City of Rochester Hills
AGENDA SUMMARY
NON-FINANCIAL ITEMS

1000 Rochester Hills Dr.
Rochester Hills, MI 48309
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www.rochesterhills.org

Legislative File No: 2026-0428

TO: Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Sara Roediger, Planning and Economic Development Director, ext. 2573

DATE: October 30, 2026

SUBJECT: Staff and the Planning Commission recommend that City Council accepts for First Reading an ordinance to amend Section138-4.300, Section 138-4.430 Raising and Keeping of Animals, and Section 138-13.101 Definitions, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Rochester Hills, Oakland County, Michigan to modify the requirements and definitions for the keeping of animals, and to repeal conflicting or inconsistent ordinances, and prescribe a penalty for violations.

REQUEST:
Staff and the Planning Commission recommend that City Council accepts for First Reading an ordinance to amend Section138-4.300, Section 138-4.430 Raising and Keeping of Animals, and Section 138-13.101 Definitions, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Rochester Hills, Oakland County, Michigan to modify the requirements and definitions for the keeping of animals, and to repeal conflicting or inconsistent ordinances, and prescribe a penalty for violations.

BACKGROUND:
Over the course of the last several months, the keeping of chickens has once again been a subject of conversation due to several instances where the keeping of chickens on larger properties has come to light. The current conversation pertains more to the number of chickens that can be kept on a larger property rather than the overall ability to keep of chickens on smaller properties. In addition, the question has been raised whether the keeping of other animals (livestock) should also be considered at the same time as chickens. The draft now includes standards for the keeping of chickens, quail along with small and large livestock, largely based on lot size. The draft also includes the potential keeping of roosters on larger lots subject to conditional use approval.

The Planning Commission discussed the initial draft of the proposed amendment at their September 15, 2026 meeting. After that meeting, the Planning Commission, as a part of a posted meeting, visited one of the residences where chickens and other animals were being kept, to learn more about the subject matter and how the ordinances may apply. The Planning Commission's next regular meeting was their October 20, 2026 meeting. The required public hearing was also held on October 20, 2026. At the October 20, 2026 meeting, the Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval to the City Council. There were a variety of public comments regarding the Ordinance. The comments were all supportive of the proposed Ordinance draft and the consideration the City had given to the subject matter. The Planning Commission and staff did note several modifications to the Ordinance draft relative to certifications and adding additional criteria for conditional use review.

RECOMMENDATION:
Staff and the Planning Commission recommend that City Council accepts for First Reading an ordinance to amend Section138-4.300, Section 138-4.430 Raising and Keeping of Animals, and Section 138-13.101 Definitions, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Rochester Hills, Oakland County, Michigan to modify the requirements and definitions for the keeping of animals, and to repeal conflicting or inconsistent ordinances, and prescribe a penalty for violations.

APPROVALS:	SIGNATURE	DATE
Department Review		
Department Director		
Mayor		
Deputy Clerk		

Contract Reviewed by City Attorney ☒ Yes ☐ N/A