

**CITY OF LAFAYETTE, MINNESOTA
ORDINANCE 152**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANIMAL CODE 91
REGULATING THE KEEPING OF BACK YARD CHICKENS**

91.12. Chickens. Chickens are allowed on any lot with a single-family residence that is issued a permit to do so by the City.

A. Generally

1. No roosters are permitted. All chickens must be hens; any further reference to chickens is a female laying hen. If a permit holder inadvertently keeps a rooster, then that rooster must be removed within twenty-four (24) hours of the date of discovery.
2. Chicken food is to be kept in containers designed to prohibit access by rodents or other pests.
3. A run or exercise yard conforming with this section is required.
4. Chickens must not be kept in such a manner as to constitute a nuisance to the occupants of any adjacent property.
5. Dead chickens must be disposed of according to the Minnesota Board of Animal Health rules, which require chicken carcasses to be deposited as soon as possible after death, and in any event within forty-eight (48) hours. Legal forms of chicken carcass disposal include offsite burial, offsite incarceration or rendering or offsite composting.
6. Chicken manure is to be contained in a weather and pest proof container, like a composting container, and removed weekly or composted or used as fertilizer and incorporated into the soil. Chicken manure must not be allowed to accumulate in such a way as to cause an unsanitary condition or odors detectible on another property.
7. Chickens kept under this subdivision may not be slaughtered within the City.
8. No more than six (6) chickens may be kept at any single-family lot at any time.
9. Chickens must be confined inside a coop or a fenced in run at all times and chickens may not be allowed to range freely.

B. Chicken permits

1. A permit issued by the City is required to keep chickens.
2. The application for a permit fee shall be set by the City Council.
3. All permits end December 31. Applications can be submitted at any time during the year; renewals must be submitted from January 1 through January 31 annually for the renewal fee, otherwise it would be considered a new permit.
4. The application must specify the number of chickens anticipated.
5. A permit may allow between one (1) and six (6) chickens.
6. Only one permit per lot. If a person wishes to keep chickens at multiple lots, then that person must obtain a different permit for each lot.
7. If the applicant is living in a rental property, then the registered property owner must also sign and approve the application.
8. Permits are non-transferable and do not run with the property.
9. A permit constitutes a limited license granted to the chicken keeper by the City and in no way creates a vested zoning right.

10. Each application must be accompanied with a scaled site plan of the proposed coop and run, showing compliance with all ordinance requirements. A site plan must be a part of the document approved by the adjoining property owners.

11. An applicant must be in compliance of Lafayette City Code 91.02 pertaining to the licensing cats and dogs.

C. By accepting the permit, the applicant is authorizing the City to inspect the chickens and facility during normal City Hall work hours. Law enforcement is exempt from this normal work hours limitation.

D Coop and run. Coops and runs must be constructed and maintained to meet the following minimum standards:

1. A separate coop is required to house the chickens. The coop may not be attached to or inside any other structure such as a home or garage.
2. Only one coop is permitted per lot.
3. The coop must be fully enclosed.
4. The maximum height must not exceed eight (8) feet in total height, including the twenty-four (24) inches off the ground.
5. The maximum total square area of the coop and run shall not exceed eighty-four (84) square feet.
6. Maximum coop size shall not exceed twenty-four (24) square feet (four square feet per chicken).
7. The run size shall not exceed sixty (60) square feet and must have at least ten (10) square feet per chicken. The run must be fenced in on all sides and include a roof. The height of the run fence and roof must not exceed six (6) feet.
8. The coop must be at least twenty-four (24) inches off the ground.
9. There must be sufficiently sized windows to permit natural light inside. Windows must be able to be opened for ventilation. Sufficient ventilation and insulation are required.
10. The construction must be done in a workmanlike manner and with durable material.
11. The coop and run must be located in the back yard of the property. The front yard is the address side.
12. There must be sufficient moisture drainage to keep the coop well drained.
13. The coop must be rodent and predator proof. Any door or access point to the coop or run shall be able to be locked or otherwise secured.
14. Coops and Runs must be constructed to comply with setbacks applicable to the zoning district in which the property to be permitted is located.
15. In addition to complying with all other applicable setbacks, coops must be at least twenty-five (25) feet away from the applicant's residence and any residence on an adjoining property. Examples shown on map. On a corner lot this would be twenty-five (25) feet from the side curb.
16. Coop designs must meet basic humane needs of chickens including heat, cooling, food, water, and protection from the elements.

E. Violations

1. Any person who commits, causes, permits, or allows a violation of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a petty misdemeanor punishable by a fine, set by the Fee Schedule Code 33.05. Each day during which a condition exists which is in violation of this section shall be deemed to be a separate offense. The permit holder must contact the city once the violation is remedied to stop the daily fee. A city official will then verify the violation was remediated.

2. If a permit holder has two convictions under this subdivision within any permit period, then that permit shall be revoked. Upon revocation all chickens must be removed from the property within forty-eight (48) hours.

F. Appeal: Any person aggrieved by:

- (a) the denial of an application for a permit required under this Section, or
- (b) suspension or revocation of a permit required under this Section, shall have an opportunity to have such decision reviewed by a neutral decisionmaker.

If, within seven (7) days of receiving notice of denial of an application for a permit or suspension or revocation of the permit, the person aggrieved by such decision submits a written notice requesting review of the application denial or suspension or revocation, then the City Council designee shall serve as a hearing officer and independently review the grounds giving rise to the denial or revocation, hear from and consider any evidence submitted by the aggrieved party, and impartially decide whether to uphold the application denial or permit revocation or withdraw the same and direct the City staff to take another course of action consistent with the decision maker's findings.

The hearing officer shall complete such hearing and make written findings of the decision within thirty (30) days of receiving the aggrieved person's request for the hearing, or such other time as may be agreed to by the appealing party. If the appealing party is not agreeable with the decision of the Council designee they may submit a final appeal to the full council at the next Council meeting.

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and adoption and publication as provided in law.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Lafayette, Minnesota, this _____ day of _____, 2025.

AYES:

NAYS:

PRESENT-NOT VOTING:

ABSENT:

Signed: _____, Mayor

Attest: _____, City Clerk

First Reading: 5/12/2025

Post on Website: 5/14/2025

Second Reading/Adoption:

Publication:

DIAGRAM 1

50 FOOT ADJOINING PROPERTY RADIUS

IF PROPERTY OWNER OWNS 2 LOTS,
50' RADIUS ADJOINING PROPERTY
APPROVAL DOES NOT APPLY IF RADIUS
DOES NOT CROSS OVER THE PROPERTY LINES.
MINIMUM 25' SETBACK FROM HOUSE(S)
APPLIES TO ALL SCENARIOS.

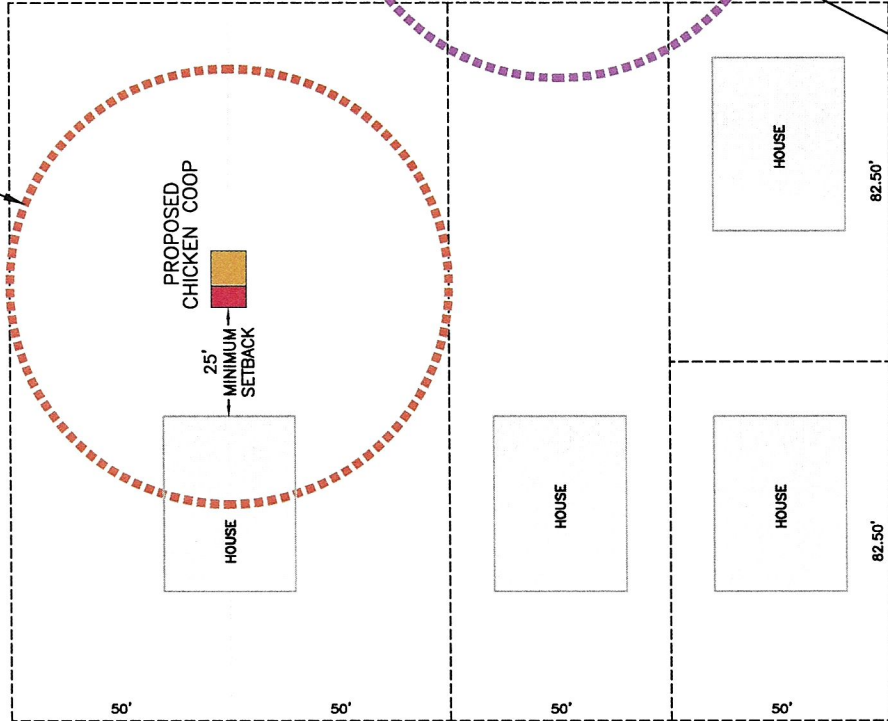


DIAGRAM 3

50 FOOT ADJOINING PROPERTY RADIUS

WHEN 50' RADIUS CROSSES OVER INTO
ADJOINING PROPERTY AND/OR OVER ALLEY
INTO ADJOINING PROPERTY AS IN
DIAGRAM 2, APPROVAL WILL BE REQUIRED
FROM THOSE PROPERTY OWNERS.
MINIMUM 25' SETBACK FROM HOUSE(S)
APPLIES TO ALL SCENARIOS.

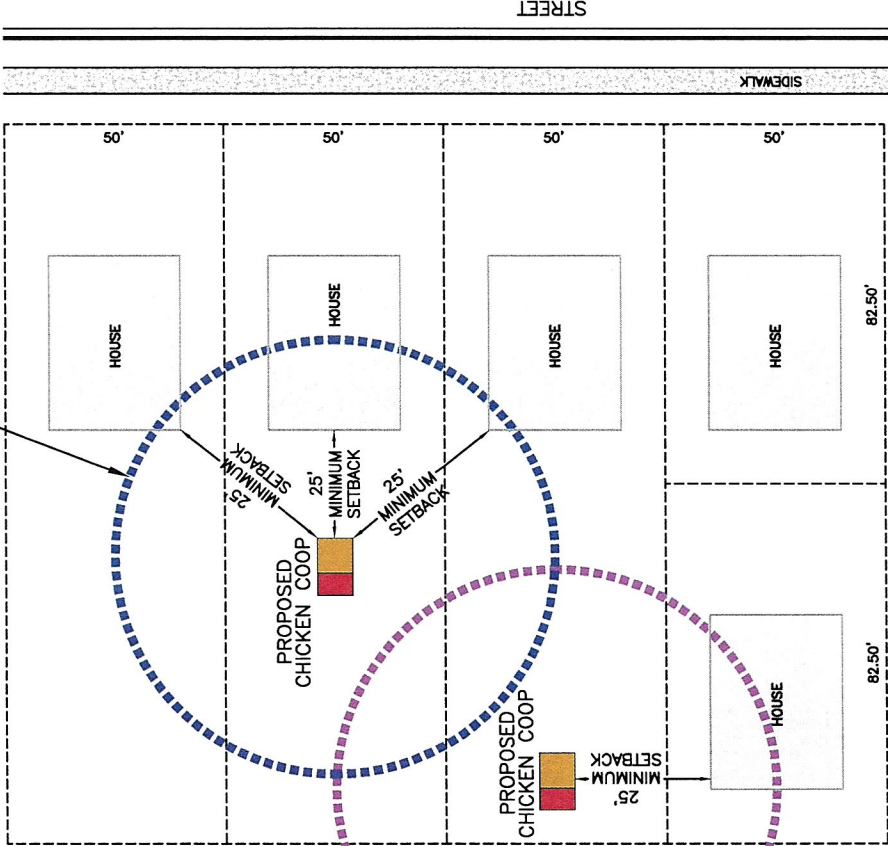
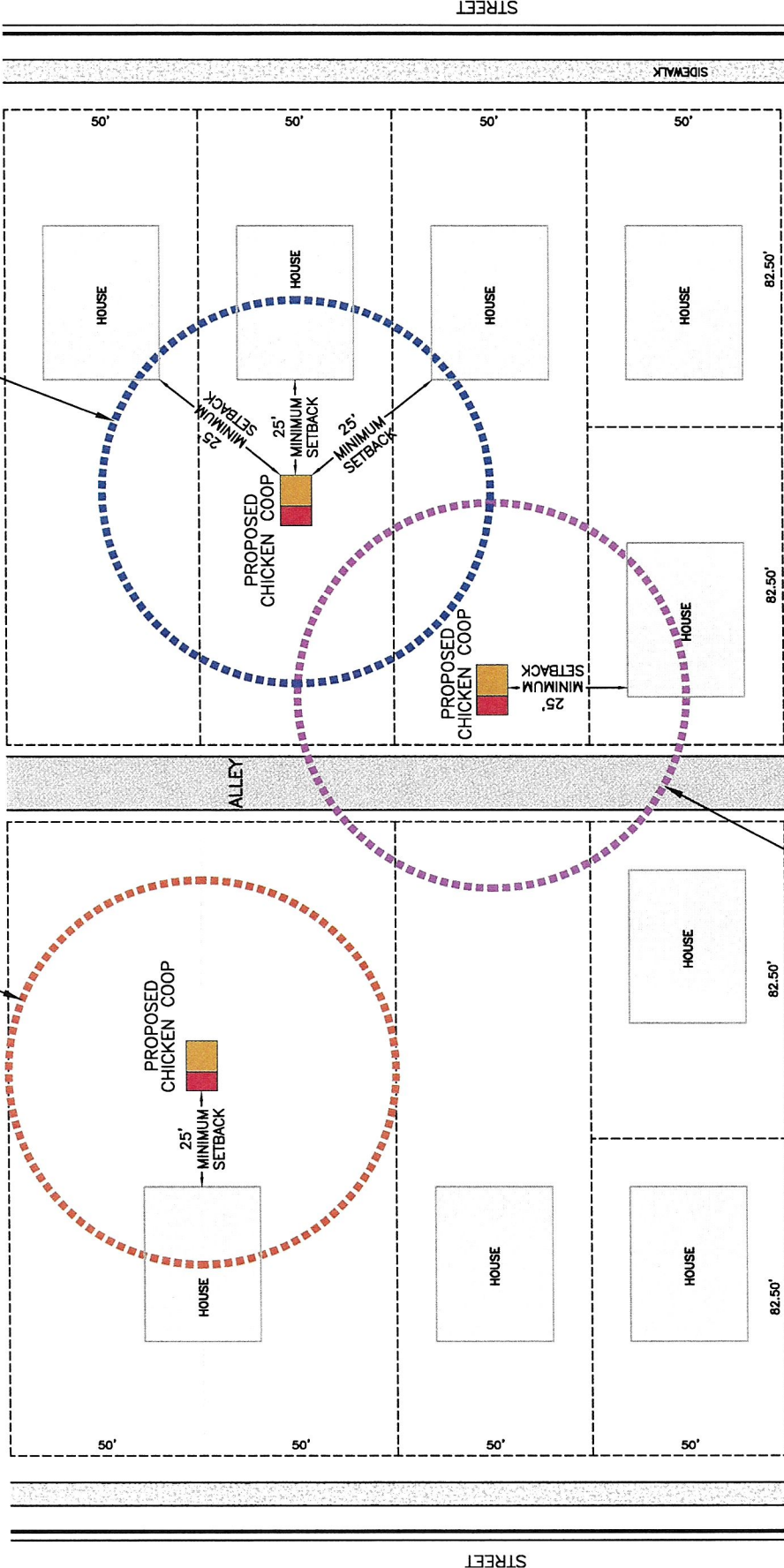


DIAGRAM 2

50 FOOT ADJOINING PROPERTY RADIUS

IF 50' RADIUS CROSSES OVER ALLEY INTO
ADJOINING ALLEY PROPERTY AND/OR IF
CORNER LOT IS SPLIT AND HAS A REAR
HOUSE, APPROVAL WILL BE REQUIRED
FROM THOSE PROPERTY OWNERS.

MINIMUM 25' SETBACK FROM HOUSE(S)
APPLIES TO ALL SCENARIOS.



City of Lafayette, Minnesota

Chicken Coop and Run Building Code