

June 2, 2016

City of Cuyuna

Public Hearing: Request to modify the city ordinances to allow raising chickens and bees.

The public hearing to consider modify the city ordinances to allow raising chickens and bees was held by the Cuyuna City Council at 6:40 pm in City Hall. Present were Mayor Brix and council members Z. Brix, Eisen, Stockard, and Zontelli. Mayor Brix led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jill Hendrickson, resident of Oak Lane, was present to voice her objection to changing the ordinance and permitting chickens and bees. She attended the last public meeting in 2013 and the majority of the people then objected to changing the ordinance to allow raising chickens. She stated the voice of the people then was not to allow chickens in Cuyuna.

Terry Ridlen, resident of Cuyuna, read the write up in the paper that seemed to indicate the council had approved some version of raising chickens. While, in fact, the council had not done so, he went ahead and bought chickens and material to build a chicken coop. He would like the council to pass an ordinance, modeled on the Brainerd ordinance, to allow raising chickens in Cuyuna.

Resident along Cottontail Drive shared a neighbor has chickens and a rooster and they are noisy.

Tom Jenkins, resident of Cuyuna, stated he supports the raising of bees to help pollinate fruit trees. He has apple trees and for two years no apples, which he claims is because of the lack of bees.

Michelle Berndsky, Crow Wing County 4H Poultry Club, spoke of the positive benefits to raising chickens by individuals. Provide food and are not as noisy as dogs. She was involved with Brainerd's ordinance and there are few if any complaints.

Isiah Berndsky said the ordinance could require permission from neighbors. People that raise chickens take care of them.

Tom Jenkins expressed concern with odor, rats, mice, etc if the area is not cleaned.

Aaron Hautala, Agate Shores Rd Cuyuna, stated he believes there is a movement of younger people that desire to raise their own food for their family. They enjoy the food and working the land for the food. He shared that chickens can be noisy at times, when laying eggs Council could model the number of chickens after Brainerd's ordinance and also prohibit roosters.

Aaron Hautala and Michelle Berndsky felt 4 chickens would be sufficient for a family.

Council discussed with the public raising bees. Mayor Brix asked if all honey bees sting. Councilmember Eisen and members of the audience stated they do sting. Isiah Berndsky shared that he has experience with bites and has not been bitten when opening the hives.

Council member Eisen shared that if the hives are not cleaned, the bees leave and go elsewhere and could wind up nesting in the neighbor's yard.

Council member Zontelli felt honey bees are usually not aggressive.

Michelle Berndsky shared that raising bees is an investment with significant costs so people will usually take care of their hives very well.

- **Motion by Zontelli to adjourn the public hearing. Second by Eisen. Motion carried unanimously.**

William F Bedard
Clerk

Lloyd Brix
Mayor.

Approved