



March 16, 2026

Resolution No. 36, 2026

Council Member Parker presented the following Resolution and moved its adoption.

ADVERTISE FOR PUBLIC HEARING TO AMEND CHAPTER 98,
TO ADD ARTICLE III – KEEPING OF CHICKENS

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Johnstown has proposed an ordinance amending Chapter 98 – Animals of the Code of the City of Johnstown to add Article III – Keeping of Chickens, subject to certain regulations, within the City of Johnstown; and

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing is required so all interested parties may be heard.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the City Clerk is hereby authorized to prepare a Notice of Public Hearing and to publish same in the Leader-Herald, the official newspaper of the City of Johnstown, which Public Hearing is set for Monday, April 20, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Common Council Chambers, City Hall, Johnstown, New York, at which anyone interested or affected may be heard.

Seconded by Council Member: Hayner

I, the undersigned, attest that the foregoing Resolution was adopted and passed by the Common Council of the City of Johnstown, on this date by the following:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ward 1 – Council Member Hayner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ward 2 – Council Member McCallum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ward 3 – Council Member Parker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ward 4 – Council Member Spritzer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Council Member-at-Large Jeffers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RESULT	5			
	<i>Passed – Failed – Tabled</i>			

Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk

Amy Praught, Mayor

Chapter 98 – Animals
Article III – Keeping of Chickens

§ 98-18 Definitions.

For the purposes of this article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

CHICKEN. A domesticated fowl of the species *Gallus gallus domesticus*.

HEN. A female chicken.

ROOSTER. A male chicken.

CHICKEN COOP. A fully enclosed structure designed to provide shelter for chickens.

CHICKEN RUN. A fenced or enclosed outdoor area attached to or associated with a chicken coop which allows chickens access to the outdoors while remaining confined.

§ 98-19 Keeping of hens permitted.

- A. The keeping of hen chickens only shall be permitted as an accessory use to a single-family residence within the City of Johnstown, subject to the requirements of this article.
- B. Chickens shall be kept for personal household use only and not for commercial agricultural purposes.
- C. Chickens shall be properly housed and maintained in accordance with the provisions of this article.

§ 98-20 Roosters prohibited.

The keeping of roosters is prohibited within the City of Johnstown.

§ 98-21 Number of chickens permitted.

- A. No more than six (6) hens may be kept on any residential property.
- B. Chickens shall not be permitted on properties containing multi-family dwellings, unless otherwise authorized by the Common Council.

§ 98-22 Location and setbacks.

- A. Chicken coops and runs shall be located in the rear yard only.
- B. Chicken coops and runs shall not be located:
 - 1. Within five (5) feet of any property line; or
 - 2. Within twenty-five (25) feet of any dwelling on an adjacent property.
- C. Chicken coops shall comply with all applicable zoning, building, and property maintenance regulations of the City.

§ 98-23 Enclosure requirements.

- A. Chickens shall be kept within a secure coop and enclosed run at all times.
- B. Chickens shall not be permitted to roam freely off the property.
- C. Coops and runs shall be constructed and maintained so as to:
 - 1. Protect chickens from predators;
 - 2. Provide adequate ventilation and shelter; and
 - 3. Prevent escape of chickens.

§ 98-24 Sanitation and maintenance.

- A. Chicken coops, runs, and surrounding areas shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.
- B. Feed shall be stored in rodent-proof containers.
- C. Manure and waste shall be managed so as to prevent offensive odors, pest infestation, or unsanitary conditions.

§ 98-25 Registration and inspection required.

- A. No person shall keep chickens within the City of Johnstown without first registering with and obtaining a permit from the City Code Enforcement Office.
- B. The registration application shall include:
 - 1. The name and address of the property owner;
 - 2. If the property is not owner-occupied, written consent from the property owner authorizing the keeping of chickens on the property.
 - 3. The address of the property where the chickens will be kept;
 - 4. The number of hens to be kept; and
 - 5. The location of the chicken coop and run on the property.
- C. The Code Enforcement Office may require a site sketch or plan showing the proposed location of the chicken coop and run in relation to property lines and adjacent dwellings.
- D. A permit fee shall be established by resolution of the Common Council and shall be paid at the time of registration.
- E. The Code Enforcement Officer or their designee shall have the authority to inspect the property, chicken coop and run at reasonable times to ensure compliance with the provisions of this article.

- F. The permit issued pursuant to this section may be revoked by the Code Enforcement Officer if the permit holder is found to be in violation of any provision of this article and fails to correct such violation within the time period specified in a written notice of violation.
- G. Upon revocation of a permit, the permit holder shall remove all chickens from the property within a reasonable period of time, as determined by the Code Enforcement Officer.
- H. Permits issued pursuant to this section shall not be transferable and shall expire upon any change in ownership of the property where the chickens are kept.

§ 98-26 Slaughtering prohibited.

The slaughtering of chickens within the City of Johnstown is prohibited.

§ 98-27 Nuisances prohibited.

The keeping of chickens in a manner that results in excessive noise, odor, pest infestation, or other nuisance conditions shall be prohibited.

§ 98-28 Enforcement and penalties.

Any person who violates the provisions of this article shall be subject to enforcement and penalties as provided in the Code of the City of Johnstown and applicable law.