



Backyard Chickens and Bees

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May 6, 2024

Purpose

- Review background and previous action
- Outline proposed code updates and regulations
- Discuss next steps

Background

- Previous engagement: 2016, 2018, 2020
- May 2023: Council directed Staff to prepare ballot questions to allow voters to decide:
 - Council approved ballot language 7/17/23
 - Questions on bees, chickens, and ducks
- Chickens and bees passed on 11/7/23
 - Ducks failed

Overview

- Staff has prepared code updates to allow for the keeping of chickens and bees
- Updates to Chapter 4 – the Animal Code
 - Addition of Article V
- Based on best practices from industry and other cities
- Superseded by HOA/Metro District regulations

Chickens

- No roosters allowed
- Coops limited in size – no building permit required
- Density requirements – 2sqf of coop and 16sqf of outside enclosure per chicken
- Setback requirements
- No chickens in front yard

Bees

- No aggressive/Africanized bees
- Max of 2 hives
- Hives setback and situated so flyway deters contact with people
- Flyway barriers required without permit
 - 6-8' in height
 - Force bees to fly above 6'

Process

- Permit application system
- Applicant must demonstrate compliance with regulations before obtaining chickens or bees
- Staff reviews all applications to ensure compliance

Next Steps

- Second reading tentatively scheduled for 5/20
- Regulations go into effect 60 days after passage (7/19/24)
- Allows Staff time to conduct public outreach and education