

MINUTES
March 8, 2011
CITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
City of Batavia

Please **NOTE:** These minutes are not a word-for-word transcription of the statements made at the meeting, nor intended to be a comprehensive review of all discussions. They are intended to make an official record of the actions taken by the Committee/City Council, and to include some description of discussion points as understood by the minute-taker. They may not reference some of the individual attendee's comments, nor the complete comments if referenced.

Chair Volk called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Chair Volk; Vice-Chair Liva; Ald. Dietz and Jungels

Members Absent: Ald. O'Brien, and Frydendall

Also Present: Commissioners Kosky and Joseph; Bill McGrath, City Administrator (arrived at 8:55pm); Mayor Schielke (arrived at 8:45pm); Chief Schira, Batavia Police Department; Chief Deicke, Batavia Fire Department; Jeff Albertson, Building Commissioner; Aldermen O'Brien (arrived at 8:45pm), Tenuta (arrived at 8:40pm) and Frydendall (arrived at 8:45pm), Atac, Chanzit, and Wolff.

Chair Volk noted that the Streetscape Committee meeting was being held at the same time as this evening's meeting in which Aldermen O'Brien, Tenuta and Frydendall are required to attend.

2. Approve Minutes for February 3, 2011

Motion: To approve the minutes for February 3, 2011

Maker: Liva

Second: Jungels

Voice Vote: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent
Motion carried.

3. Items Removed/Added/Changed

There were no items to be removed, added or changed.

4. Resolution 11-15-R: Expanding Authority for the Fire & Police Commission (Police Chief Gary Schira 02/25/11 Fire Chief Randy Deicke 3/2/11)

Police Chief Schira stated that he is asking the City Services Committee (CSC) to recommend to City Council (CC) extending Home Rule Authority to the Fire and Police Commission. Chief explained the cost savings of extending Home Rule Authority. There will be a savings of \$6,500 within the Police Department budget and \$3,000 for the Fire Department budget. Chief noted that they intend to implement certification testing in 2012.

Fire Chief Deicke reported that there will be an additional certification requirement for the 2011 testing cycle. The applicants will have to be Firefighter II certified. Currently firefighters are only required to be paramedic certified. Chief explained that adding the additional certification requirement will save the city money in the future by not having to send anyone to the academy for this certification.

The committee discussed the Firefighter II certification. Fire Chief Deicke was requested to supply numbers on how many firefighters have both certifications prior to the CC meeting. After discussion, a motion was made.

Motion: To recommend to City Council approval of Resolution 11-15-R: Expanding home rule authority for the Fire and Police Commission to extend the current firefighter eligibility list
Maker: Liva
Second: Jungels
Voice Vote: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent
Motion carried.
CONSENT AGENDA

5. Resolution 11-16-R: Budget Amendment for the City of Batavia Police Department Contractual Services Account (D. Eul 03/01/11)

Police Chief Schira explained that staff does not have the authority to amend the budget without CC approval. He is requesting a line item (Account #10-31-6355) be increased in the amount of \$43,000. This amendment is necessary due to an increase in the cost of services for TriCom. This is a reflection of a redistribution of calls due to the changes in the Fire Protection District, resulting in a higher percentage of overall services consumed by the Batavia Police and Fire Departments. It should also be noted that the entire costs for TriCom services for both the Batavia Police and Fire Departments are included in the Police Department's budget. The committee discussed the current budget and the effect on next year's budget. After discussion, a motion was made.

Motion: To recommend to City Council approval of Resolution 11-16-R: Budget amendment for the City of Batavia Police Department contractual services account not to exceed \$43,000 for TriCom through the remainder of this calendar year
Maker: Liva
Second: Jungels
Voice Vote: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent
Motion carried.

Chair Volk requested that the total budgeted amount for TriCom for this current year be sent to him for his review. Dietz requested that the situation with TriCom be explained further for the benefit of the council and for the city's residents at the upcoming CC meeting. Volk stated that he will conference with the police and fire chiefs prior to the next CC meeting.

6. Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Request for Proposal (Fire Chief Randy Diecke 3/2/11)

Fire Chief Diecke stated that RFP's for the maintenance on the trucks and maintenance on the passenger vehicles have been sent out. Chief reported that have received three proposals to each of the RFP's. For the truck maintenance, the department is recommending Global Emergency Services. Chief explained that the Fire Department has been using their services for several years for warranty work and work we have needed to contract out. The department has been satisfied with their response to us and the quality of work. For the passenger vehicle maintenance, the department is recommending Emergency Vehicle Services. Chief explained that the Emergency Vehicle Services recommends a thorough yearly inspection and maintenance by their company and three quarterly oil changes and inspections at a local shop. Using Emergency Vehicle Services would not only provide a thorough yearly inspection, but provide us with access to a mechanic who is familiar with the electronics associated with the radios, lights, sirens and computers. The three other quarterly inspections will be done locally.

Motion: To recommend to City Council approval to enter into contracts with Global Emergency Services and Emergency Vehicle Services for vehicle maintenance and repair

Maker: Liva

Second: Jungels

Voice Vote: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent

Motion carried

CONSENT AGENDA

7. Backyard Chickens, Ordinance 11-04: Public Comment and Direction to Staff (Jerry Swanson 3/4/11)

Volk explained to the meeting attendees that tonight's meeting is not a public hearing. However, the committee will allow public comment. The CSC will discuss this topic further at the March 30, 2010 meeting. Volk noted that this topic will be thoroughly discussed and there is no rush for a final decision on the matter. No action will be made at tonight's meeting. Albertson read the draft ordinance standards to the meeting attendees. He explained that staff is looking for direction on the draft ordinance. Volk opened the floor for public comment.

The names and addresses listed below may be spelled incorrectly. Since this was not a public hearing, there was no registration sheet allowing the person testifying to print their name and address for the record.

Al Phillips, 1125 Town Avenue, spoke against having chicken coops in a residential area. Phillips shared that he lived on a farm for four (4) years that had chickens. He stated that chickens have an odor, attract flies, and make constant clucking sounds. Phillips questioned if the city has the resources to inspect chicken coops and enforce the ordinance for backyard hens. He wondered if there would be building codes for the coops and inspections by health inspectors to look at the coops. He questioned how Batavia will enforce the noise ordinance and make sure that the property is well maintained. He inquired if Batavia is agriculturally zoned. Phillips listed several problems in which he feels would arise if backyard hens are approved in Batavia. The issues include:

1. Chickens lay eggs for up to and about three (3) years. Sometimes less during the summer and more during the winter. When the chickens no longer produce eggs, what will everyone end up doing with their chickens? You cannot just kill them.
2. What are you supposed to do if one of your chickens dies? Bury it in the backyard? Throw it in a garbage can? If you do that, it will attract predators to the area.
3. Where do your chickens come from? A lot of hatcheries are like puppy mills. Also, there is a chance that you can get a rooster along with your chickens when you buy them and they are hard to tell apart. Again, what will you do with it if you end up with one? Eat it? Kill it? There is no rescue a rooster places to take it to.
4. Area vets will not treat chickens. If your chicken gets sick, what will you do?
5. What does slaughter for humane reasons mean in the ordinance?
6. Chickens spread diseases like salmonella, coccidiosis and merkers. Coccidiosis is zoonotic, that means it can be transmitted to humans. It has the ability to cause bloody diarrhea in chickens.
7. Chicken feces needs to be cleaned up on a daily basis.
8. Chicken coops will depress our property value and strain our local government resources.
9. Chicken manure smells like ammonia.
10. Chickens have lice and mites.
11. If there are chickens in the area then there will also be flies due to the chicken's feces.
12. If the chicken feed is not properly stored then you will also get cockroaches.
13. Infestation is near impossible to get rid of once you have it.
14. Chicken coops are eye-sores. They are often made poorly with disregarded items such as old doors, plywood, and other plastic materials.
15. There are more predators in our area than ever before. The list includes foxes, red hawks, feral cats, possums, and skunks.

Vickie Williams, 904 Mark Twain Trail, asked Phillips how many chickens he had on the farm he lived on. Phillips responded that there were twelve (12) chickens. Williams voiced her support of backyard hens for the record. She added that the scale and scope of the person's experience with backyard chickens has a lot to do with the negative connotations, such as odor. Williams feels that the ordinance has the proper amount of chickens to maintain and manage. She noted that the research city staff has put into creating this ordinance was very thorough. Williams shared with the meeting attendees the dismal conditions in which factory chickens are forced to endure. From a humane and sustainable perspective, allowing backyard chickens is a good thing.

Bill Story, 787 Pottawamie Trail, stated that he has no intention to have chickens in his backyard. However, he has a rural background and does not see any good reasons to prohibit backyard hens. Story stated that Phillips had made some good points. He feels that the issue of finding a vet that will work on sick chickens is very important. Story noted that chickens can act like pets and bond with their owners. He continued that bugs should not be an issue because chickens like to eat bugs in the yard. He added that he has not found odor to be an issue with chicken coops he has experienced. Story concluded that he does not see any difference between owning a chicken and parrot as a pet.

Bob Hermon, 210 Evergreen Drive, shared his experience with his children's 4H poultry project. He and his wife continue to have the chickens as a hobby. Hermon stated that egg laying really

depends on the breed and his chickens start laying eggs at six (6) months of age. They lay five (5) to six (6) eggs per week. At about eighteen (18) months of age chickens go through a molting period and do not lay eggs for a month or so. Chickens also go through rooting period for about a month. Each year egg production goes down 30% and chickens can live up to ten (10) years. When his chickens pass away they get buried in the backyard. Hermon stated that there are ways to differentiate male and female roosters and he does not feel receiving an accidental rooster will be a problem. He noted that the chicken feces make great fertilizer for the garden. Hermon stated that the chicken coop he owns does not have an odor issue and his neighbors enjoy seeing the hens in his backyard.

Debbie Damen, 428 Spring Street, agrees with Phillip's comments. Damen stated that we do not need backyard hens within Batavia. There is a reason why the ordinance banning backyard hens was created. Damen assessed that most neighbors are in agreement with not wanting backyard hens. With access to farmers markets, organic chicken eggs and poultry she does not see the need to allow backyard hens.

Jim Kirkoff, 738 Bernedette Lane, supports the allowance of backyard hens. He explained the reasoning why backyard hens are important. He stated that the quality of fresh eggs are superior to anything store bought. Fresh eggs are not always sold or in stock at farmers markets or at Heritage Prairie Market. This is an opportunity for our community to control their food source. Kirkoff explained that chicken feces and waste can be used as compost and then introduced into the garden. In regards to property value (per city-data.com), the average home prices in communities that allow chickens have not declined in value and are in many cases higher than the home prices in Batavia. Kirkoff concluded that there is not a compelling reason to prevent the allowance of backyard hens.

Jeff Glaser, 38W347 Glenwood Drive, stated that he has had chickens as pets for over twenty (20) years. Blazer asked the committee to consider some modifications to the ordinance. He stated that the setback of 20ft is large and does not understand why it cannot be the same as any other structures in the backyard. He asserted that there should not be a ban on roosters. Their noise level is no louder than a dog, snow blower or a lawnmower. Blazer stated that the ordinance should specify the required square footage per hen and suggested four (4) square feet per bird. He noted that his chickens are cared for by a vet in Elburn Illinois. Blazer reported that egg production for chickens is six to eight (6-8) years and getting rid of birds when done taste really good. Chicken waste is a highly sought after organic fertilizer and there are several people who get it from him. He has a large chicken tractor that he keeps the birds in so they can have fresh grass at all times. Blazer concluded that he has no fly problems, odor problems, no bugs of any kind, and no problems with owning his chickens. He offered to have people come out to see his coop if they have any questions regarding backyard hens.

Carol Meeker, 312 Spring Street, supports the allowance of backyard hens. Meeker will not have hens herself because she lives on a corner property without the required setback. However, she knows two people with backyard chickens and roosters and they have had no problems with their neighbors. Meeker asserted that backyard hens would not be more of a hindrance than a dog living next door. Meeker suggested that city staff check on the coop's appearance and stated that

if there is a complaint that it would be a zoning issue. She concluded that we have to be neighborly and enjoy what nature has for us.

Claire Zinser, 801 Wind Energy Pass, junior at Batavia High School and ten (10) year resident of Batavia addressed the committee. She explained that she wanted to provide the CSC a teenage point-of-view on backyard hens. Since she was thirteen, she has worked at the Batavia farmers market on Saturday mornings. Two summers ago, she began working at a farm which has helped her develop a deeper connection with food. She stated that knowing where your food comes from does not just provide a sense of security but also creates an emotional connection. Zinser explained that nothing compares to food that you have grown and harvested with your own hands. Due to the current problems our planet is facing, Zinser assessed that it is important to take actions for self-sustainability today so that we can create a more hopeful tomorrow. She stated that Batavia could make this particular step and improve its community with the self-sustaining option of allowing backyard hens. She reported that many of her peers have a great interest in learning how to care for backyard hens. She hopes that at the conclusion of this meeting the potential for raising backyard hens will be viewed as a way to better our community, to improve our relationship with food, to make the important impression of sustainability on the next generation, and to cooperate with one another. Zinser concluded that the space we live in is a shared space and she would like to see backyard hens as a welcome addition.

Robert Swanson, 1600 Richter Drive, grew up on a farm with three-hundred (300) chickens. He agrees with the ammonia smell and some of the disease problems associated with chickens. He stated that chickens were banned in 1991. Swanson assessed that if we undo the ban we are bringing more of a rural atmosphere to our city. Our city is beautiful and had many additions that have improved the property values of our city. He hopes to keep the present condition of our great city. Swanson stated that he is concerned with backyard hens attracting predators. He does not know where the city would draw the line with allowing livestock. He concluded that he hopes that the ban continues knowing that there are a lot of rural areas available to raise livestock if they choose to do so.

Mary Avericle, 2S184 Chillon Drive, resided in Batavia since 1960. She supports the allowance of backyard hens and she has experience raising chickens. She feels that the owners should be allowed to kill and eat their chickens. She explained how you can tell a chicken is ill from the color of its feathers on the cone. She would like Batavia to give their residents the freedom to raise backyard hens. She noted that raising hens is for the love of the work since there is not a lot of money to be saved in this venture. She stated that there is a passion involved in raising backyard hens, it is alive and there is energy in it. Avericle added that in our harsh winters the chickens need to be kept warm. Four (4) chickens would have a hard time keeping warm and suggested that people consider owning eight (8) chickens.

Eric Cline, 1122 Morton Street, owns chickens and supports the allowance of backyard hens. Cline addressed the complaints of odor and predators. He sees no difference in odor and attraction of predators as it would be to owning a small dog. In regards to the odor, he uses a mineral that controls the odor and his coop does not smell at all. Cline sees the allowance of backyard hens as advancing the city forward, not backward. He has invested in backyard hens

because he has seen the degradation in our food sources and wants to provide quality food for his children.

John Gamble, 236 North Jefferson Street, shared that he is a local real estate broker. Gamble wanted to approach the concern of property values. The main question is if property values would increase or decrease in value with the allowance of backyard hens. He explained that there are multiple ways to approach value. The most pertinent to this conversation is comparison in residential properties in which the buyer predicts the value. The buyer and their assessment of value is also their perception of value. Gamble noted that there is a perception in the room on both sides of this issue. Property value increases for those who want backyard hens and decreases for those who don't. Gamble concluded that the communities that allow backyard chickens have much higher home values than Batavia and it has not affected their real estate at all.

Linda Souner, 1168 Pine Street, supports backyard chickens. She stated that we live in times when food safety is quite uncertain. Food sources have had contamination from bacteria, pollutants, and any other potential danger yet to be identified. The benefit of backyard chickens is not only fresh, healthy eggs, but they can enhance an ecosystem. Backyard hens provide fertilizer for the garden, composting, kitchen scraps are recycled as a food source for chickens, and they provide natural insect control. Lastly, Souner stated that backyard chickens are a great educational tool for our children.

Katie Billing, 528 Maple Lane, stated that she is in agreement with Claire Sensor's comments. She asserted that having backyard hens is a solution to environmental concerns and we need to keep our food sources local. By allowing Batavians to have backyard hens the city is becoming a leader in the revolution to protect the environment for future generations. Billing concluded that Batavia doesn't want backyard hens, they need backyard hens.

Sam Atac, 340 N Lincoln Street, shared with the committee that he eats eggs every day. There have been times in which he got a bad egg that smelled bad and tasted funny. He suggested that a way to fix this problem is to allow backyard hens. Atac stated that he does not intend on having any backyard hens but if he had neighbors or friends that could give him eggs that would be great. Atac informed the committee on the poor conditions factory chickens are subjected to. He concluded that the conditions create unhealthy chickens and unhealthy eggs.

Jennifer Warta, 126 North Prairie Street, supports raising backyard hens. She shared with the committee her and her daughter's experience and rewards from growing their own food. Warta stated that high quality food is extremely important and research has proven that eating healthy food is beneficial to everyone. She expressed her interest in raising a couple of hens. The hens would be utilized as a teaching tool for her daughter as well as a pet, provide eggs of the highest quality, and provide nutrient rich compost for their garden. Warta noted that she would keep the hens after they are done laying eggs as pets and has no intention on slaughtering them. Warta shared that she was raised on a family farm and has experience raising a small flock of hens. She shared that they are docile animals, are less loud than dogs, they make a soft clucking sound, each hen has their own unique personality, hens form a bond with their owner, they lay five (5) eggs a week, and small coops are easy to clean. Warta added that hens do not attract predators,

such as coyotes, any more than a small dog would. She stated that no one in her family ever got sick from handling chickens, from cleaning the coop or from eating the eggs. She shared that the Center for Disease Control, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Kane County Health Department, and the Illinois Department of Health all confirm that there are no public health outbreaks relating to backyard chickens in the state of Illinois. Additionally, a person is more likely to contract salmonella from pet birds, pet reptiles, supermarket eggs, peanut butter, and other supermarket produce than from a backyard hen. Warta discussed chicken coops with the committee and offered to share pictures of aesthetically pleasing coops to the CSC. Warta concluded she would not support backyard hens if there were any credible evidence stating that keeping them on her property would be a detriment to her family, her property, or her community.

Steve Comas, 926 Blair Street, encouraged the council to pass this ordinance but also suggested that the ordinance be tightened up so that there are no halfway done coops. He stated that it would be a good idea to add to the ordinance a requirement to bury the fence below ground level around the coop to create a barrier both above and below ground. Comas shared that in his experience as an owner of backyard hens he has not attracted any predators. He noted that owning backyard hens is a great responsibility in which he does not take lightly. Comas stated that since Batavia is moving towards being a 'green' community it is important to support backyard hens.

Sara Collier, from Aurora Illinois, is looking to relocate to either Batavia or Geneva. She is in support of backyard hens. She stated that if Batavia allows backyard hens she will definitely move to Batavia. Collier shared that Martha Stewart is doing a segment on celebrating the backyard farm scheduled to air on April 2nd. She noted that the approval of this ordinance will not turn Batavia into a rural society. Collier concluded that as a mother, as a gardener, and a potential homebuyer seeking to relocate here she strongly urges Batavia to take this step towards sustainability.

Sharon Nevil, 426 Elizabeth Street, voiced her support for backyard hens.

Amy Olson, 525 Cleveland Ave, shared with the committee her experience with backyard hens. Olson stated that she did missionary work and her room resided next to a chicken coop. There was no noise and no smell. Olson was surprised to find out that it was a chicken coop because she never heard or smelled the hens. She stated that her ultimate goal is to feed her children the proper nutrition that they need and is always seeking to increase their nutrition. Olson has considered owning hens to increase the nutritional level of the eggs that her family eats. She is surprised that backyard hens are not allowed in Batavia. She concluded that she supports backyard chickens and does not find any fault in people trying to control their own food source.

Craig Copper, 2045 Swan Lane, supports the addition of backyard hens in Batavia. He shared that he is an Illinois Master Gardener who would be happy to use the nitrogen enriched waste produced from the coops as organic fertilizer for the Batavia community garden.

Max Stanley, 320 North Prairie Street, supports backyard hens. Stanley shared that he is currently is doing a project in school promoting why backyard hens should be allowed. Stanley

explained that backyard hens are not noisy, do not smell, and the waste could be used for fertilizer. He does not support factory farms who treat the hens in a deplorable manner. Stanley stated that backyard hen eggs are better than the free range eggs that you can get at the grocery store. He explained that free range might mean that there is only one door in the entire building and many of the hens do not have access in their whole life to go outdoors. Stanley concluded that hens make good pets and are an excellent educational tool for children.

Betsy Zinser, 801 Wind Energy Pass, addressed the committee. She announced that there is a chicken display in the Chicago Flower and Garden show at Navy Pier. She noted that due to the covenants that do not allow chickens in her subdivision she does not intend on owning any backyard hens. However, she strongly supports owning backyard hens. The purpose of her effort is to support the sustainable environmental movement in Batavia.

Michael Thomas, 926 Blair Street, thinks it is a good idea to allow backyard hens. He shared his personal experience raising backyard hens stating that they are not loud, they do not have an odor, they eat bugs, and they supply fertilizer. Therefore, backyard hens are a helpful tool for the yard and garden.

Karen Kosky, 23 S Jackson Street, addressed the committee. She stated that, as a city, we spend a lot of time telling residents what they can and cannot do with their property. Kosky feels that this is one time when we can give a little bit of property rights back to the individuals of our city. She has heard many people tonight say that they will not have backyard hens but they think they are a good idea. Kosky would love her children to have the ability to see a neighbor's chickens and how they are raised and how eggs happen. Kosky feels that this is a great opportunity to give back some rights to the property owners. Kosky added that the ban on backyard hens was due to roosters being too noisy.

Roselyn Swanson, 1623 Richter Road, appreciates the rules and regulations that we have in place. She is concerned with 20ft setback when the setback for chicken coops used to be 200 ft. She does not want a chicken coop 20ft from her home. Swanson asked if any structure costing \$200 or more requires a permit. Albertson responded that the cost of a structure does not require a permit. Permits are based on the square footage of the structure.

Margaret Sour, 903 Morton Street, is in support of the chickens and noted that she lives down the street from someone who owns a rooster. She expressed that the rooster is quieter than children going to school and dogs in her neighborhood. She assessed that hens and roosters could not be louder than all of the other noises in the neighborhood.

Susan Stark, 203 N Washington Ave, does not have a stand pro or against chickens. She asked Albertson how many complaints the city receives regarding the current chickens that reside in our community. Albertson responded that they have not received many complaints. Stark questioned if this ordinance would pass, how many people would actually put up a chicken coop in their backyard. She asked if everyone who wants chickens in their backyard already owns chickens. From what she is hearing at tonight's meeting, there are a lot of people who already own chickens.

Liva asked Chair Volk to ask for a show of hands of how many people who don't own chickens now who would raise them if they could. The show of hands illustrated that roughly ten (10) percent of the total audience would be interested in raising their own backyard hens. The result of the show-of-hands reflected the data from other cities that allow backyard hens. The data illustrates that roughly ten (10) percent of the total population are owners of backyard hens.

Kathy Sour, St. Charles Illinois, shared her experience on how backyard hens became banned in Batavia. She stated that there was an owner of hens that could no longer keep up with the chickens resulting in unkempt coops. The ban was created to eliminate this problem. Sour continued that she is amazed that there are so many people who want to raise chickens. She shared that it is an amazing experience to watch her grandchildren gather eggs and be excited about their backyard hens.

Mike Grommit, 785 Epmin Drive, respectfully asked the council to consider factual and quantifiable information on this topic versus antidotal comments. He asked the committee to make sure that the ordinance specifies the amount of property that is required for these animals. He asked what plans are in place to enforce the ordinance, especially since there have been layoffs and downsizing within the city's services. Grommit stated that a chicken coop next to a house for sale would decrease the home's value. He asserted that we should collaborate and find a happy medium. He questioned if there is a farmer in the community who could be contracted with to provide an educational program for children and provide the compost for the gardeners in the area. Grommit stated that smell is a subjective topic. He concluded that we should make a decision that is for the good of the neighborhood and make it fact-based and not of opinion.

Joan Joseph, 2028 Condee Court, would like to see in the ordinance square footage per chicken. The other item she would like to see within the enclosure section of the ordinance is that only one (1) chicken coop be allowed per yard.

Sarah Burrichter, 10 Woodland Hills Road, supports the backyard hen movement. She asserted that the local initiatives towards sustainability and being 'green' are very important. It is now time to put actions behind those initiatives. She stated that the twenty-something's find sustainable solutions for our food choices extremely important.

Steve Collins, 126 N Prairie Street, is in support of passing the ordinance. Collins shared that he may not have chickens in his backyard. Collins is in favor of a fact-based approach. It is important to understand the pros and cons of backyard hens and the responsibility of the city enforcing this matter. Collins stated that there has to be a significant reason why the city would prevent the allowance of backyard hens. Thus far, Collins has not heard any compelling reasons to prevent the approval of the ordinance.

Bill Story, 797 Pottawatomie, thanked the CSC for this forum. He commented that he does not feel that there will be a rash of backyard hens creating our city to be overrun by chickens.

Chair Volk thanked the audience for the comments and attendance. He requested Albertson to research other ordinances that have chickens for requirements on square footage per chicken and

total number of coops allowed in the backyard. Volk stated that the committee will meet on March 30th to continue this discussion.

8. Other

There were no other topics to be discussed at this time.

9. Adjournment

There being no other business to discuss, a motion was requested by Chair Volk to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 pm; Made by Ald. Liva; Seconded by Ald. Jungels. Motion carried.