

CITY OF CLYDE
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
February 28, 2023

The regularly scheduled work session of Clyde City Council was held on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Clyde City Building, 222 N. Main Street, Clyde, Ohio 43410. Mayor Doug McCauley called the meeting to order.

Roll Call.

Present: Mayor Doug McCauley
Vice Mayor Scott Black
Council Member Steve Keegan
Council Member Chris Shay
Council Member Brent Stanley
City Manager Justin LaBenne (Not voting)
Clerk of Council Janet Dickman (Not voting)
Deputy Clerk Jackie Hoppe (Not voting)
Solicitor Zachary Selvey (Not voting)

Visitors:

Visitors signing in can be referenced in the record book supplement.

Discussion will be held for the consideration of allowing chickens within the city limits.

Mayor McCauley reviewed the process for the meeting tonight. There will be no decision made tonight.

Adam Crockett, 4400 C.R. 183

- Not a city resident
- Has 12 hens and 1 rooster
- Feeds all food scraps to chickens; gets a dozen eggs a day.
- He would recommend to not allow roosters, and to restrict the number of hens
- Some cities get an annual fee, to help with the policing and enforcement
- They once had a problem with a fox killing all their chickens
- Their dozen hens produce 5-6 oz/day of poop; size of yard would be relevant as chickens need to be moved to different areas

Eric Schultz, 235 Hamer Street

- Agree to limit roosters and a set amount of chickens
- Clyde has coyotes anyway, even without having chickens
- Poultry is a good option for kids to have a 4-H project

Duane Kimmet, 249 W Maple

- Distributed copies of sections of Clyde City codes (copy on file in record book supplement)
- Referenced multiple conflicts within these codes

Brenda Gilbert, 132 W. Drew Lane

- Distributed points of view for allowing the raising of chickens (copy on file in record book supplement)
- Benefits of having chickens; Myths v.s. Facts; Encourage sensible regulation
- She referenced problems with dogs and cats, which are legal to raise within City limits

Vice Mayor Black questioned how many of the twenty-nine visitors are opposed to allowing raising chickens within City limits (two show of hands).

Will Chambers,

- His home is not within City of Clyde
- On their twenty acres they have 60-80 free range birds, cattle, pigs, sheep
- He is not necessarily against it; he agrees with having strict regulations, including guidelines on the number of chickens permitted depending on the property lot size
- He commends Brenda Gilbert for her facts
- Having chickens does attract mice, rats if there is a large number of animals
- Owners must be diligent, with daily cleaning to keep the odor down
- All citizens should be able to do what they want, unless it affects someone else

Phil Farrar, 145 W Mason St

- He is not necessarily against it, but he is concerned
- Born and raised in Clyde
- He agrees with Brenda Gilbert's facts
- He agrees with all residents having rights, if they don't infringe on others
- Owners must keep up with cleaning up the waste
- Clyde currently has laws for dogs and cats, but there are still wild cats running around
- He questions who will ensure residents comply with the rules
- He questions if there are other laws regarding this issue at the State level

Crystal Schultz, 235 Hamer

- People who don't keep their house/property clean will also attract rodents
- Clyde has yards that look like junkyards
- Coyotes have always been a problem, even trash attracts them
- If this is allowed there would need to be rules and regulations, and people would need to follow them

Jessica Schreiber, 405 S. Main St.

- Her family had chickens for two years
- They followed all the rules and regulations with no problems
- They used to have a rat problem, and the chickens took care of the rat poop

- With ten chickens the family cleaned their area weekly, using shavings and straw to help keep it clean
- They did get eggs, but not to sell; having chickens was for the experience
- Chickens are no noisier than dogs
- They have had coyotes in their back yard constantly; the coyotes did not get the chickens, but they maybe got stray cats
- Raising chickens is work, but it is not harder than taking care of a dog

Zak Selvey,

- City Solicitor; helps the City to interpret and to write laws
- The original Charter is from the 1950's; the law for chickens is from 1985
- When new laws are written they override the old laws, but it is hard to avoid conflicts
- Ordinance 1985-40 is sixty-plus pages; anything in it can be changed
- Ordinance 2023-28 formally repealed old, contradictory Ordinance
- We want our laws to be very clear and easy to understand, but we need to cover for all contingencies
- We are trying to clean up 80+ years of laws
- When properties are annexed into the City, sometimes they can keep animals they already have

Mr. Keegan

- He has heard repeated questions about this over the years
- He does not have a problem with it, but he feels there should be rules
- He would not want to allow having roosters
- The chickens would need to be in an enclosed shelter; property owners need to respect their neighbors
- His brother once had chickens; Mr. Keegan once helped with collecting eggs daily and did not notice a problem with odor; his brother got rid of the chickens when he didn't want them anymore
- Rats and mice can be a problem at properties that are not taken care of, even if they don't have chickens
- He has had dogs, and mice wanted to get the dog food
- Mr. LaBenne has referenced reviewing rules and regulations of other communities

Mr. Stanley

- Thank you to all visitors for coming and sharing your opinions
- Council will consider all comments from tonight and will review regulations that are in place in surrounding communities
- Everyone must consider their neighbors; we live in the City and we do not have the same room as in the country
- Council must consider how the decision will affect everyone, and consider who will police it

Mr. Black

- Thank you to all for attending
- He is not opposed to having chickens within the city limits, but he feels there should be rules
- He is not in favor of having roosters; he suggests considering to allow six to eight chickens per household, in a confined area
- He understand the desire for using chickens for a 4-H project
- There are many costs associated with raising chickens; it may be just as cost effective to buy eggs in the store
- When growing up, his neighbor had chickens

Mr. Shay

- Thank you to all for attending
- Comments on social media have been enlightening
- He was born and raised in Washington DC, and moved to Ohio in 1990
- Houses in poor condition is a struggle for the City, along with junk vehicles being a problem; both have strict regulations and people still cannot comply
- He questions if chickens could add to the City problems
- Decisions should not be made on a personal level, but to decide what is best for the City of Clyde
- Comments he has heard in the community seem equally divided
- He will have an open mind and will consider all information that has been shared

Mayor McCauley

- Council members need to eliminate the emotional part of consideration, and need to consider everything/everyone as a whole for current and future best interest of the City of Clyde
- There are many current laws that need to be enforced; enforcement is a concern as we have only one zoning inspector
- It is difficult to get judicial support to deal with junk houses and cars
- One bad apple can spoil the whole bunch
- Many have provided very good information; it will be important to consider how City staff could enforce any regulations
- When needing to make a decision, he always likes to research and analyze the information to arrive at a decision
- He grew up in rural Ohio where they raised every animal on a farm and therefore he understands the burden of upkeep, and the participation in 4-H

Mr. LaBenne

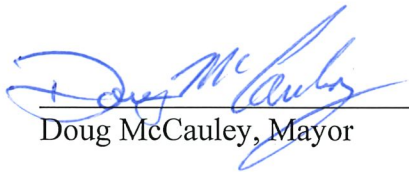
- Property issues take forever to deal with, in past it took a year to get rid of chickens at a property
- Those that showed up tonight, probably will comply; others may not
- When the novelty of raising chickens wears off, they may not put forth the needed effort

- He has no problem with it, but he has seen how bad things can go sometimes
- He has reviewed other community regulations; some require a 25 foot yard set back
- He does not want to over regulate issues
- If chickens are allowed, it could lead to other animals being brought in that are prohibited
- It is necessary to try to see both sides for their opinions

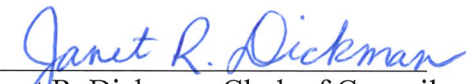
Mayor McCauley offered thanks for the civil manner in which these discussions occurred tonight.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor McCauley announced the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.



Doug McCauley, Mayor



Janet R. Dickman, Clerk of Council

CITY OF CLYDE

COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Tuesday February 28, 2023 Work Session

Visitors – PLEASE SIGN IN:

1. Jessica Schreiber
2. Will Chambers
3. Tiffany Chambers
4. Vicki Tipton
5. GARRETT Tipton
6. Phil Farrar & Lynn Farrar
7. Sue Cooper
8. Christina Lowe
9. ADAM CROCKETT
10. Calit 3 J
11. Nacy Wolfe
12. Amanda Bringham
13. Jessica Selvey
14. Rob Gosh
15. Heel White

CITY OF CLYDE

COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Tuesday February 28, 2023 Work Session

Visitors – PLEASE SIGN IN:

1. Anthony Peirce
2. Robert Selvey
3. Cayleb Cooper
4. Paulette Catcher
5. Jeanette Kimmet
6. DYLAN KIMMET
7. Diane Kimmet
8. Doug Percy
9. Ron Percy
10. Ashal Schuttly
11. Eric Schuttly
12. Mark
13. Ben Brown
14. Christine Watkins
15. Brenda Gilbert