

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Orwell Village Council

Special Meeting

Date: June 11, 2024

Council President Ruks called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: Ms. McKinley performed roll call and the following council members were present: Mr. Cottrell, Ms. Cozad, Mr. Denihan, Mr. Hartz and Mr. Ruks.

Also Present: Solicitor Chis Newcomb and Zoning Inspector Bellas.

Public: Corrine Schoren (Gazette), Warren Dillaway (Star Beacon), Tom DeSanto, Peggy Bottoms, Amy Brickhouse, Bill Cook and William Stracola.

Council President Ruks began the meeting by informing the public that the purpose of the meeting was to get input from the public on amending section 618.19 to allow chickens in the Village of Orwell. Draft legislation was provided to those in attendance. Mr. Ruks opened the floor for public comment.

Mr. Stracola was in support of the proposed changes so that he may provide for his family. The cost to feed three chickens is about \$13/month.

Ms. Brickhouse was in support of raising chickens. She is already subjected to horse waste and free range cats.

Mr. Cottrell is all for saving people money. Mr. Ruks views the proposed change as one incentive to keep people in the community. Mr. Hartz felt any changes should go before the voters.

Mr. DeSanto reviewed the proposed changes discussed in committee. Individuals would need to comply with the regulations laid out in Section 618.19A. Regulations would only apply to chickens, no roosters or other fowl, limits numbers, chickens must be in designated chicken coop and chicken run located in the rear of property. Coops must be predator and rodent proof. Chickens must be enclosed in coop from dusk to dawn. Runs must be cleaned on a regular basis so as not to create a nuisance. Eggs could not be sold or bartered. Chickens can produce 250 per year with peak production the first two years. Chickens will eat grass therefore run could get muddy.

Solicitor Newcomb recommended planning review coop requirements and setbacks.

Mrs. Bottoms was against the changes. Leffingwell neighborhood experienced issues with livestock in the past.

Mr. Cook felt ordinance would place burden on zoning inspector; policing would be hard. Also, he is concerned about predators such as racoons and coyotes.

Mr. Bellas explained that he has a right to inspect on an open permit. Otherwise, he could inspect from right of way or from a neighbor with permission. He will discuss with solicitor about adding language to inspect upon complaint. Most complaints he has experienced are about “free range chickens” and he would issue a violation.

Ms. Cozad thanked those in attendance; felt meeting was important to get the public perspective on the topic.

Ms. Cozad made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ruks, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with all in favor.

Council President Ruks adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

Approved:


June 18, 2024



President of Council



Clerk of Council



Village Manager