

## ORDINANCE NO. 25-18

### AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 10-102 OF THE SPRING HILL MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING THE KEEPING OF BACKYARD HENS

**WHEREAS**, the City of Spring has identified itself for decades as “a blend of commerce, history, and country living”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Spring Hill previously adopted Resolution 14-62 establishing a permitting process and related conditions for the keeping of backyard hens; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 10-102 of the Spring Hill Municipal Code regulates the keeping of certain animals within the city and authorizes permitting under certain public health conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen desires to update the conditions under which backyard hens may be kept, based on evolving residential development patterns and administrative needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the revised language provides proportional lot-based allowances for backyard hens to promote country living while continuing to safeguard public health and neighborhood standards;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF SPRING HILL, TENNESSEE, as follows:**

#### **Amendments to Title 10, Animal Control**

**§ 10-102** Spring Hill Code of Ordinances currently says, “*No person shall keep any animal or fowl enumerated in the preceding section within 1,000 feet of any residence, place of business or public street, without a permit from the Health Officer. The Health Officer shall issue a permit only when, in his or her sound judgement, the keeping of such an animal in a yard or building under the circumstances as set forth in the application for the permit will not injuriously affect public health.*”

Spring Hill Municipal Code § 10-102 is hereby amended as follows regarding the keeping of hens:

**§ 10-102** “*The number of hens permitted shall be limited to **one (1) hen per 1,500 square feet of lot area**, not to exceed the limit established by applicable zoning regulations and permitted by the Development Services Director or designee. Fractional calculations shall round down to the nearest whole number. The Development Services Director or designee shall issue a permit only when, in their sound judgment, the keeping of such an animal in a yard or building under the circumstances set forth in the application will not injuriously affect public health.*”

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF SPRING HILL, TENNESSEE, as follows:**

Authority to administer and issue Backyard Hen Permits shall reside with the Development Services Director or designee, who shall verify compliance with this section and supporting regulations.

§ 10-107 Spring Hill Code of Ordinances currently says, “Any animal or fowl running at large or otherwise being kept in violation of this chapter may be seized by Health Officer, or by any police officer and confined . . .”

§ 10-107 Spring Hill Municipal Code § 10-102 is hereby amended as follows:

“Any animal or fowl running at large or otherwise being kept in violation of this chapter may be seized by Health Officer, *Development Services Director or designee*, or by any police officer and confined . . .”

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF SPRING HILL, TENNESSEE, as follows:**

§ 10-108 Spring Hill Code of Ordinances currently says, “For the purpose of making inspections to ensure compliance with the provisions of this title, the Health Officer or his or her authorized representative shall be authorized to enter . . .”

§ 10-108 Spring Hill Municipal Code § 10-102 is hereby amended as follows:

“For the purpose of making inspections to ensure compliance with the provisions of this title, the Health Officer or his or her authorized representative or the *Development Services Director or designee* shall be authorized to enter . . .”

This ordinance shall take effect immediately following its passage on second reading, the public welfare requiring it. All resolutions, ordinances, or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

**Passed and adopted on July 21<sup>st</sup> 2025.**

Passed on First Reading: July 7, 2025

Passed on Second Reading: July 21, 2025

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Matt Fitterer, Mayor

ATTEST:

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April Goad, City Recorder

LEGAL FORM APPROVED:

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Patrick Carter, City Attorney