

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-8

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BULL SHOALS, ARKANSAS, A CITY OF THE SECOND CLASS, ESTABLISHING A PERMIT SYSTEM FOR THE KEEPING OF HOBBY CHICKENS; ESTABLISHING SANITARY, NUISANCE, INSPECTION, AND ENFORCEMENT REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING FEES, PENALTIES, AND PERMIT REVOCATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Bull Shoals finds that allowing the limited keeping of hens for personal, non-commercial use may benefit residents while preserving the public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that reasonable regulations governing the keeping of hobby chickens are necessary to protect neighboring property owners from nuisances, unsanitary conditions, and other adverse impacts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BULL SHOALS, ARKANSAS:

Section 1. Purpose.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to permit the limited keeping of hobby chickens while protecting the public health, safety, and welfare through a permitting and inspection program intended to minimize nuisances and unsanitary conditions.

Section 2. Definitions.

For purposes of this Ordinance:

- (a) Hobby chickens means domesticated hens kept by the occupant of a single-family dwelling for personal use and not for commercial breeding, boarding, or agricultural production.
- (b) Single-family dwelling means a detached residential structure occupied as a residence for one family.
- (c) Enclosure means any coop, pen, run, shelter, or fenced area used for keeping hobby chickens.
- (d) Permit means a Hobby Chicken Permit issued by the City pursuant to this Ordinance.

Section 3. Permit Required.

- (a) No person shall keep hobby chickens within the City unless a valid Hobby Chicken Permit has first been obtained from the City.
- (b) A separate permit shall be required for each residence at which hobby chickens are kept.
- (c) A permit shall not be transferable to another property or another person.

(d) A Hobby Chicken Permit shall remain valid indefinitely unless voluntarily surrendered by the permit holder or suspended or revoked pursuant to this Ordinance.

(e) The Mayor, the Animal Control Officer, or any other City official authorized by the Mayor or the City Council may issue Hobby Chicken Permits upon determining that the applicant complies with the requirements of this Ordinance.

(f) Every permit issued pursuant to this Ordinance shall contain, at a minimum:

1. The name of the permit holder;
2. The address of the property where hobby chickens are authorized to be kept; and
3. The date the permit was issued.

(g) The permit holder shall maintain the Hobby Chicken Permit at the permitted premises and shall produce the permit for inspection upon the request of the Animal Control Officer or any other City official authorized to enforce this Ordinance. An electronic copy of the permit shall satisfy this requirement if it clearly displays the information required by subsection (f).

(h) Copies of issued permits shall be kept and recorded by the City.

Section 4. Permit Fee.

(a) The fee for a Hobby Chicken Permit shall be Twenty Dollars (\$20.00).

(b) The permit fee shall be paid only upon the initial issuance of the permit. No annual renewal fee shall be required unless the permit is revoked and a new permit application is submitted.

(c) All permit fees collected pursuant to this Ordinance shall be deposited into the City's general fund or another account designated by the City Council and shall be used solely to offset the costs of administering and enforcing this Ordinance, including compensation of the Animal Control Officer and other City employees or officials responsible for inspections, permit administration, and enforcement.

(d) Payment of the permit fee does not exempt the permit holder from compliance with this Ordinance.

Section 5. General Sanitary Requirements.

(a) It shall be unlawful to keep any animal in any building, pen, lot, coop, or enclosure within the City unless such building, pen, lot, coop, or enclosure is maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.

(b) Enclosures shall be maintained so as to prevent offensive odors, excessive accumulations of manure, rodents, flies, insects, vermin, or other conditions detrimental to public health.

(c) Upon notice from the Animal Control Officer or other authorized City official, violations of this section shall be corrected within twenty-four (24) hours unless a shorter period is required to protect public health.

Section 6. Hobby Chickens.

(a) No more than six (6) hens may be kept on any lot containing a single-family dwelling.

(b) Hobby chickens shall not be permitted at apartments, duplexes, condominiums, townhouses, or other multi-family residential properties.

(c) Roosters are prohibited.

(d) Outdoor slaughter of chickens or other fowl is prohibited.

(e) All chicken coops, pens, and enclosures shall be located only within a side or rear yard and shall be situated at least twenty-five (25) feet from any neighboring dwelling and at least fifteen (15) feet from any property line or road.

(f) Enclosures shall be maintained in a neat, secure, and sanitary condition at all times and cleaned regularly to prevent offensive odors, insect infestation, or unsanitary conditions.

(g) Feed shall be stored in durable, rodent-resistant containers equipped with tight-fitting lids.

(h) Hobby chickens shall be kept solely for the personal use of the occupants of the residence and shall not be used for commercial breeding, boarding, or agricultural operations.

Section 7. Nuisances.

(a) The keeping of hobby chickens shall not create or permit a public or private nuisance.

(b) Conditions constituting a nuisance include, but are not limited to:

Offensive odors;

Excessive noise;

Accumulations of manure, feathers, refuse, or waste;

Conditions attracting rodents, flies, insects, or other vermin;

Unsanitary conditions;

Escape of chickens from the owner's property; or

Any condition materially interfering with neighboring property owners' use and enjoyment of their property or endangering public health or safety.

Section 8. Inspection.

- (a) As a condition of obtaining and maintaining a Hobby Chicken Permit, the permit holder agrees to permit reasonable inspections of those portions of the property where hobby chickens are kept by the Animal Control Officer or other authorized City official.
- (b) Inspections shall be conducted only at reasonable times and in a reasonable manner and shall be limited to determining compliance with this Ordinance or investigating an alleged violation.
- (c) Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed as authorizing a City official to enter private property without the consent of the owner or occupant or other lawful authority.
- (d) If consent to inspect is denied, the City may seek an administrative inspection warrant or other lawful process as authorized by law.
- (e) A permit holder's refusal to permit a reasonable inspection may constitute grounds for suspension or revocation of the permit following written notice and an opportunity for a hearing as provided in this Ordinance.
- (f) Refusal to comply with a lawfully issued administrative inspection warrant or court order shall constitute a violation of this Ordinance.

Section 9. Suspension or Revocation of Permit.

- (a) The Mayor, following a recommendation from the Animal Control Officer or other authorized City official, may suspend or revoke a Hobby Chicken Permit for any of the following reasons:

Violation of any provision of this Ordinance;

Maintaining a public or private nuisance;

Failure to correct a violation within the prescribed time after notice;

Providing false information on a permit application;

Failure to permit inspection as provided in Section 8;

Failure to pay any fee required by this Ordinance; or

Any material misrepresentation upon which issuance of the permit was based.

- (b) Prior to suspension or revocation, the permit holder shall receive written notice stating the reasons for the proposed action and shall be afforded an opportunity for a hearing before the City Council or its designated hearing officer.
- (c) A permit revoked pursuant to this Ordinance shall not be reissued until all violations have been corrected and a new application and permit fee have been submitted and approved.
- (d) Revocation of a prior permit may serve as sufficient cause for a City official to refuse to issue a new permit to an applicant if the official reasonably believes that the circumstances that led to the original revocation are likely to repeat.

Section 10. Exemptions.

This Ordinance shall not apply to:

- (a) Indoor birds customarily kept as household pets, including but not limited to parrots, parakeets, cockatiels, canaries, or similar companion birds; or
- (b) The lawful transportation of poultry or other fowl through the corporate limits of the City.

Section 11. Penalties.

- (a) Any person violating any provision of this Ordinance shall be subject to a civil fine of Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00) for each day the violation continues.
- (b) Each day a violation continues after expiration of the applicable compliance period shall constitute a separate offense.
- (c) The City may seek injunctive relief or any other remedy authorized by law in addition to the penalties provided herein.

Section 12. Severability.

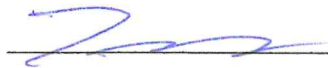
If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or provision of this Ordinance is declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

Section 13. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take effect 90 days after its passage.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 27 day of August, 2026

CITY OF BULL SHOALS, ARKANSAS



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Recorder/Treasurer