

FIRST READING July 13, 2023

SECOND READING August 15, 2023

PASSED August 15, 2023

AN ORDINANCE NO. BR2023-16

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 8 (“ANIMALS”) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF BLUE RIDGE, GEORGIA TO ALLOW FOR “BACKYARD CHICKENS” AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE REGULATION THEREOF; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, Chapter 8 (“Animals”) of the Code of the City of Blue Ridge, Georgia (“Code”) provides generally for the regulation of animals within the City of Blue Ridge (“City”); and

WHEREAS, a number of City residents have approached the City Council about keeping a certain number of female chickens (i.e., hens) for the principal purpose of harvesting eggs; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it in the public interest to allow for a certain number of female chickens (i.e., hens) within the City for the principal purpose of allowing residents to harvest eggs therefrom, subject to certain regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, AND IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED by the authority of the City Charter and general law, that Chapter 8 (“Animals”) of the Code of the City of Blue Ridge, Georgia, is hereby amended as set forth herein:

SECTION 1. CHAPTER 8 (“ANIMALS”)

Chapter 8 (“Animals”) of the Code of the City of Blue Ridge, Georgia, is hereby amended by adding a new Section 8-25 (“Backyard Chickens”) as follows:

Sec. 8-25. Backyard Chickens.

The following regulations shall apply to individuals who wish to keep domestic hen chickens in their backyard:

- (1) Persons who currently own domestic hen chickens on their property shall be grandfathered, provided they obtain a permit from the City and comply with these regulations.
- (2) The City will issue up to eight new permits for persons who wish to keep domestic hen chickens in their backyard.
- (3) Any permits issued pursuant to this section shall be subject to the following:

- (a) The keeping of not more than ten (10) domestic hen chickens is permitted within the rear yard of any single-family dwelling on properties zoned R-1.
 - (b) Any such hens must be enclosed in a pen, coop, or other such structure.
 - (c) Eggs produced by such hens shall not be sold for pecuniary gain or profit.
 - (d) Such hens shall not be slaughtered on the premises or raised or sold for slaughter or pecuniary gain or profit.
 - (e) For the purposes of this section, the term "rear yard" means a residential yard lying between the rear lot line and the nearest foundation line of the main building and extending across the full width of the lot. In the case of a corner lot where the building fronts on a side street, the rear yard may be established from the rear of the house to the side property line.
 - (f) All chicken coops shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition and free from odor.
 - (g) No male chickens (i.e., roosters) are permitted.
- (4) Any violation of this section may be punished as provided in Section 1-20 of this Code and may result in the revocation of the permit.

SECTION 2. SEVERABILITY.

If any paragraph, subparagraph, sentence, clause, phrase, or any portion of this ordinance shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction or if the provisions of any part of this ordinance as applied to any particular situation or set of circumstances shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity shall not be construed to effect the portions of this ordinance not so held to be invalid, or the application of this ordinance to other circumstances not so held to be invalid. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the City Council of the City of Blue Ridge to provide for separate and divisible parts, and it does hereby adopt any and all parts hereof as may not be held invalid for any reason.

SECTION 3. REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES TO THE EXTENT OF THE CONFLICT.

All parts of prior ordinances, in conflict with the terms of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict; but it is hereby provided, that any ordinance, or any provision of any ordinance, or law which may be applicable hereto and aid in carrying out and making effective the intent, purpose and provisions hereof, is hereby adopted as a part hereof, and shall be legally construed to be in favor of upholding this ordinance on behalf of the City of Blue Ridge, Georgia.

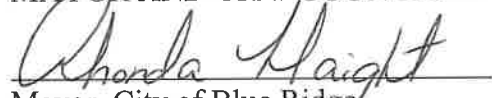
SECTION 4.

EFFECTIVE DATE.

The effective date of this ordinance shall be upon its passage by the City Council.

SO ORDAINED this 15 day of August, 2023.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BLUE RIDGE


Mayor, City of Blue Ridge


Clerk, City of Blue Ridge

