

## ORDINANCE NO. 2024-4

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 35 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE  
OF THE VILLAGE OF ROCHESTER TO ALLOW FOR THE KEEPING OF POULTRY  
IN RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICTS BY SPECIAL EXCEPTION PERMIT**

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Rochester seeks to update certain sections of the Village of Rochester Zoning Code for the sake of clarification, consistency, and to remedy oversights within the Village of Rochester Zoning Code; and

**WHEREAS**, Code section 35-21(H) prohibits the keeping of livestock, sheep, poultry, or swine in zoning districts that do not specifically allow livestock; and

**WHEREAS**, historically, special exception permits pursuant to Code Section 9-1 have been granted for the keeping of up to 3 hens in residential zoning districts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ordinance Committee has recommended that the Code be amended to reflect this longstanding practice and allow for its continuance; and

**WHEREAS**, this zoning amendment was initiated pursuant to Section 35-220(B) of the Village of Rochester Zoning Code; and

**WHEREAS**, the matter was duly referred to the Village of Rochester Plan Commission for report and recommendation pursuant to Section 35-220(D) of the Village of Rochester Zoning Code, and the Plan Commission has reviewed the matter and offered its recommendation to the Village Board; and

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing was conducted by the Village Board of the Village of Rochester on 4/22, 2024 as required by Section 35-220(F) of the Village of Rochester Zoning Code, upon due notice as required by Section 35-240 of the Village of Rochester Zoning Code and Section 62.23(7)(d), Wisconsin Statutes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village Board finds that this change to the Village of Rochester Zoning Code is not a down zoning ordinance because it does not decrease the development density of land and it does not reduce the permitted uses of land, and therefore the super majority requirement of Section 66.10015, Wisconsin Statutes, does not apply to this ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village Board for the Village of Rochester finds that the public necessity, convenience, general welfare, and good zoning practice require the amendment to the Village Code described herein; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Village Board of the Village of Rochester, Racine County, Wisconsin, does hereby ordain as follows:

**Section 1:** Chapter 35 of the Village of Rochester Zoning Code entitled "Planning and Zoning," Section 35-21 entitled "Use Restrictions," Subsection H entitled "Livestock" is hereby repealed and re-created to read as follows:

H. Livestock. No livestock, sheep, poultry, or swine shall be kept, raised, or bred in any district that does not specifically allow livestock, except that poultry may be kept in residential districts by special exception permit in accordance with Section 9-1 of this Municipal Code.

**Section 2:** CONTINUATION OF PROVISIONS

The provisions of this ordinance, to the extent that they are substantively the same as those of the ordinances in force immediately prior to the enactment of this ordinance, are intended as a continuation of such ordinances and not as new enactments, and the effectiveness of such provisions shall date from the date of adoption of the prior ordinances. In addition, the adoption of this ordinance shall not affect any action, prosecution, or proceeding brought for the enforcement of any right or liability established, accrued, or incurred under any legislative provision prior to the effective date of this ordinance for the time that such provision was in effect, and the repeal of any such provision is stayed pending the final resolution of such actions, including appeals.

**Section 3:** SEVERABILITY

The several sections of this ordinance are declared to be severable. If any section or portion thereof shall be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, unlawful, or unenforceable, such decision shall apply only to the specific section or portion thereof directly specified in the decision, and shall not affect the validity of any other provisions, sections, or portions thereof of the ordinance. The remainder of the ordinance shall remain in full force and effect. Any other ordinance whose terms are in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed as to those terms that conflict.

**Section 4:** EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall take effect on April 23, 2024 after passage and posting and/or publication as provided by law.


Passed and adopted this 22 day of April, 2024.

VILLAGE OF ROCHESTER



Nick Ahlers, Village President

ATTEST:



Sandra J. Swan, Village Clerk