

Introduced: April 27, 2020

Adopted:

Effective:

**CITY OF CHARLOTTE  
ORDINANCE NO. 2020-02**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 10-4 DOMESTIC ANIMALS AND FOWL  
OF CHAPTER 10 ANIMALS OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO EXTEND THE SUNSET DATE  
OR THE SECTION TO MAY 29, 2024.**

THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE ORDAINS:

Section 1. Purpose. The purpose of this ordinance is to extend the sunset date for section 10-4 Domestic Animals and Fowl from May 29, 2020 to May 29, 2024 so that the section remain in effect.

Section 2. That Section 10-4 Domestic Animals and Fowl of Chapter 10 Animals of the Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read as follows:

**§ 10-4 DOMESTIC ANIMALS AND FOWL.**

(A) Except as provided in this section, no person shall keep or house any animals or fowl within the city.

(B) Dogs, cats, birds and animals commonly classified as household pets may be kept within the city.

(C) Ponies, cattle and horses may be kept on premises constituting a farm, as defined in the zoning chapter of this Code,

(D) Persons may keep chickens if done so in conformity with all of the following.

(1) Any person who keeps chickens in the city shall obtain a permit from the city prior to acquiring the chickens. Application shall be made to the City Clerk with a fee as determined by Council resolution.

(2) No more than ten permits may be outstanding at any time.

(3) Permits may be revoked at any time if the applicant fails to comply with all applicable ordinances, rules and regulations.

(4) Permits expire and become invalid two years after the date of issuance. A person who wishes to continue keeping chickens shall obtain a new permit on or before the expiration date of the previous permit. Application for a new permit shall be pursuant to the procedures and requirements that are applicable at the time the person applies for a new permit.

(5) Notwithstanding the issuance of a permit by the city, private restrictions on the use of property shall remain enforceable and take precedence over a permit. Private restrictions include but are not limited to deed restrictions, condominium master deed restrictions, neighborhood association by-laws, and covenant deeds. A permit issued to a person whose property is subject to private restrictions that prohibit the keeping of chickens is void. The interpretation and enforcement of the private restriction is the sole responsibility of the private parties involved.

(6) A person who keeps or houses chickens on his or her property shall comply with all of the following requirements:

(a) Have been issued the permit required under division (D)(1) of this section;

(b) Keep no more than six chickens;

(c) The principal use of the person's property is for a single-family dwelling;

(d) No person shall keep any rooster;

(e) No person shall slaughter any chickens outdoors;

(f) The chickens shall be provided with a covered enclosure and must be kept in the covered enclosure or an adjoining fenced enclosure at all times;

(g) A person shall not keep chickens in any location on the property other than in the backyard as defined by the Zoning Code;

(h) All enclosures for the keeping of chickens shall be so constructed or repaired as to prevent rats, mice, or other rodents from being harbored underneath, within, or within the walls of the enclosure;

(i) All feed and other items associated with the keeping of chickens that are likely to attract or to become infested with or infected by rats, mice, or other rodents shall be protected so as to prevent rats, mice, or other rodents from gaining access to or coming into contact with them;

(j) The coop and fenced enclosure may not be located nearer than 15 feet to any property line; and

(k) The coop and enclosures must comply with all zoning ordinance requirements for accessory structures and use, including lot coverage requirements.

(7) The city may initiate prosecution for a civil infraction violation for any violation of this section. Each day a violation exists shall constitute a separate offense.

(8) A person who has been issued a permit shall submit it for examination upon demand by any Police Officer or Code Enforcement Officer.

(9) This section shall not regulate the keeping of chickens on a farm, as defined at § [82-4](#) of the City Code, which is located outside the boundaries of either a proprietary or supervisor's

plat and having an area of not less than five acres, and where the raising of poultry is a permitted principal use when conducted in compliance with the Michigan Right to Farm Act and the Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices promulgated thereunder.

(10) Council may adopt additional rules and regulations as necessary to implement the ordinance codified herein.

(11) This § [10-4](#) - Domestic Animals and Fowl - shall be null, void and of no force and effect on May 29, 2024.

Section 3. Effective Date. This ordinance shall be come effect 20 days after adoption.

The foregoing ordinance was moved for adoption by Council Member \_\_\_\_\_ and supported by Council Member \_\_\_\_\_, with a vote thereon being: YES(\_\_\_\_), No (\_\_\_\_), at a regular meeting of the City Council held pursuant to the public notice in compliance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act, on the \_\_\_\_ day of May 2020. Ordinance No. 2020-32 declared adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of May 2020, and is immediately effective as set forth herein.

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Yvonne Ridge, Mayor

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Ginger Terpstra, Clerk