

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE DASSEL CITY COUNCIL
MAY 18, 2015, 6:00 P.M.
DASSEL CITY HALL**

The special meeting of the Dassel City Council was called to order by Mayor Putnam at 6:05 p.m. on May 18, 2015 at the Dassel City Hall.

Present: Council members Asplin, Bjork, Hungerford, Nelson, Mayor Putnam (5)

Absent: (0)

The purpose of the work session was to gather public input on the possibility of amending Chapter 94 of the City Code which would allow for the harboring of chickens on residential properties in the City of Dassel.

Mayor Putnam explained the purpose of the meeting was fact finding and no action would be taken at the meeting. He asked members of the council to provide input.

Council member Hungerford asked if the structure of the ordinance would ultimately allow for chickens to be classified as pets. City Attorney Greenley responded that further language may need to be included as the ordinance could be challenged on the basis of chickens being classified as pets.

Council member Asplin expanded on the classification of chickens by asking if guinea hens are considered poultry. Deputy Clerk Smith responded by saying that it has been discussed and will be further examined.

In regard to a concerned citizen, Council member Nelson voiced concern over the potential sanitation issues and attraction of rodents. She also thought that enforcement of the ordinance would be a challenge. Asplin suggested the idea of potentially limiting the number of permits issued if passed. Mayor Putnam responded by stating permits could be possibly issued for a trial run of 1 year.

Council member Bjork asked whether the ordinance highlighted the keeping of baby chicks. Attorney Greenley mentioned that the classification of an adult chicken has not yet been identified.

The following individuals provided input to the council:

Joyce Trotter, a member of the Chicken Committee, advocated for the implementation of an ordinance allowing chickens on residential property. She stated that it would be the permit holder who would be responsible for properly following the regulations.

Nathan Oberg touched on the fact that dog food could bring in just as much vermin to the city if it was not properly kept. Deputy Clerk Smith responded by saying the ordinance states that all chicken food must be kept in rodent proof containers.

John Bergstrom, who was representing Howard Page properties, opposed the proposed amendment to the ordinance. He voiced concern that the harboring of chickens brings no economic value to the city as it would be a detriment to not just his rental properties, but properties in the City as a whole.

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE DASSEL CITY COUNCIL CONTINUED
MAY 18, 2015, 6:00 P.M.
DASSEL CITY HALL**

Mayor Putnam thanked those in attendance for their input and suggested that the Chicken Committee convene to discuss some of the issues which were brought up, so a public hearing can be held next month.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

ATTEST:

Jeff Putnam
Mayor

Terri Boese
Clerk/Treasurer