

**TOWNSHIP OF LONG HILL
ORDINANCE 591-26**

MOVING THE REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE KEEPING OF CHICKENS ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES FROM THE LAND USE ORDINANCE TO THE POLICE REGULATIONS SECTION OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE AND AMENDING SEVERAL SECTIONS OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE

WHEREAS, the Township Committee needs to amend the regulations concerning the keeping of chickens in residential zones; and

WHEREAS, those regulations are currently included in Section LU124.10 of the Township Land Use Ordinance entitled "Keeping of Livestock in Single Family Residential Zones"; and

WHEREAS, these regulations are being adopted pursuant to the general police power and not pursuant to the Municipal Land Use Law;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill in the County of Morris, New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. Section LU124-10 of the Township Land Use Ordinance entitled "Keeping of Livestock in Single Family Residential Zones" is hereby amended to read as follows:

§ LU-124.10. Keeping of Livestock in Single Family Residential Zones.

The keeping of horses, dairy animals, livestock and poultry shall be permitted as an accessory use to single family residences in the C, R-2, R-3 and R-4 zones subject to the following requirements:

- a. All such animals and livestock shall be kept on the property for the primary use and enjoyment of the occupants of the single family residence on the same lot.
- b. At least 45,000 square feet of lot area shall be provided for each horse; a barn or similar structure shall also be provided for each horse; said facility shall provide a fifty-foot setback from all property lines.
- c. An additional 10,000 square feet of lot area shall be provided for each cow, pig, goat, sheep or llama to be kept on the property.
- d. All animals specified in Subsection c above shall be kept in an enclosure that provides a fifty-foot setback off each property line.
- e. ~~The keeping of chickens, other fowl or rabbits are permitted provided the creatures are enclosed at all times and said enclosure provides a forty-foot setback from all property lines.~~
- f. The keeping of chickens is permitted in accordance with the provisions of Section 3-20 of the Township Code, entitled, "Chickens in Residential Zones and shall be considered an accessory building for purposes of required setbacks.
- g. Manure storage resulting from any of the above activities shall be kept within a covered enclosure or pit at least 75 feet from each property line.
The regulations of this subsection shall not restrict house pets.

Section 2. Chapter 3 of the Township Code entitled "Police Regulations" is hereby supplemented and amended by adding a new Section 3-20 entitled "Chickens in Residential Zones" which reads as follows:

§ 3-20. CHICKENS IN RESIDENTIAL ZONES.

3-20.1 Regulations.

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

- a. Shall keep no more than four (4) chickens.
- b. Shall keep chickens only on a property, the principal use of which is as a single-family dwelling.
- c. Shall keep no rooster.
- d. Shall not slaughter any chickens.
- e. Shall provide the chickens with a chicken enclosure and the chickens must be kept in the coop or chicken enclosure at all times. No chickens shall be allowed to free range or be otherwise located outside of the coop and chicken enclosure areas. The coop and chicken enclosure are subject to all provisions of the Land Use Ordinance of the Township, as well as all building, plumbing and electric permitting requirements.
- f. Shall not keep chickens in any location on the property other than in the backyard. For purposes of this section, "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.
- g. No part of a coop or chicken enclosure shall be closer to the side or rear yard property line than is permitted in the subject zone district by the Township Land Use Ordinance.
- h. Shall provide a coop and chicken 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. No part of a coop or chicken enclosure shall 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.
- i. 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.
- j. For purposes of this section, adjacent property means all parcels of property that the applicant's property comes into contact with at one or more points.
- k. The selling of eggs by any person keeping chickens pursuant to this section is prohibited.
- l. Any dead chicken must be double bagged and placed in the garbage.

3-20.2 Violations; Penalties.

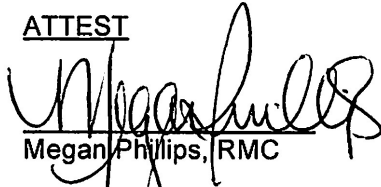
Any person who violates any of the regulations of this section shall be liable to the penalties stated in Chapter 1, § 1-5.

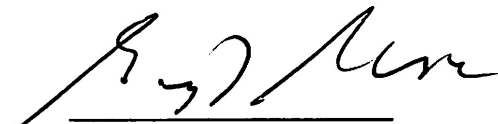
Section 3. Any and all other ordinances or parts thereof in conflict or inconsistent with any of the terms hereof are hereby repealed to such extent as they are so in conflict or inconsistent.

Section 4 In case any article, section or provision of this ordinance shall be held invalid in any court of competent jurisdiction, the same shall not affect any other article, section or provision of this ordinance except insofar as the article, section or provision so declared invalid shall be inseparable from the remainder or any portion thereof.

Section 5. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication as required by law.

ATTEST


Megan Phillips, RMC


Guy Piserchia, Mayor

First Reading and Introduction: May 27, 2026
1st Publication: May 28, 2026
Second Reading and Adoption: June 17, 2026
2nd Publication: June 18, 2026