

## MISC. LAND USE DISCUSSION

### PLANNING COMMISSION

APRIL 14, 2016

CHICKENS- The Mayor, City Council and Staff have received requests from time to time for allowing a small number of chickens on any lot even if it doesn't have animal rights. It is getting more and more that people are at least thinking they would like to have a few chickens for eggs. There obviously are many people in the city that are doing this regardless of if they have animal rights or not. Like any change there are going to be pros and cons. Some of the complaints we get about chickens are: noise, smell & flies, getting in the neighbor's gardens and scratching, messing on sidewalks, dogs attacking chickens, etc.

If we were to allow them in most residential situations we would probably want to consider some of these restrictions:

Limit number (4-6?)

No roosters

Must be fenced in or in coop

Coops kept well maintained and cleaned

Not allow in multi-family housing

One problem is people think it is a great idea until they have to take care of them for a while. When you decide you don't want to do that anymore what do you do with them? This can't become animal controls responsibility to find them a new home.

On the other hand, allowing this would provide for an increasing number of people who want to be involved in these hobby farm operations.

APARTMENTS- By now most of you know that the apartment complex at Elk Mountain was denied 3 to 2 by the city council. The Mayor made the comment to the council that if we have decided to not approve these kind of developments then let's remove them from the code and save putting everyone thru this process just to be denied. One council member recommended designating a few areas for them. This is exactly what this area was previously designated for. I am not sure where in the city you could find any other location that had the buffers this site did with the park, school, church, and open farm ground. We need to discuss what you would recommend going forward.

