

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-5
(Series 2025-2026)

ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 90.044 FOWL OF THE HAMILTON CITY CODE

WHEREAS, Hamilton City Code Section 90.044 FOWL sets forth the number of Fowl residents can keep within the City limits, and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Hamilton, Illinois, has taken into account the current Code Section concerning Fowl in the redraft by the Hamilton City Council Health and Safety Committee, and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Hamilton, Illinois, has determined it is in the best interest of the residents of the City and the City at Section 90.044 FOWL of the Hamilton City Code be amended as set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Hamilton, Hancock County, Illinois, as follows:

Section 1. The Hamilton City Code Section 90.044 FOWL is hereby amended to read as follows:

§90.044 FOWL

- (A) Residents may keep no more than ten (10) total Fowl per household, including chickens, ducks, geese, guineas, pigeons, turkeys, or other poultry, herein referred to collectively as Fowl. No exceptions will be granted based on property size.
- (B) The keeping of roosters is strictly prohibited within the city limits.
- (C) Fowl coops must be located at least 25 feet from the neighboring homes. Coops must also be at least 10 feet from the property lines. All Fowl coops must be a minimum of four square feet per Fowl in size, must not exceed ten square feet per Fowl in size, and must not exceed six feet in total height. Attached, fenced-in Fowl runs must not exceed 20 square feet per Fowl, and fencing must not exceed six feet in total height. Fowl runs may be enclosed with wood, chain link fence, and/or woven wire materials and may allow Fowl to have contact with the ground. Fowl feed must be kept in metal predator-proof containers.
- (D) Coops and runs must be kept in a sanitary condition and free of accumulated waste to prevent odors and pests. Violations may result in citations or revocation of permits. Backyard Fowl must be managed in compliance with state and federal health regulations to minimize risks of disease transmission.
- (E) This Ordinance will be enforced by Animal Control and/or the Police Department.
- (F) Persistent noise disturbances caused by Fowl may be treated as a public nuisance and are subject to enforcement under the City's Noise Ordinance.
- (G) Residents must obtain an annual Fowl permit issued by the City. A fee of \$2 per Fowl applies and must be renewed annually by May 1. Permits may be revoked for repeated violations. The City has the right to refuse or revoke the permit at any time during the year.
- (H) First Violation: Written warning
Second Violation: \$100 fine

Third Violation: \$200 fine

Subsequent Violations: up to \$500 per offense

Each day a violation continues may be treated as a separate offense.

(I) Existing Fowl owners who currently exceed the ten Fowl limit will have until January 1, 2026 to comply with the new Ordinance. No fines or penalties will be issued before this date, provide the owner registers existing Fowl with the City within 90 days of the Ordinance's adoption.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force and effect upon its passage and approval as provided by law.

PASSED and ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Hamilton, Hancock County, Illinois, this 15th day of September, 2025.

APPROVED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk



(CORPORATE SEAL)

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 1

Passed:

5-0

Approved:

September 15, 2025

Published:

September 15, 2025