

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-100

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 91.01 OF THE CITY CODE OF THE CITY OF VESTA RELATIVE TO ANIMALS AND FOWL – KEEPING, TRANSPORTING, TREATMENT, AND HOUSING

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VESTA:

SECTION I. That Section 91.01 Subdivision 2 of the City Code of the City of Vesta is hereby amended to add the following:

- A. Chickens, provided that the owner holds a valid permit from the City to keep chickens and complies with the provisions of this chapter.

SECTION II. That Section 91.01 Subdivision 2 of the City Code of the City of Vesta is hereby amended to add the following:

Subd. 1 Chickens. Chickens are allowed on any lot with a single family residence that is issued a permit to do so by the City. The provisions of this ordinance are intended to regulate the keeping of chickens only. The keeping of any other types of poultry is prohibited.

A. General Requirements.

1. No roosters are permitted. All chickens must be hens. If the permit holder inadvertently keeps a rooster, then that rooster must be removed within twenty four (24) hours of the date of discovery.
2. No more than six (6) chickens may be kept at any one lot at any time.
3. Chicken food is to be kept in containers designed to prohibit access by rodents and other pests.
4. Chickens must not be kept in such a manner as to constitute a nuisance to the occupants of any adjacent property.
5. Dead chickens must be disposed of according to applicable law and must be removed as soon as possible after death but no later than twenty-four (24) hours.
6. Chicken manure is to be contained in a weather and pest proof container and removed weekly or composted or used as fertilizer and incorporated into the soil.
7. Chickens kept under this subdivision may not be slaughtered within the City.
8. Chickens must be confined inside a coop or a fenced in run at all times and chickens may not be allowed to range freely.

B. Chicken Permits

1. A permit issued by the City is required to keep chickens.
2. The permit application fee shall be set by the City Council
3. A permit is valid for three years from the date of issuance. The provisions of this ordinance apply to an approved application for the same time period, at which time a new permit must be secured.
4. The application must specify the number of chickens anticipated.
5. A permit may only allow between one (1) and six (6) chickens.

6. Only one permit per lot. If a person wishes to keep chickens at multiple lots then that person must obtain a different permit for each lot.
 7. A permit may only be issued if all of the owners of all adjacent property approve the application by signing the application form. Adjoining property means all properties within fifty (50) feet of the proposed location of the coop and run that the applicant is applying for a permit to keep chickens on.
 8. If the applicant is living in a rental property, then the registered property owner must also sign and approve the application.
 9. Permits are non-transferable and do not run with the property.
 10. A permit constitutes a limited license granted to the chicken keeper by the City and in no way creates a vested zoning right.
 11. Site plans and coop designs are to be included with the permit application.
- C. As a condition of permit issuance, the applicant is authorizing the City to inspect the chickens and facility during normal City Hall business hours. Law enforcement is exempt from the normal business hours limitations.
- D. Coop and run. Coops and run must be constructed and maintained to meet the following minimum standards.
1. A separate coop is required to house the chickens. The coop may not be attached to or inside any other structure such as a home or garage.
 2. Only one (1) coop is permitted per lot.
 3. The coop and run must be located in the rear yard of the property.
 4. The coop must be setback at least five (5) feet from the rear or side property lines but at no time shall be placed in a utility easement.
 5. The coop must be fully enclosed.
 6. The coop must have an attached run.
 7. The maximum height shall not exceed six (6) feet.
 8. The maximum total square area of a coop and run shall not exceed one hundred twenty (120) square feet. Chicken coops are not classified as an accessory structure.
 9. Maximum coop size shall not exceed twenty four (24) square feet and must have at least four (4) square feet per chicken.
 10. The run size shall not exceed ninety six (96) square feet and must have at least ten (10) square feet per chicken. The run must be fenced in on all sides and include a roof. The height of the run fence and roof must not exceed six (6) feet.
 11. The coop must be at least twenty four (24) inches off the ground or in the alternative the coop may be placed on a concrete pad.
 12. The coop must have sufficiently sized windows to permit natural light inside. Windows must be able to be opened for ventilation. Sufficient ventilation and insulation is required.
 13. Construction must be done in a workmanlike manner and with durable material. Coop building materials and exterior colors shall be similar to or compatible with primary structure.
 14. There must be sufficient moisture drainage to keep the coop well drained.
 15. The coop must be rodent and predator proof. Any door or access point to the coop or run shall be able to be blocked or otherwise secured.

16. Coop designs must meet basic humane needs of chickens including heat, cooling, food, water, and protection from the elements.
 17. The coop must be removed within thirty (30) days if the permit is revoked or allowed to expire.
- E. Violations
1. Any person who commits, causes, permits, or allows a violation of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a petty misdemeanor punishable by a twenty five (\$25) dollar fine. Each day during which a condition exists which is in violation of this section shall be deemed to be a separate offense.
 2. If a permit holder has two convictions under this subdivision within any three year permit period then the permit shall be revoked. Upon revocation all chickens must be removed from the property within forty eight (48) hours.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of Vesta, MN on this 14th day of March 2023.

A Motion made by Councilman Swedzinski to approve Ordinance 2023-100 seconded by Councilwoman Samyn motion passes unanimously.



City Clerk's Office
320 E. Centre St. PO Box 7
Vesta, MN 56292
507-762-3140
Email: cityclerk@vestamn.us

**APPLICATION FOR
PERMIT TO KEEP CHICKENS
FEE \$50.00**

Permits are valid for three years from the date of issuance.

APPLICANT INFORMATION:		
Name:		
Street Address:		
City, State, Zip:		
Telephone:		
Home:	Work:	Cell:
Email:		
Property Owner's Name - If applicant is a renter:		

The City of Vesta reserves the right to request additional information to assist in the evaluation of this application. Please read and initial each item below.

_____ I have received, read, and understand the material contained within Ordinance No. 2023-100 amending Section 91.01 of the City Code of the City of Vesta relative to the keeping of chickens. Chickens are allowed on any lot with a single family residence that is issued a permit to do so by the City. The provisions of the ordinance are intended to regulate the keeping of chickens only. The keeping of any other types of poultry is prohibited.

_____ I agree to abide by the general requirements for keeping chickens, which are as follows:

- No roosters are permitted. All chickens must be hens. If a permit holder inadvertently keeps a rooster, then that rooster must be removed within twenty four (24) hours of the date of discovery.
- No more than six (6) chickens may be kept at any one lot at any time.
- Chicken food is to be kept in containers designed to prohibit access by rodents and other pests.
- A run or exercise yard conforming to this section is required.
- Chickens must not be kept in such a manner as to constitute a nuisance to the occupants of any adjacent property.
- Dead chickens must be disposed of according to applicable law and must be removed as soon as possible after death but no later than twenty four (24) hours.
- Chicken manure is to be contained in a weather and pest proof container and removed weekly or composted or used as fertilizer and incorporated into the soil. Chicken manure must not be allowed to accumulate in such a way as to cause any unsanitary condition or odors detectible on another property.
- Chickens kept under this subdivision may not be slaughtered within the City.
- Chickens must be confined inside a coop or a fenced in run at all times and chickens may not be allowed to range freely.

_____ I have attached a sketch of the proposed coop, which includes the dimensions. This sketch also includes the location of the coop to my house, lot lines, fencing and the distance of any adjoining property houses.

INSTRUCTION TO ABUTTING PROPERTY OWNERS:

Your neighbor is applying for a permit to keep chickens. A maximum of six (6) chickens are allowed. The applicant is specifying the property will house a total number of _____ chickens.

If you are an adjoining property owner, your consent to this permit is required for issuance. Do not sign this form if you are NOT giving consent to the issuance of a permit.

A permit may only be issued if all of the owners of all adjoining properties approve of the application by signing the application form. Adjoining property means all properties within fifty (50) feet of the proposed location of the coop and run. If an adjoining property is occupied by a tenant of a rental property, then both the tenant and owner must approve and sign.

By signing this form, you are providing written consent for the issuance of the permit.

OWNER NAME

STREET ADDRESS

SIGNATURE

I hereby make an application for a permit to allow the keeping of chickens in the City of Redwood Falls, Minnesota, and hereby certify to the correctness of this application. I understand providing false information will result in rejection of application or suspension/revocation of the permit. I do authorize the City of Redwood Falls, its agents and employees, to obtain information and to conduct an investigation, if necessary, into the truth of the statements set forth in this application and my qualifications for this permit.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Signature of Property Owner

Date

If applicant is a renter, property owner must also approve permit application

FOR CITY USE ONLY:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Completed Application & Sketch of Proposed Coop	<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Permit to Police
<input type="checkbox"/> Permit Fee Paid	
<input type="checkbox"/> Permit Approved by:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Permit Valid Until:	

Signature of Building Official

Inspection Date