

VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT
KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN

ORDINANCE 250

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 62 (ZONING) TO ADD SECTION 62-78(B) (1-8), SECTION 62-103(A) AND SECTION 62-123(D) OF THE SCHOOLCRAFT VILLAGE CODE OF ORDINANCES; TO PERMIT AND PROVIDE STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR KEEPING CHICKENS AS AN ACCESSORY USE IN THE R-A, R-1 AND R-2 ZONING (SINGLE FAMILY HOMES ONLY) DISTRICTS; TO REPEAL ALL OTHER ORDINANCES OR PARTS THEREIN INCONSISTENT OR CONTRARY TO THIS ORDINANCE; AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE FOR THIS ORDINANCE.

THE VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT ORDAINS:

ARTICLE I

Chapter 62 (Zoning), Section 62-78, is hereby amended to add a new Section 62-78(b) (1-8) and shall read as follows:

Sec. 62-78(b). Keeping of Chickens (Hens).

The purpose of this section is to provide standards and requirements for the keeping of chickens. Roosters are not permitted. It is intended to enable residents to keep up to eight chickens on a non-commercial basis while limiting and mitigating any potential adverse impacts on surrounding properties and neighborhood. The keeping of up to eight chickens that are utilized exclusively by the person(s) occupying a one-family dwelling as a locally grown food source for the consumption of eggs or meat, is permitted as accessory to the residential use only if all of the following are satisfied:

1. Chickens shall be kept only in the rear yard secured within a coop and attached pen during non-daylight hours. During daylight hours, chickens may be allowed to roam outside of the coop and pen, if supervised, and only within an area completely enclosed by a fence with a minimum height of four feet.

2. The coop and pen shall be designed to provide safe and healthy living conditions for chickens while minimizing adverse impacts on other residents and the neighborhood. The coop and pen shall meet the following requirements:
 - a. The coop and pen shall be set back a minimum of 10 feet from all property lines of adjacent property and be located a minimum of 30 feet from the nearest wall of any dwelling on an adjacent property. For the purposes of this section, a dwelling includes an attached garage but does not include an unattached garage. Public streets and public easements shall not be considered adjacent property lines for purposes of this section.
 - b. The coop and pen shall be a maximum of eight feet in height and shall not exceed a total of 80 square feet.
 - c. The use of corrugated metal/fiberglass, sheet metal, plastic tarps, scrap lumber or similar materials is prohibited. The coop must be constructed using exterior rated materials used for homes and accessory structures, using accepted construction practices. A pen must be constructed using exterior rated materials with securely fastened fencing or wire mesh. A shed may be used as a coop.
 - d. The coop and pen may be movable only if the dimensional/setback restrictions contained in this section are satisfied.
3. All feed and other items associated with the keeping of chickens that are likely to attract or to become infested with or infected by rats, mice or other rodents shall be protected so as to prevent rats, mice or other rodents from gaining access or coming into contact with them.
4. The outdoor slaughter of chickens is prohibited.

5. The accessory use shall comply with all provisions of the Schoolcraft Village Code of Ordinances pertaining to noise, odors, dust, fumes, sanitation and health or other comparable nuisances to ensure the public health, safety and welfare.
6. No person shall keep chickens without first securing a permit from the Village on a form provided and paying a permit fee as prescribed by the Schoolcraft Village Council by Resolution. The permit shall be issued by the Village Manager or his/her designee. Such permit may be revoked by the Village Manager or his/her designee if it is determined that any provision of this section has been violated.
7. Establishment of an accessory use and/or accessory building under this section shall not confer a vested right in the provisions contained herein or a right to continue such use. Further, a permit granted under this section is personal to the applicant occupying the dwelling and is not transferable.
8. No permit shall be issued by the Village Manager or his/her designee without the written authorization from an owner of the property (if different from the applicant) consenting to the application on a form provided. Once authorization is obtained, it shall continue for as long as the applicant is renting the property.

ARTICLE II

Chapter 62 (Zoning), Section 62-103(g), is hereby added and shall read as follows:

Sec 62-103(g). Chickens as a Special Use subject to Section 62-78(b)(1-8).

ARTICLE III

Chapter 62 (Zoning), Section 62-123(d), is hereby added and shall read as follows:

Sec. 62-123(d). Chickens as a Special Use for single family homes, only, subject to Section 62-78(b)(1-8).

ARTICLE IV

Any violation of this Ordinance shall constitute a municipal civil infraction. Each day a violation of this Ordinance occurs shall constitute a separate offense.

ARTICLE V

All Ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed and shall be of no further force and effect.

ARTICLE VI

Any and all sections, terms, provisions and/or clauses herein shall be deemed independent and severable. Should any court of competent jurisdiction hold any section, term, provision or clause void and/or invalid, all remaining sections, terms, provisions and/or clauses not held void and/or invalid shall continue in force and effect.

ARTICLE VII

This Ordinance shall take force and effect on _____, 2026.

CERTIFICATE

I, Theresa O'Leary, Village of Schoolcraft Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing Village of Schoolcraft Ordinance Number _____ was adopted by the Village Council at a regular meeting held on _____, 2026, and that the following is a record of the vote of the members of said Village Council on said Ordinance:

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSTENTIONS: _____

ABSENT: _____

Theresa O'Leary, Clerk