

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

Planning Committee Meeting: April 8, 2025

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR C. CASSAR.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR

Feasibility of Permitting Chickens and Roosters within the Settlement Residential (S1) Zones

WHEREAS many farm animals, including chickens and roosters are already permitted in Hamilton's rural residential areas;

WHEREAS Zoning in Rural Settlement Areas (S1 Zone) prohibits the keeping of farm animals, including chickens and roosters;

WHEREAS in recent years, the cost of food has increased significantly making household budgeting difficult for many residents;

WHEREAS hens are relatively inexpensive and one hen can produce approximately 260-360 eggs per year depending on the breed;

WHEREAS free range eggs sold by local grocery stores are considerably more expensive at over \$8 per dozen;

WHEREAS hens are extremely efficient at breaking down household scraps and turning that into fertilizer and enriching the soil;

WHEREAS ticks and associated illnesses are a growing health concern that can be mitigated by hen keeping;

WHEREAS backyard hens help to reduce negative impacts on the climate by eliminating the need for eggs to be transported to market;

WHEREAS allowing chickens and roosters in Rural Settlement Areas (S1 Zone) would improve access to affordable and nutritious food close to home;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That Animal Services, Municipal Law Enforcement, and Planning staff be directed to explore the feasibility of permitting chickens and roosters as permitted Agricultural uses within the Settlement Residential (S1) Zone and report back to Planning Committee in Q4, 2025.