

From: Trevor Smykaluk
Sent: April 4, 2025 1:47 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Agenda item 10.1

I am requesting this email be added to the agenda relating to item 10.1. I have a concern about well water contamination resulting from allowing chickens and roosters in the settlement zoning. On the Province of Ontario website “ Wells Regulation – Siting a New Well (technical bulletin). It indicates that there should be a minimum set back distance of 50 ft for a well that isn't sealed with a 20ft casing. I have a 35 ft dug well with no sealed casing. This is the original well that came with the house and I would assume a lot of the neighbourhood has the same. Currently my neighbour has a pen that is no more than 25ft from my well. It has chickens and a rooster, a pig and rabbits. The run off from their feces affects my drinking water. The lots in my neighbourhood are only 70-80 ft wide. I'm not sure how a proper set back can be achieved when the houses are so close together.

Trevor Smykaluk

From: Jennifer Zapparoli
Sent: April 6, 2025 10:10 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: requesting this email be added to the agenda related to Item 10.1 on April 8

Councillor Cassar will be putting forth a [motion](#) at the Planning Committee meeting on April 8, 2025 to request that the staff to explore the feasibility of permitting chickens and roosters in the Settlement Residential (S1) Zone.

As a resident that was notified to remove my chickens, I canvased the neighbourhood with a petition to keep our chickens, in cooperation with my neighbour Dawn (who

was also notified to remove her chickens, and only one person out of eighty took exception. We did everything possible to save our chickens and still are willing to do so to save our feathered flocks.

Dawn has taken the time to draft a well written letter citing the bi-laws correspondent to the situation.

It is the earnest desire of many in our neighbourhood that we retain the freedom to have a few birds as we live in a rural area and not in the city. Most of us moved out of the city into a rural area for this very reason. To live a more independent lifestyle where we can raise chickens, teach our children some incredible life skills and enjoy knowing where our food comes from and what's in it. As Dawn and I canvased the neighborhood it was made clear to us that others had done the same and even made the move to this area to do so. So you could say it was quite the shock to our

local residents when we notified them that they too were Rural but according to their zoning of (S1) they were prohibited from owning chickens on their property.

We hope that you take this into account that when we moved to a RURAL location we had expected to house our feathered flock. Not to have an eviction notice.

I truly believe Dawn provided you with all of your own by laws that actually work in our favour, especially considering our land size.

We hope and pray that you will see our community has come together to voice our opinions and concerns.

Jenny Zapparoli

From: M Dawn Vessey

Sent: April 6, 2025 10:17 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: Brown, Sherri <Sherri.Brown@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Please add to agenda, 10.1 Request for Motion to Allow Backyard Chickens in Jerseyville Settlement Area Motion:

Motion to Advise Councillor to Put Forth a Motion at the Planning Committee Meeting to Allow Backyard Chickens in the Jerseyville Settlement Area

Date: Monday April 8, 2025

To: Councillor Cassar

I move that Councillor's Cassar be advised to bring forward a motion to the Planning Committee to review and amend the City of Hamilton's Responsible Animal Ownership By-law (By-law No. 12-031, revised June 2022) to allow the keeping of chickens on properties in the Jerseyville Rural Settlement Area, subject to appropriate regulations.

Background:

Under the current Responsible Animal Ownership By-law (By-law No. 12-031), the keeping of chickens is restricted to properties located in rural or agricultural zones or Rural Settlement Areas with a minimum area of 0.2 hectares (approximately 0.5 acres). However, the Jerseyville Rural Settlement Area, as identified in Appendix 1 Map C of the by-law, is home to 113 addresses, many of which are in favour of allowing the keeping of chickens within their residential properties.

In early October 2024, a survey was conducted within the Jerseyville settlement area, with 113 households contacted. Of the 113 households, 80 responded to the petition, and 79 of those responses were in favor of allowing chickens in their backyards, representing approximately 70% support for the motion. Only 1 homeowner opposed this idea.

Current By-law Provisions:

The City of Hamilton's Responsible Animal Ownership By-law permits chickens under the order Galliformes to be kept on rural or agricultural premises. These premises include:

- Properties located in rural or agricultural zones,
- Properties in rural settlement areas, provided they are 0.2 hectares (0.5 acres) or more in size.

However, the desire of many residents in Jerseyville to keep chickens on their properties, which are smaller than the current 0.2-hectare threshold, highlights a need for reconsideration and potential amendments to the by-law.

Proposed Action:

Given the significant support within the Jerseyville community for the keeping of backyard chickens and the growing interest in local food production and sustainability, it is requested that Councillor's Cassar bring forward the following actions:

1. The Planning Committee review the Responsible Animal Ownership By-law to allow for the keeping of chickens on properties in the Jerseyville Rural Settlement Area, regardless of the 0.2-hectare minimum size requirement.

2. The Planning Committee explore reasonable regulations for the keeping of chickens in residential areas.
3. A public consultation be held within the Jerseyville settlement area to ensure the voices of all affected parties are heard and that any concerns regarding the proposal are addressed.

Conclusion:

The overwhelming support from residents in the Jerseyville settlement area, with 79 out of 80 petitioners in favor of allowing chickens, demonstrates a clear interest in amending the by-law to support sustainable urban farming practices. Allowing chickens in these residential areas will contribute to local food production, waste management, and community sustainability, and we urge Councillor's Cassar to bring this matter before the Planning Committee for further review and discussion.

Regards,

Mary Dawn Vessey