

Date: June 23, 2021

To: Mark Israelson, City Manager

From: Jamey Cantrell, Animal Services Director

Subject: Backyard Chickens

At two previous City Council meetings, the possibility of changing current city ordinances to allow chickens to be kept on residentially zoned properties has been discussed. To assist Council Members who were not seated for these meetings, all of the slides that were presented during these two sessions are included in this packet.

At the first session on June 22, 2020, current restrictions on livestock and comparisons to neighboring municipalities were discussed as well as the pros and cons of backyard chickens. Staff's recommendation at that time is that no changes be made to allow backyard chickens. Council Members had questions about outsourcing the handling of chickens to Collin County, using the Specific Use Permit (SUP) process, and requiring neighbors' approval as part of permitting backyard chickens so it was set to be further considered at a later meeting.

At the meeting on September 28, 2020, Council was informed that Collin County would not provide resources to address any animal issues in Plano, that the SUP process would be overly burdensome and expensive for residents wishing to keep chickens, and that requiring approval from neighbors would likely lead to increases in neighborhood disputes that put a strain on city resources. Actual intake numbers of chickens experienced at the shelter and possible issues with diseases and feral chickens were presented. Tentative support for such allowances was expressed by several Council Members but it was determined that the issue would be discussed again after Council elections were held and the budget work was completed.

Staff's recommendation has been no change to ordinances but if the majority of the Council would like to move in this direction, an ordinance can be presented that will allow for backyard chickens in a way that will hopefully be respectful of the rights of those who do not wish to have livestock living next door to their homes while also ensuring the impact on city resources is as minimal as possible.