

**CITY OF ST. JOHNS
ORDINANCE NO. 696**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE XV: LAND USAGE, CHAPTER 155: ZONING
CODE REGARDING SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS FOR KEEPING ANIMALS**

THE CITY OF ST. JOHNS ORDAINS:

**Section 1. Amendment to Title XV: Land Usage, Chapter 155: Zoning Code—
Supplementary Regulations.** The City amends Title XV, Chapter 155, Section 155.200 to read
as follows:

“§155.200 KEEPING OF ANIMALS.

(A) Definitions. For the purpose of this section, the following definitions shall
apply unless the context indicates or requires a different meaning.

DOMESTICATED ANIMALS. Animals taken care of in their day-to-day
needs by humans.

EXOTIC OR WILD ANIMAL. Any animal not commonly domesticated in
Michigan that is kept as a pet, raised for slaughter, or used for agricultural purposes,
especially animals that pose a clear and present danger to humans. The following
animals shall be considered EXOTIC OR WILD ANIMALS in all instances: big
cats, venomous snakes, birds of prey, primates, deer, racoons, and opossums.

LIVESTOCK. A domesticated animal raised for slaughter or kept for the
purposes of contributing to an agricultural use through labor, breeding, or the
production of milk, eggs, manure, wool, or other animal-based products. The
following animals shall be considered LIVESTOCK in all instances: cattle, horses,
pigs, sheep, goats, turkeys, and chickens.

(B) All domesticated animals must be kept in safe and sanitary conditions
appropriate to their species and in compliance with all county, state, and federal
standards.

(C) The following domesticated animals may be kept on a residentially zoned
lot:

(1) Livestock.

(a) A zoning permit shall be required to keep livestock on a lot. The Zoning
Administrator shall have the jurisdiction to determine that an animal is considered
livestock under this section, based on the definition in division (A). Appeals of the
decision of the Zoning Administrator shall be to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

(b) Livestock with fur shall be prohibited within 500 feet of any dwelling
unit. Examples include, but are not limited to: cattle, sheep, and horses.

(c) Chickens. Chickens shall only be permitted in the following
circumstances:

1. Chickens shall only be permitted in the R-1, R-2, and R-3 Zoning Districts.

2. Lots under one acre shall be permitted to have up to four chickens. Lots over one acre shall be permitted to have up to six chickens.

3. Roosters shall not be permitted.

4. The slaughtering of any chicken is prohibited.

5. Chickens must be kept within a covered enclosure, including a coop and a run, at all times. Chickens shall not be allowed to roam the lot or any other property. The covered enclosure shall be exempt from the standards governing fences in § 155.187 and shall instead be subject to the regulations of this section.

6. The enclosed area where the chickens are kept, including the coop and the run, must meet the following standards:

A. It shall not be located in a front yard or secondary street yard.

B. It shall be set back at least ten feet from any lot line and any residence on the same lot as the chicken enclosure.

C. It shall be set back at least 40 feet from any residence that is not on the same lot as the chicken enclosure.

D. It shall not exceed the maximum allowable height for a detached accessory structure in the zoning district it is located within.

E. It shall count as a structure for the purpose of calculating the maximum permitted lot coverage.

F. It shall be maintained in a clean and neat matter at all times.

G. The following materials shall not be used to construct the enclosure area: tarps, plastic, fabric, rubber, paper, cardboard, or other non-traditional building materials.

H. Chicken feed must be kept in rodent-proof, sealed containers.

(d) Bees. Bees may be kept on any lot, provided the bee enclosure is located in the rear yard and is set back at least 20 feet from any lot line.

(D) Exotic or wild animals. Exotic or wild animals shall not be kept as domesticated animals anywhere in the city. See Chapter 92.

(E) Kennels. See § 155.437.”

Section 2. Repealer Clause.

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

Section 3. Savings Clause.

This Ordinance shall in no manner affect pending litigation, either civil or criminal, founded or growing out of any Ordinance, Resolution, Order, or parts hereof, hereby repealed, and this Ordinance shall in no manner affect any rights, claims, privileges, immunities, or causes of action of the City, or other person, either criminal or civil, that may have already occurred, accrued, or grown out of any Ordinance, Resolution, Order, or policy, or any part thereof, hereby repealed.

Section 4. Validity and Severability.

Should any portion of this Ordinance be found invalid for any reason, such a holding shall not be construed as affecting the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

Section 5. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall be effective twenty (20) days from and after its adoption by the City of St. Johns City Commission and after its publication.

YEAS: Hufnagel, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: DeLiso

CERTIFICATION

As the City Clerk of the City of St. Johns, Clinton County, Michigan, I certify that this is a true and complete copy of an ordinance introduced by the St. Johns City Commission at a regular meeting held on February 24, 2025.

Scott Dzurka, Mayor _____

Mindy J. Seavey, Clerk _____

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