

ORDINANCE No. 2023- _____

**AN ORDINANCE OF BRIDGETON TOWNSHIP, BUCKS COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA
AMENDING THE BRIDGETON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE TO PERMIT AND
REGULATE KEEPING AND RAISING CHICKENS AS AN ACCESSORY USE**

Definitions.

As used in this article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

CHICKEN

A member of the subspecies *Gallus domesticus*, domesticated fowl.

CHICKEN RUN OR PEN

A fenced or other type of enclosure that is mostly open to the elements, for the purpose of allowing chickens to leave the henhouse or coop while remaining in a predator-safe environment. The chicken run or pen is typically attached to the henhouse or chicken coop.

HENHOUSE or CHICKEN COOP

A structure providing shelter for chickens which is completely enclosed.

Keeping of Chickens as Pets Accessory to a Residential Use Chickens kept as pets by the residents of a dwelling unit shall be kept in accordance with all applicable Bridgeton Township Ordinances, Bucks County regulations, as well as the following provisions:

- (a) *Purpose.* It is the intent of this Section to allow for the keeping of domestic female chickens on a lots of $\frac{3}{4}$ acre and larger for the sole use and enjoyment of the residents of the lot on which such animals are kept, while at the same time to protect and promote the health, safety, and welfare of residents of neighborhoods by not allowing chickens of a number and type that would otherwise constitute a nuisance or menace to the public health and safety or cause a disturbance of the peace in neighborhoods;
- (b) *Personal use only:* The keeping of domesticated chickens shall be accessory to and on the premises of a single-family detached dwelling and shall be for non-commercial use only; however, the incidental sale of eggs is not prohibited, provided that all other Township regulations relating to the accessory sales are met. On-site slaughtering of chickens is prohibited.
- (c) *Number of Chickens permitted.* The number of chickens allowed per residential lot shall not exceed the following:
 1. On lots less than three quarters (.75) acre: keeping and raising chickens prohibited.
 2. Three quarters (.75) acre to one (1) acre: 4 chickens.
 3. For each additional quarter (.25) acre one additional chicken up to 20 chickens

4. Notwithstanding Section (d) 3., there shall be no limit on the number of chickens on lots that are both: (i) over five acres and (ii) where the potential for neighborhood disturbance is limited.
- (d) *Limitations.* Only female chickens are allowed to be kept. Male chickens (roosters) are prohibited. No male chickens (roosters) over the age of six months are permitted. However, roosters may be permitted in the EC, EC-A and R3 approval by the Board of Supervisors.
 - (e) *Enclosed structure required.* Chickens shall be kept in an enclosed structure at all times. It shall be unlawful to allow chickens to run at large. No person shall keep chickens inside a dwelling unit.
 - (f) *Setbacks:*
 1. Chicken runs, pens, henhouses and chicken coops shall be set back from all adjacent residences that are not occupied by the applicant by not less than seventy-five (75) feet and by not less than fifty (50) feet from any lot line.
 2. All structures relating to chickens shall be located to the rear of the residence.
 3. No facility for storing manure or feed shall be located within one hundred (100) feet of any adjacent residence not occupied by the applicant and not less than fifty (50) feet from any lot line.
 - (g) *Odor and noise impacts.*
 1. Odors from chickens, chicken manure or other chicken-related substances shall not be perceptible beyond the boundaries of the permitted tract of land.
 2. Noise from chickens shall not be perceptible at lot lines to the extent that it results in a public nuisance or is in violation of the municipal noise ordinance.
 - (h) *Predators, rodents, insects and parasites.* The resident shall take all necessary action to reduce the attraction of predators and rodents and the potential infestation of rodents, insects and parasites.
 - (i) *Feed and water.* Chickens shall always be provided with access to feed and clean water. The feed and water shall be unavailable to rodents, wild birds and predators. Chicken feed must be stored in rodent- and raccoon-proof containers. No facility for storing manure or feed shall be located within 50 feet of any adjacent residence that is not occupied by the applicant and not less than 25 feet from any lot line.
 - (j) *No external illumination.* The exterior areas of henhouses and chicken coops shall not be illuminated.
 - (k) *Homeowners' associations.* No chickens shall be kept on any property that has an HOA document associated with it noting that fowl of any sort is not permissible within the subdivision in which said property is a part thereof nor shall any part of this article supersede any HOA documents that have been recorded on said property.