

# EMMONS CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

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Date: May 12, 2025

Time: 7:00 PM

Purpose: To review and discuss the adoption of proposed Ordinance #82 for allowing Backyard Chickens/Quail within the city limits

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Bosma at 7:00 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE:** Mayor: Dave Bosma; Council Members: Jerome Wuerflein, Eleanor Bauman, Paul Lair, Neal Honsey; City Clerk, Lorry Zasada

Residents: Melissa Oyer, Carl Paulson, Bonnie Siemers, Keith Sumner, Linda Peterson, Imogene Opdahl, Jessie Wright, Gary Sorbo, Kathy Sheehan, Eric Miller

## **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

Mayor Bosma read the Ordinance out loud. Neal Honsey presented a list with 20 names against having chickens in town, with a few names for allowing chickens in town.

Melissa Oyer, Jessie Wright, Gary Sorbo and Kathy Sheehan expressed that chickens in town would not be a bother to the neighbors as there have been chickens in town for several years without an Ordinance and without any complaints. Other attendees were concerned about the smell and attracting vermin. However, the Ordinance states that coops must be kept clean and enclosed or the permit will be revoked. Residents pointed out that most surrounding communities including Alden, Albert Lea and Lake Mills all allow chickens.

Concerns were raised regarding the enforcement of the Ordinance and the Mayor stated he would be the front line of enforcement in town.

Council requested Ordinance #82 be updated with these additional conditions:

1. Permit applicants must request permission from neighbors with adjoining properties
2. Coops cannot sit directly on the ground, but must be raised up 4-6 inches.

These suggestions will be added to the updated Ordinance and will be reviewed at the next Public Hearing on Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Meeting Adjourned 7:30 p.m. motion by Wuerflein, seconded by Honsey. Carried 4/0

Submitted By:

Lorry Zasada  
Clerk/Treasurer