

Hamid Rahmanian

City of Lloydminster  
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Lloydminster, AB/SK  
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December 22, 2022

RE: Backyard Hens Bylaw  
To whom it may concern

Hello;

I am writing to respectfully request that you reconsider the current bylaw regarding backyard hens. As a resident of this community, I believe that allowing individuals to keep a small number of hens in their backyard has numerous benefits to our community. I look forward to an opportunity to come before city council to defend my position. I am also prepared to look into beginning a petition if the City deems this would be helpful in swaying the position of any City councillors who are opposed to backyard hens.

First, keeping hens can provide families with a source of fresh, healthy eggs. Hens are easy to care for and can be a fun and educational opportunity for children as well as provide mental and physical health benefits to their caregivers. In addition, backyard hens can help reduce food waste by consuming kitchen scraps that would otherwise be sent to local landfills. This would not only benefit the environment but also save the City money on waste management costs.

Second, allowing backyard hens can also have environmental benefits. Hens help control natural pests and can provide natural fertilizer for gardens. In addition, keeping hens locally can reduce the environmental impact of transporting from large-scale commercial operations.

Finally, allowing backyard hens can also support local agriculture and provide individuals with greater connection to where their food comes from.

I understand there may be concerns about noise and odors from backyard hens as well as potential health and safety impacts. However, with appropriate regulations in place, such as limiting the number of hens that can be kept, requiring periodic inspections, and mandating that hens be kept in secure and well-maintained enclosures, these issues can be easily addressed.

In recent years, many Canadian cities (Toronto, Victoria, Calgary, Vancouver) have allowed backyard hens and have seen positive results. In Victoria, British Columbia, the City has been allowing backyard hens since 2006 and has seen a reduction in organic waste and increased sustainability. Similarly, in Toronto, Ontario, the City has permitted backyard hens since 2013 and has seen a decrease in greenhouse gas emissions and an increase in local food production.

A study done in Belgium found that by giving 3 chickens to each of 2000 households the solid waste no longer going to the landfill was more than 100 tons per month. This study can be forwarded to you if you would be interested.

On a personal level. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The City issued me a bylaw infraction ticket. The chickens I had were incubated and hatched after many unsuccessful attempts. The whole process has proven to be both educational and emotional for myself, for my children and for my grandchildren. At the age of 71 years, I derived great joy from the whole process. The citizens of Lloydminster that noticed my chickens were interested and enjoyed the experience. Persons are permitted all types of exotic pets in the City of Lloydminster. Some of these are considered endangered and others are dangerous. Hens pose no such risk. I understand and accept the fact that I had a rooster in my batch of hatched eggs and that he was rather noisy early in the morning (although there is a neighbour on the lake that has a dog which barks incessantly at any passersby at all times of the day) and that this was probably a reason for any complaint bylaw enforcement would have received. I would completely support a hen only and in limited numbers bylaw. I am also certain this issue has been raised with the City previously and am prepared to begin a petition if this proves necessary.

The City could also impose a yearly fee to the hen owner which would result in a source of revenue for the City.

I believe that allowing residents to keep backyard hens would be a positive and progressive step for our community. I urge the Municipality to consider the benefits of backyard hens and to reconsider the current bylaw to permit this practice.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

Hamid Rahmanian