

CITY OF LACONIA

In the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-five

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 235-12 – WORD USAGE; 235-13 – DEFINITIONS; 235-41 – RESIDENTIAL ACCESSORY USES AND CHAPTER 235, ATTACHMENT 2, TABLE OF PERMITTED USES

The City of Laconia ordains:

That the Ordinances of the City of Laconia, as amended, be further amended in Chapter 235 as follows:

**Chapter 235. Zoning
Article II. Definitions**

§ 235-12. Word usage.

For the purpose of this chapter, certain terms or words herein shall be interpreted or defined as follows:

- A. *Words used in the present tense include the future tense. The singular includes the plural, and the plural includes the singular.*
- B. *The word "person" includes a corporation, as well as an individual.*
- C. *The word "lot" includes the word "plot" or "parcel."*
- D. **The ~~term~~ words "shall" and "must" are mandatory; the word "should" is directive but not necessarily mandatory; the word "may" is permissive. The word "includes" shall not limit a term to the specific examples but is intended to extend its meaning to all other instances or circumstances of like kind or character, unless otherwise stated in context.**
- E. *The words "used" or "occupied" as applied to any land or building shall be construed to include the words "intended", "arranged", "offered", or "designed" to be used or occupied." The words "building", "structure", "lot", "land" or "premise" shall be construed as though followed by the words "or any portion thereof".*
- F. **The particular shall control the general. In case of any difference of meaning or implication between the text of this Chapter and any caption, figure, illustration, summary table, or illustrative table, the text shall control.**
- G. **Words and phrases not otherwise defined in this Chapter shall be interpreted first by reference to other City Codes and Ordinances, if specifically defined therein; secondly,**

by reference to State Statute, if specifically defined therein; thirdly, by reference to the most recent versions of the International Building Code and International Residential Code adopted by the State, if specifically defined therein; and otherwise according to common meaning as defined by the most recent version of the Merriam-Webster dictionary, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

**Chapter 235. Zoning
Article II. Definitions**

§ 235-13. Definitions.

CHICKEN

The common domestic fowl (*gallus gallus domesticus*) or its young and does not include roosters, capons, and guinea hens.

CHICKEN COOP

A roofed structure enclosed on all sides that protects chickens from weather, rodents, and other animals.

CHICKEN RUN

A fenced area outside the coop. An enclosed run is completely bound on all sides, including overhead, by a fence, cage, or wire.

**Chapter 235. Zoning
Article VII. Supplementary Provisions**

§ 235-41. Residential accessory uses.

O. Keeping of Chickens. It is the intent of this section to allow for the keeping of domestic female chickens on a lot for the sole use and enjoyment of the residents of the lot on which such chickens are kept, while at the same time preserving the quality of life of the surrounding neighborhood by not allowing chickens to be kept in a number or in a manner that could create a nuisance.

(1) Applicability.

This section applies to the accessory use of keeping domestic female chickens as identified in Attachment 2, Table of Permitted Uses.

(2) Standards.

(a) Chickens, as defined in § 235-13, shall be kept in accordance with all applicable City ordinances and regulations, and state laws, including but not limited to RSA 644:8, Cruelty to Animals.

(b) A minimum lot size of at least one-quarter (1/4) acre is required for this use. Lots smaller than one-quarter (1/4) acre are not permitted for this use.

- (c) Up to five adult chickens may be kept on a lot. The keeping of six or more chickens on a lot shall be considered an agricultural use.**
- (d) Only female chickens are allowed to be kept under this provision. Male chickens are prohibited.**
- (e) Duck, goose, pheasant, turkey, quail, grouse, partridge, pigeon, or any other poultry are not permitted to be kept under this provision.**
- (f) This use is accessory to and must be located on the premises of a lot with a primary use of Single Family. This use is for personal use only.**
- (g) No person is permitted to sell eggs or engage in chicken breeding, on-site slaughtering, or any other commercial activity related to the keeping of chickens.**
- (h) Chickens must not be permitted to roam free. Chickens must be secured in a coop during non-daylight hours.**
- (i) A chicken coop, as defined in § 235-13, must be provided for the chickens. Coops must meet the following standards:**
 - [1] The coop must have a minimum of three-square feet of floor space per chicken if a run is provided. A minimum of 10 square feet of floor space per chicken in the coop is required if no run is provided. Each chicken must have a total available ground space (including coop and run, if any) of at least 10 square feet per chicken.**
 - [2] The coop must provide roosting space off the floor of one foot of roost space per chicken.**
 - [3] The coop must provide adequate ventilation, be kept in a neat and sanitary condition at all times, and in a manner that will not disturb neighboring lots due to noise, odor or other adverse impact.**
 - [4] The maximum height for a coop is eight feet measuring from the ground to the top of the structure.**
 - [5] The materials used in building the coop shall be uniform for each element of the structure and other buildings on the property.**
- (j) An enclosed chicken run, as defined in § 235-13, is permitted. An enclosed run must be attached to the coop. The maximum height for an enclosed run is eight feet measuring from the ground to the top of the structure. A run shall be kept in a neat and sanitary condition at all times, and in a manner that will not disturb neighboring lots due to noise, odor or other adverse impact.**

- (k) **Unenclosed chicken runs are not permitted.**
- (l) **The coop and any run must be located in the rear yard and cannot be located within 20 feet of a property line.**
- (m) **All feed supplies must be kept in rodent-proof containers.**
- (n) **All stored manure must be covered by a fully enclosed structure or container. No more than three cubic feet of manure is permitted to be stored on site. All manure stored on site must not be within 20 feet of a property line.**
- (o) **All manure, not used for composting or fertilizing; waste material (including but not limited to spent feed, litter, and waste eggs); and dead chickens must be properly and promptly removed from the property.**

**Chapter 235. Zoning
Attachment 2**

Table I, Table of Permitted Uses

Add “**Keeping of Chickens**” under Residential, Accessory Uses as Permitted (P) in the following districts: RR1, RR2, RS, SFR, RG, RA, CR, UC, and C.

Add “**Keeping of Chickens**” under Residential, Accessory Uses as Not Permitted (N) in the following districts: IP, I, and AI.

These amendments shall take effect upon their passage.

Charlie St. Clair , Mayor

Passed and approved this _____ day of _____, 2025.

Katie Gargano, Laconia City Clerk