

ORDINANCE NO. 023-01

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE SIX OF THE LAUREL MUNICIPAL CODE  
(LMC § 6.16.010) RELATING TO PROHIBITED CERTAIN ANIMALS.

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to keep the Laurel Municipal Code current by modifying and updating chapters, sections and subsections to address situations and problems within the City and to remain in accordance with Montana law; and

WHEREAS, City Staff prepared, reviewed, and approved the following amendments to the existing LMC § 6.16.010 *et al* as noted herein and hereby recommends the same to the City Council for their full approval.

**6.16.010 Keeping Certain Animals Prohibited.**

- A. No person shall keep swine, ~~chickens~~, ducks, geese, turkeys, goats, horses, sheep, cows, mules, or chinchillas within the limits of the Ceity except when transferring such animals to market or where otherwise allowed within this Ceode.
- B. No person shall keep upon his/her premises more than two cats.
- C. No person shall keep or maintain more than three pairs or total of six pigeons. Persons keeping pigeons shall not allow any barn, shed, cage, yard or other place wherein such pigeons are kept or housed to become filthy or offensive to neighbors or passersby, or injurious to the health of any neighborhood or tend to contaminate the atmosphere in any place in the city, nor shall the persons suffer or permit such pigeons to make any loud or continuous noises tending to annoy or disturb any neighbors or neighborhood. Violations of this Subsection are deemed to constitute a public nuisance under Section 6.16.030 of this Ceode and shall be punishable as provided in Sections 6.16.030 and ~~6.08.080~~ of this Ceode.
- D. No person shall keep or maintain more than six rabbits. Persons keeping rabbits shall not allow any barn, shed, yard or other place wherein such rabbits are kept or housed to become filthy or offensive to neighbors or passersby, or injurious to the health of any neighborhood or tend to contaminate the atmosphere in any place in the Ceity. The rabbits shall be confined to a pen, cage or fenced yard at all times. Violations of this Subsection are deemed to constitute a public nuisance under Section 6.16.030 of this Ceode and shall be punishable as provided in Sections 6.16.030 and ~~6.08.080~~ of this Ceode.

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E. Up to six (6) chicken hens (female *Gallus gallus domesticus*) may be kept on a premise subject to the following requirements and subject to all other applicable provisions of this Code:

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1. The chicken hens must be kept on a single-family parcel(s). Chicken hens are prohibited on any multi-dwelling parcel(s).

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2. The owner must obtain an annual permit from the City. The fee(s) for this permit will be determined by City Council Resolution and may be periodically adjusted.

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3. The chicken hens shall be provided with a covered, predator-proof chicken house that is thoroughly ventilated, of sufficient size to admit free movement of the chicken hens, designed to be easily accessed, cleaned and maintained by the owners, be at least two (2) square feet per chicken hen in size and the coop and enclosure cannot be more than twelve (12) feet at its peak in height.

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4. No chicken house, outdoor chicken enclosure, or chicken hen shall at any time be located closer than ten (10) feet to any public right-of-way, sidewalk, or neighboring property line other than the chicken owner, custodian, or keeper.

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5. The chicken hens shall be shut into the chicken house at night, from sunset to sunrise.

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6. During daylight hours, the adult chicken hens shall have access to the chicken house and, weather permitting, shall have access to an outdoor enclosure on the subject property, adequately fenced to contain the chicken hens and to prevent access to the chicken hens by predators.

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7. Stored feed must be kept in a rodent- and predator-proof container.

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8. It is unlawful for the owner, custodian, or keeper of any chicken hen to allow the animal(s) to be a nuisance to any neighbors, including but not limited to: noxious odors from the animals or their enclosure.

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9. No chicken hen(s) shall be allowed to run at large in the City. No owner or keeper shall allow or permit any chicken hen(s) to be at large off the owner's or keeper's property. Any chicken hen(s) found to be running at large in the City or on private property in violation of this section is a public nuisance and shall be impounded.

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10. No chicken house or chicken enclosure shall be located in a front yard.

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11. No chicken hens shall be slaughtered within view of adjacent property or the public.

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12. Changes to the standards contained in this section shall require any permit holder to comply with any new standard, regulation, or condition and no notice to a permit holder is required prior to enforcement of any new standard beyond that required for adoption of a new or revised ordinance.

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+13. Persons found to have committed a violation of this section shall be subject to a municipal infraction with civil penalties under Section 6.16.030 of this Code and shall be punishable as provided in Sections 6.16.030 of this Code.

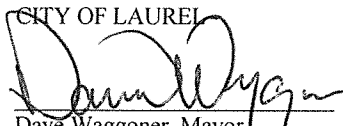
(Ord. 1008, 1992; Ord. 955, 1989; Ord. 930, 1988; prior code § 7.04.020)  
(Ord. No. O13-03, 11-19-2013).

This Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after final passage by the City Council and approved by the Mayor.

Introduced and passed on first reading at a regular meeting of the City Council on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of February 2023, upon Motion by Council Member Mize.

PASSED and ADOPTED by the Laurel City Council on second reading on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of March 2023, upon Motion by Council Member Eaton.

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of March 2023.

CITY OF LAUREL  
  
Dave Waggoner, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Kelly Strecker, Clerk-Treasurer



APPROVED AS TO FORM:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michele LB" with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Michele L. Braukmann, Civil City Attorney