
MEETING TYPE: Regular Council Meeting
MEETING DATE: July 2, 2024
AUTHOR: Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer
DEPARTMENT: CAO
ITEM TITLE: Urban Chicken Enforcement Update
DESCRIPTION: To provide Council an update on the status of urban chickens in Lake Country

RECOMMENDATION

For Information

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Zoning Bylaw 561, 2007 Section 5.3 Prohibitions, subsection (h) states no owner, lessee tenant or person shall “keep, store or board livestock or poultry on a lot in an urban residential zone”. At the February 19, 2019, Regular Council meeting Council passed the following resolution:

19.02.039 THAT Council direct staff to review District regulations and submit recommendations on allowable zoning and limitations pertaining to chickens in urban areas;

AND THAT a moratorium on enforcement of current regulations on chickens be put in place until such time the request review is completed.

AND THAT Staff continue to enforce regulations prohibiting roosters in urban areas.

During previous strategic planning discussions with Council there was no support to direct any resources to undertake a review of the regulations and bring back a discussion and subsequent bylaw recommendations to Council for their consideration to deal with the moratorium. Therefore, in the interim the moratorium on the enforcement of chickens in urban areas remains in place.

Staff have attempted to maintain a balance of following the intent of Council’s resolution by allowing those that have chickens the ability to maintain their existing hens and only deal with complaints related to roosters. Once the moratorium was put in place, staff did not complete an audit of properties that already had existing chickens and are not able to provide the exact number of properties protected under the moratorium. Since 2019 Bylaw Enforcement has responded to several complaints related to urban chickens and provided written letters and conducted site visits to determine if there was a need for compliance. There is currently only 1 open file related to Urban Chicken enforcement.

Recently the District has received a few localized complaints related to chickens in urban areas. Staff manage these complaints based on Council’s resolution and attempt to work with owners to allow hens to be maintained as long as there are no roosters. Bylaw Enforcement is generally complaint based and staff attempt to work with property owners or occupiers who are responsible in order to mitigate the complaints resulting from the urban chickens. In some instances, even if the issues are mitigated, the complaints continue.

Staff are not seeking any further direction from Council on lifting the moratorium or directing resources to these matters.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer