

**TOWNSHIP OF MILLBURN  
ORDINANCE NO. 2509-18  
AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MILLBURN, COUNTY OF ESSEX,  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY,  
AMENDING ARTICLE V OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE  
TOWNSHIP OF MILLBURN**

***STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:** The purpose of this ordinance is to provide appropriate standards and regulations for the keeping of chickens for noncommercial purposes within the suburban residential environment of Millburn Township. The ordinance establishes standards and limitations so as to avoid adverse impacts on neighboring properties and residents, and to provide for the health and safety of the chickens.*

**WHEREAS**, the concept of local sustainability has fostered an interest in backyard food production;

**WHEREAS**, Millburn residents maintain chickens as pets; and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities have been considering how to compatibly integrate the keeping of backyard chickens into suburban residential settings; and

**WHEREAS**, Millburn Township officials are informed that not more than four chickens are sufficient to meet the needs of an average family's egg consumption and/or desires to have chickens as pets; and

**WHEREAS**, Millburn Township is largely built out and of a density such that special attention to how chickens can be integrated successfully into residential neighborhoods is required;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Millburn in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, as follows:

**Section 1.** Article V entitled "Animal Control" shall be amended and supplemented by the adoption of a new Section 5-10 entitled "Keeping of Chickens, Permit Required" to read as follows:

Section 5-10 – Keeping of Chickens, Permit Required

(a) Definitions:

- i. For the purpose of this ordinance, a chicken (*Gallus Domesticus*) refers only to a female chicken.
- ii. Coop – the covered house, structure or room that is required in order to provide chickens with shelter from the weather and with a roosting area protected from predators. No Coop shall exceed 10 feet in height.

- iii. Chicken Enclosure – means a fenced area required in association with a coop in order to provide an outside exercise area for the chickens free from predators, and of a size no greater than ten (10) feet by ten (10) feet, with a fence not in excess of 10 feet in height, but sufficiently constructed to prevent entrance by predators.
- iv. Repeat Violation – shall mean the violation of a provision of this ordinance or of the Revised General Ordinances, pertaining to the requirements of the keeping of chickens, by a person who has been found two previous times, through a code enforcement proceeding or any other administrative, quasi-judicial or judicial process, to have violated, or who has admitted violating, any provision within three years prior to the current violation.

(b) Permit

Any person who keeps chickens in the Township of Millburn shall obtain a permit from the Township prior to acquiring the chickens. Any person who, at the time of the effective date of this ordinance, is currently keeping chickens at a residential property within the Township shall apply for a permit within sixty (60) days. Application shall be made to the Health Officer and the fee for the permit shall be one hundred dollars (\$100.00). A separate inspection fee shall be charged at the time of application in the amount of sixty-five dollars (\$65.00). The Application shall include a survey and a drawing or diagram depicting the placement and dimensions of the Coop and Chicken Enclosure.

In the event that a Permit Application by any person who is currently keeping chickens is denied, such person shall be obliged to remove any such chickens, coops and enclosures within 30 days of such denial. Any such person shall have the right to immediately file a conforming application so as to obtain a permit, in which case it shall not be necessary for them to comply with the removal requirements above set forth.

The permit shall be obtained annually in the month of December from the Health Officer for a permit commencing on the ensuing January 1<sup>st</sup>. Failure to obtain an annual renewal permit shall result in a penalty of ten dollars (\$10.00) for each chicken, which shall be collected as a surcharge to the permit fee hereinabove required. In the event that a permit application is made after January for a new commencement of the keeping of chickens at a property, the fee shall be prorated to December 31<sup>st</sup> of that year.

Permits expire and become invalid on December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. A person who wishes to continue keeping chickens shall have obtained a new permit on or before the expiration date of the previous permit. Application for a new permit shall be pursuant to the procedures and

requirements that are applicable at the time the person applies for a new permit.

Upon a Repeat Violation, any permit issued shall be revoked. The holder of a revoked permit is ineligible from applying for or attaining a new permit for a period of 2 (two) years from the date of revocation. Upon the revocation of any permit, the permit holder shall be obliged to remove chickens, Coop and Chicken Enclosure immediately thereafter.

(c) Private Restrictions

Notwithstanding the issuance of a permit by the Township, private restrictions on the use of property shall remain enforceable and take precedence over a permit. Private restrictions include but are not limited to deed restrictions, condominium master deed restrictions, neighborhood association by-laws, and covenant deeds. The interpretation and enforcement of the private restriction is the sole responsibility of the private parties involved.

(d) Requirements

A person who keeps or houses chickens on his or her property shall comply with all of the following requirements:

- i. Shall have received a permit required under Subsection (b) of this section.
- ii Shall keep no more than four (4) chickens.
- iii Shall keep chickens only on a property, the principal use of which is as a single-family dwelling.
- iv Shall keep no rooster.
- v Shall not slaughter any chickens.
- vi Shall provide the chickens with a covered enclosure and must be kept in the covered enclosure or a fenced enclosure at all times. No chickens shall be allowed to free range or be otherwise located outside of the coop and enclosure areas. Coops and fenced enclosures are subject to all provisions of the Development Regulations and Zoning Ordinance of the Township, as well as all building, plumbing and electric permitting requirements, except to the extent addressed by the provisions of this Subsection (d).
- vii Shall not keep chickens in any location on the property other than in the backyard. For purposes of this ordinance, “backyard” means that portion of a lot enclosed by the property’s rear lot line and the side lot lines to the points where the side lot lines intersect

with an imaginary line established by the rear of the single-family structure and extending to the side lot lines.

- viii Shall not locate a covered enclosure, coop or fenced enclosure closer than twenty (20) feet to any property line of an adjacent property.
- ix Shall provide an enclosure for the keeping of chickens which shall be so constructed and repaired as to prevent rats, mice, or other rodents from being harbored underneath, within, or within the walls of, the enclosure. A covered enclosure, coop or fenced enclosure shall not be located closer than twenty (20) feet to the residential structure on the property. Coops shall be ventilated and in a clean and sanitary condition at all times.
- x Shall protect feed and other items associated with the keeping of chickens that might attract or become infested with or infected by rats, mice, or other rodents through the use of rat-proof containers so as to prevent rats, mice, or other rodents from gaining access to or coming into contact with them. All food for immediate consumption shall be placed in a suitable feeding trough or similar container and all other food shall be stored in rat-proof containers at all times. No poultry feed shall be scattered about any premises.
- xi. For purposes of this ordinance, adjacent property means all parcels of property that the applicant's property comes into contact with at one or more points.
- xii Nothing herein shall be construed to abrogate the provisions of Chapter III, Section 3-7 in general, and specifically with respect to the keeping of any bird which by "frequent or long continued noise shall disturb the comfort or repose of any person in the vicinity". (Section 3-7.2(a))
- xiii The selling of eggs by any person keeping chickens pursuant to this ordinance is prohibited.
- xiv Any dead chicken must be double bagged and placed in the garbage.
- xv Violations

If any of the requirements of this ordinance are not complied with:

- a) the Township Health Officer, Code Enforcement Officer or Animal Control Officer may revoke any permit granted under this ordinance and/or initiate prosecution for a violation pursuant to Section 5-7 "Penalty for Violation", and/or Section 1-5 "General Penalty", as applicable; and/or

- b) any person residing within the Township may initiate prosecution for a violation pursuant to Section 5-7 “Penalty for Violation”, and/or Section 1-5 “General Penalty”, as applicable; and/or
- c) the Township shall also have the right to commence litigation in a court of competent jurisdiction.
- (e) Permit Examination
 

A person who has been issued a permit shall submit it for examination upon demand by any police officer or code enforcement officer.
- (f) The Township Health Officer, Code Enforcement Officer or Animal Control Officer shall have authority to discern compliance with this Ordinance and the authority to direct compliance with this Ordinance with regard to requiring certain facilities or activities by chicken owners to ensure that neighbors of those who keep chickens are not unreasonably subjected to noise, rodents, predators, or other violations of the provisions of this Ordinance.

**Section 2.** The provisions of this ordinance are severable and the invalidity of any phase, clause or part of this ordinance shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the remainder of the ordinance.

**Section 3.** This ordinance shall take effect after final passage and publication as required by law.

ATTEST:

MILLBURN TOWNSHIP

\_\_\_\_\_  
Christine A. Gatti, Township Clerk

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cheryl H. Burstein, Mayor

Introduced: July 17, 2018  
Published: July 26, 2018  
Public Hearing/Adopted:  
Published:

CERTIFICATION

I, Christine A. Gatti, Clerk of the Township of Millburn, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of an Ordinance duly adopted by the Township Committee at a regular meeting held on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Christine A. Gatti, RMC  
Township Clerk