be paid at the time of making application.
- (e) *License issuance; term.* A license may be issued by the city if all requirements of the Hopkins City Code are deemed satisfied and will remain satisfied upon the issuance of the license under the circumstances proposed. A license shall be valid until the applicant moves.

(Ord. No. 2020-1156 , § 2, 8-18-2020; Ord. No. 2022-1181 , § 1, 8-16-2022)

Sec. 6-31. Proper confinement, care and maintenance of chickens.

- (a) *Chicken requirements.* In addition to obtaining a license, all chicken owners within the city shall adhere to the following requirements:
 - (1) Only hens may be may kept, harbored, maintained, cared for, or controlled in the city. The keeping, harboring, maintaining, caring for, or controlling of roosters or any other poultry is prohibited under all circumstances.
 - (2) The maximum number of chickens allowed shall comply with the information detailed in the table below.

Maximum Number of Chickens Allowed in Residential Districts	
District	Number of Chickens Allowed
Residential and Institutional	4

- (3) Chickens must at all times remain confined on the premises and in a chicken coop and/or chicken run located in the property's rear yard, as that term is defined in Hopkins City Code, section 102-4.
- (4) Chickens may not be located in any part of a dwelling, garage, or any other accessory structure other than a chicken coop or chicken run, except that chickens under the age of six weeks may be temporarily kept indoors for brooding purposes.

- (5) Licensees must provide city staff with access to the premises at any time requested to verify compliance with the city's chicken regulations or in response to any complaint of a violation.
 - (6) The harvesting or butchering of chickens on the premises is prohibited.
 - (7) Selling chickens or chicken eggs on the premises is prohibited.
 - (8) No chickens may be kept or raised in a manner as to cause injury or annoyance to persons or other animals on other properties in the vicinity of the premises, whether due to noise, odor, filth, or otherwise.
 - (9) All grain and food stored for the use of the chickens shall be kept in rodent-proof and leak-proof containers with tight-fitting covers.
 - (10) Chicken coops and chicken runs shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, and in good repair. Flies, rodents and objectionable odors shall be contained.
 - (11) Chicken coops and chicken runs shall be kept free of accumulated fecal matter and all collected fecal material shall be bagged and properly disposed of at least once a week. Stored fecal matter must be kept in a leak-proof container with a tight-fitting cover until removal from the premises.
 - (12) Chicken feces, discarded chicken feed, and dead chickens shall not be composted.
- (b) *Chicken coop requirements.* All chicken coops in the city shall adhere to the following requirements:
- (1) Must be constructed to adequately keep chickens in and predators out. A coop shall be fully enclosed and wind proof with a well-ventilated roof to prevent escape by chickens or entrance by migratory birds and rodents.
 - (2) Maximum size must comply with the information detailed in the table below and must not exceed seven feet in total height.

Maximum Size of Chicken Coop	
Maximum Number of Chickens Allowed	Maximum Size
Four (4) Chickens	Twenty-Four (24) square feet

- (3) Be screened from view by a fence or landscaped buffer with a minimum height of four feet. A fence shall require a separate permit consistent with the standards in section 102-13. Landscaping may consist of shrubs or trees but shall provide a minimum 50 percent opacity screen when planted.
- (4) Provide adequate protection from the elements and be able to be winterized. Heaters are strictly prohibited.

Chicken Coop Minimum Setback Requirements	
District	Setback from all property lines
Residential and Institutional	Ten (10) feet from a side (including corner lots) or rear property line. Three (3) feet from a rear property line abutting an alley.

- (5) Be located in the rear yard of the premises and shall be setback at least five feet from any on-site or adjacent residential structure or business and conform with the property line setbacks detailed in the table below.
- (6) May be made mobile, but must meet all requirements of this section at all times and must be returned to their proper location while unattended or after sunset.

(c) *Chicken run requirements.* All chicken runs in the city shall adhere to the following requirements:

- (1) The maximum size must comply with the information detailed in the table below and must not exceed seven feet in total height.

Maximum Size of Chicken Run	
Maximum Number of Chickens Allowed	Maximum Size
Four (4) Chickens	Eighty (80) square feet

- (2) Must be enclosed with fencing, weather resistant/green treated wood and/or sealed with a weather resistant product and/or woven wire materials, and may allow chickens to contact the ground.
- (3) Must have a protective overhead netting to keep the chickens separated from other animals.
- (4) A fence permit may be required pursuant to Hopkins City Code, section 102-13.
- (5) Must be located in the rear yard of the premises and shall be setback at least five feet from any on-site or adjacent residential structure or business and conform with the property line detailed in the table below.

Chicken Run Minimum Setback Requirements	
District	Setback from all property lines
Residential and Institutional	Ten (10) feet from a side (including corner lots) or rear property line. 3 feet from a rear property line abutting an alley.

- (6) May be made mobile, but must meet all requirements of this section at all times and must be returned to their proper location while unattended or after sunset.

(Ord. No. 2020-1156 , § 2, 8-18-2020; Ord. No. 2022-1181 , § 2, 8-16-2022)

Sec. 6-32. Revocation; denial.

(a) A license applied for or issued under section 6-30 may be denied or revoked for any of the following reasons:

- (1) The licensee has violated any regulation or provision of this code applicable to the keeping, harboring, maintaining, caring for, or controlling of chickens.
- (2) The licensee has failed to continuously comply with any conditions attached to the license.
- (3) The licensee has been convicted of any crime in any jurisdiction that relates to the mistreatment of or cruelty toward animals.
- (4) The licensee has exceeded the maximum number of chickens permitted in their zoning district.
- (5) The licensee has an active arrest warrant for a property maintenance code or zoning ordinance violation pertaining to any property which the licensee, applicant or property manager has a legal or equitable ownership interest or is involved in management or maintenance.
- (6) The licensee or his or her agent is denying the building official or authorized representative to perform a license review inspection.
- (7) The licensee or any person(s) who has had an interest in two or more licenses revoked pursuant to this article or canceled pursuant to section 6-32 or a combination of revocations or cancellations shall be ineligible to hold or have an interest in a chicken license for a period of five years.

-
- (8) The dwelling is in substandard condition.
 - (9) The owner has allowed weeds, vegetation, junk, debris or rubbish to accumulate repeatedly on the exterior of the premises so as to create a nuisance condition. If the city is required to abate such nuisance conditions, or collect, gather up or haul solid waste more than three times during a period of 12 months or less, it shall be sufficient grounds to deny, revoke, suspend or refuse to renew a license.
 - (b) The city council may revoke a license at any time after giving the licensee at least seven days' notice by registered mail at the licensee's address shown on the license application, or, if no address is shown, at the licensee's last-known address. The notice shall state the intention of the council to revoke the license and the reasons, and it shall give the licensee an opportunity to appear before the council at a date certain for the purpose of being heard with regard to the revocation.

(Ord. No. 2020-1156 , § 2, 8-18-2020)

Secs. 6-33—6-46. Reserved.