



Interoffice Memorandum

AGENDA ITEM

August 31, 2017

TO: Mayor Teresa Jacobs
-AND-
Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Jon V. Weiss, P.E., Director
Community, Environmental and Development
Services Department

**CONTACT PERSON: Alan Marshall, Assistant to the Director, Community, Environmental and Development Services Department
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SUBJECT: September 12, 2017 – Work Session
Backyard Chicken Hens

On September 12, 2017, staff will present a work session regarding allowing chicken hens in certain single-family residential areas of unincorporated Orange County.

A recent nationwide movement towards sustainability and healthier natural local foods has brought this topic to Central Florida communities. In the last few years, several neighboring cities and counties have approved the keeping of chicken hens for home egg consumption as an accessory use to mostly single-family households.

In 2013, the BCC reviewed a similar draft ordinance, which would have allowed up to three chickens on single-family and mobile home districts with appropriate standards. Ultimately, the BCC decided not to move forward with the ordinance.

In 2016, the BCC revived this topic and held a work session where staff provided an overview of the 2013 draft ordinance, a summary of how other local jurisdictions are allowing the use and any potential issues. The BCC directed staff to move forward and prepare the ordinance. Through subsequent public hearings with the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Animal Services Advisory Board, a number of questions and issues arose requiring additional staff research.

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Staff held several meetings with representatives from the Cooperative Extension Office and the Neighborhood Preservation and Revitalization, Zoning, Planning, Building and Code Enforcement Divisions to discuss and develop enhancements to the existing code language.

Staff is seeking Board direction regarding proposed changes to the draft ordinance presented on September 13, 2016.

ACTION REQUESTED: Board direction regarding establishment of criteria to allow single family residential districts the ability to raise chicken hens on detached single-family residential home sites. All Districts