



CITY OF PATASKALA

COUNCIL MEETING

December 7, 2020

The Council of the City of Pataskala met in special session on December 7, 2020 at 5:00 PM in City Hall, located at 621 W. Broad Street. The pledge of allegiance was given. Roll Call: Carter, Walther, Epperson, Barstow, Hampshire, Galik, and Lee-present. Council President Barstow presiding.

Council President Barstow stated, “The purpose of this meeting is to discuss a request by Jordan Merriman for a variance from Section 506.03(a)(1) of the Pataskala Code to allow the property to exceed the maximum number of chickens for the property located at 214 Fairgrounds Street.”

Citizens Comments

John Harris, 319 Enois Loomis Street, spoke with regards to the positive aspects being the coop is well constructed and well maintained. He also expressed concern about having nearly double the amount of chickens allowed in the code and that he has heard them early in the morning.

Shawn Hoffman, 213 Fairgrounds Street doesn't hear anything from the chickens and didn't have any problem with the chickens. He reported that his son is autistic and has benefited from the chickens.

Scott Fulton, Planning Director addressed Council regarding the application for the variance and the current regulations.

Walther inquired if there were any regulations on chicken coops in the code or the number of structures permitted. Mr. Fulton indicated that this was not included in the Zoning Code.

Carter inquired what was used to determine the number of chickens that would be appropriate in this setting. Mr. Fulton explained he was not here when this regulation was crafted.

Barstow inquired as to how the regulations were developed.

Kathy Hoskinson explained the issue went before the Agriculture Committee. She also explained it was also to respond to a means for children to have a 4-H project even though they did not live on a farm.

When asked, Mr. Zets explained that a variance usually stays with the property.

Hampshire inquired how does the city track the number of chickens. Mr. Fulton explained that it is complaint driven.

Lee expressed concerns regarding the precedents it sets.

Carter also expressed concerns regarding the precedents.

Mrs. Merriman addressed Council about how excited she was to have them and the research she did to avoid issues.

Hampshire asked if these were pets or working animals. The applicant explained this was something they could do as a family.

Hampshire asked how they would address veterinarian care and what they would do if one died. Mrs. Merriman explained the products available to keep them in good shape and where they could be taken if one should die.

Walther asked if she had thought about the number of chickens when the coop was selected. She explained her husband had looked at that. Walther asked what she would do if she had to get rid of some of them. Mrs. Merriman indicated she would rehome them or have very good chicken soup.

Barstow made a motion to approve a variance from Section 506.03(a)(1) of the Pataskala Code for Jordan and Brooke Merriman to allow seven (7) chickens, of more than two (2) months in age, on the property located at 214 Fairgrounds Street. Seconded by Lee. Discussion was regarding concerns with granting this variance. Roll Call: Carter, Walther, Epperson, Barstow, Hampshire, Galik, and Lee-no. Council President Barstow declared the motion failed. The variance is not granted.

Walther made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Epperson. Roll Call: Carter, Walther, Epperson, Barstow, Hampshire, Galik, and Lee-yes. Mayor Compton declared the motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned.

Minutes approved January 4, 2021

ATTEST:

Kathy M. Hoskinson, Clerk of Council

Todd Barstow, Council President

