



Good afternoon Angeline,

I thought before we talk you should have some back ground information, as well as the ordinance for you to review.

First, I have a couple of attachments for you to look at. These attachments include Chapter 90 of the Codified Ordinances, which was passed on December 14, 1989, that reads the following:

- **Section 90.06 Limitations of household pets**
 - *No person shall keep or maintain household pets, which shall be defined as dogs and cats, in excess of a total of four (4) animals per household. All household pets shall be licensed as required by the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Quincy.*
 - *It shall be permitted that if a female dog or cat which is one of the legal number of pets permitted under this ordinance shall give birth, the owner may continue to house the newborn animals for a period not to exceed two (2) months after their birth.*
- **Section 90.16 Livestock permit; requirements**
 - *No person shall keep any horses, cows, hogs, sheep, rabbits, poultry, goats or other farm animals or any wild animals, without first obtaining a permit from the Village Council. The council shall cause an inspection to be made of the premises to ascertain that suitable barns, stables, pens or enclosures are orderly. Persons to whom permits are issued shall be responsible for keeping the buildings or enclosures clean. No persons shall at any time maintain any such barns, stables, pens, or enclosures, nor any horses, cows, hogs, sheep, rabbits, poultry, goats or any farm animals or any wild animals in such condition as to cause the same to create offensive odor or be dangerous to the public health. No farm or wild animals shall be permitted to stray beyond the premises of the owner of the animals. WILD ANIMAL refers to animal, whether tame or not, that is not a farm or other domesticated animal. (Ord. 117, passed 12-14-1989)*

Secondly, I have attached Ordinance 206, which was an amendment to Chapter 90, which was passed to amend by addition of the following subchapter:

- **Section 90.07 Limitations of Household pets**
 - *No person shall keep or maintain household pets, which shall be defined as dogs and cats, in excess of a total of four (4) animals per household. All household pets shall be licensed as required by the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Quincy.*
 - *It shall be permitted that if a female dog or cat which is one of the legal number of pets permitted under this ordinance shall give birth, the owner may continue to house the newborn animals for a period not to exceed two (2) months after their birth.*

As you can see, the limit of the number of animals has been in place since 1989. The new ordinance which is also attached, reflects that of the previous ordinance. Language was added to include the general accepted agricultural practices to include the right to farm act.

Lastly, I would like to breakdown the timeline of events for working on this ordinance update. Section 7.08 was set aside for further work when the Zoning Ordinance was passed on November 23, 2019. Joint

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Planning Commission held a meeting on February 6, 2020 to start work on this section. There are 7 members to the board. Board members include:

- Village of Quincy
 - Jim Tubergan (Village of Quincy)
 - Nick Loomis (Village of Quincy)
 - Benjamin Gary (Village of Quincy)
 - Bill Bowerman (Quincy Township)
 - Jim Strock (Quincy Township)
 - Larry Ostrander (Quincy Township)
 - Scott Walls (Quincy Township)

At this meeting, the board had four members present which included B. Gary, J. Strock, B. Bowerman, and N. Loomis. The topic of conversation was not of the limit of animals, but was about allowing farm animals in the village limits, more specifically chickens. It was determined that any lot under one acre would be prohibited, any lot with one or more acres would be allowed to have four chickens and would also be allowed to have an additional chicken per quarter acre.

Now because of Covid-19, the Joint Planning Commission was unable to hold public hearings and it was pushed back until July 9, 2020. At that meeting the board moved to remove livestock, exotic/wild animals, kennels, commercial boarding / breeding kennels from what was to be presented to the Village of Quincy Council. Voting went as follows:

- 4 Ayes (VOQ Gary, Loomis & QTWP Strock, Ostrander)
- 1 Nay (QTWP Bowerman)
- 2 Absent (VOQ Tubergan & QTWP Walls)

At the Village Council workshop meeting on August 4, 2020, the council wanted to send back to the Joint Planning Commission before holding a public hearing to remove the acreage part regarding chickens. Joint Planning Commission then held another public hearing on August 27, 2020, at this meeting the board moved to add the right to farm exemption, voting went as follows:

- 7 Ayes (VOQ Tubergan, Loomis, Gary & QTWP Bowerman, Strock, Ostrander, Walls)
- 0 Nay
- 0 Absent

On October 20, 2020 the Village of Quincy Council passed Section 7.08 Keeping of Animals zoning ordinance. Voting went as follows:

- 6 Ayes (Hagaman, Loomis, Salyer, Bassage, Craig, Hargreave)
- 1 nay (Brand)
- 0 Absent

On November 17, 2020, the Village of Quincy Council made a decision on the illegal non-conforming residents that are in violation of the past and newly approved ordinance, the decision was to not allow them. Voting went as follows:

- 7 Ayes (Hargreave, Bassage, Brand, Hagaman, Craig, Loomis, Salyer)
- 0 Nays
- 0 Absent

With all of this being said, I placed a press release out on our social media page because there were statements being made that were not true. If the Village of Quincy receives complaints, then we are to investigate and enforce ordinances. Unfortunately, some are misconstruing statements, the Council gave a 90 rehoming grace period, they never stated that a resident would have to euthanize their animal or move. Residents can submit a request to the council to see about an extension passed the 90 days.

As in the past and will be going forward, ordinances as stated previously are on a complaint basis, we investigate and enforce. The Village is not going to go door to door to count fish or hamsters, but if there is a complaint that a neighbor has 100 pet mice, and are running rampant, then yes, the Village will have to do our due diligence.

I would like to remind residents, as some think surrounding areas do not have ordinances similar to ours, that:

- City of Coldwater has
 - Limit of 3 pets
 - No livestock
- Bronson has
 - Limit of 4 pets
 - No livestock
- City of Jonesville has
 - Limit of 4 pets
 - No Livestock

The Village Council adopts ordinances not specific against just one resident, rather they adopt ordinances to protect the health, safety and welfare of all the citizens of the Village of Quincy. Residents are always encouraged to attend workshop meetings (the first Tuesday of the month), council meetings (the third Tuesday of the month) and any other board meetings.