

Dear Board,

The agenda for this month's meeting is pretty sparse, unless one of you can come up with something extra to bulk up our meeting. Please don't feel the need to come up with something on my account. As for the meeting itself, the only thing that we have other than the usual is a public hearing on chickens/fowl. I have conducted a pretty exhaustive search of the ordinances controlling chickens in urban environments in our state and have some recommendation on how we would best balance the interests of chicken owners and the general population. Some of this is based on common sense and some of it seems to be based more on the needs/wants of chicken owners. I will outline below what I am recommending and –in some cases- why it is recommended. It may be that we will have some citizens present to discuss this matter at the August 16th meeting, but so far I haven't heard any feedback from anyone except members of the Board. The proposed ordinance that I have inserted in your packet is subject to change, I will working on sharpening it and eliminating potential loopholes and problems between now and next Tuesday. Should the Board wish to incorporate advice from public comments then I will be able to further adapt the proposed ordinance, however I believe that it is a good starting point.

Additional matters of interest:

1. The Police Department will be hosting their second annual Community Night in the Roy Pope Memorial Park on August 6th at 5:30 PM. It is likely to draw a good crowd of local citizens and in particular children. Free hot dogs and drinks along with a number of interesting demonstrations are planned.
2. Labor Day Picnic will be on September 5th at 11:00 AM. We will be planning for all the traditional food and amusements that you have come to know and expect. I'll look forward to seeing you all there.
3. I will be on vacation next week August 7-12th in Charleston to see family. If you need to contact me regarding anything Town related I will be available by cell phone at 828-768-4887 or via email at jasonyoung@woodfin-nc.gov.

I hope you are enjoying your summer.

Jason

**Town of Woodfin
Board of Aldermen Meeting
August 16, 2011
6:30 P.M.**

Meeting
Meeting Call to Order
Invocation
Approval of the Agenda
Approval of the Minutes

Executive Session- *The Board will meet in private chambers to discuss legal matters before the Town.*

Public Forum- *Citizens may address the Board concerning various topics after being recognized by the Mayor.*

New Business

1. Public Hearing on the Matter of Modifying Certain Portions of Chapter 91 of the Woodfin Code of Ordinance.
2. Consideration of a Motion to Amend Chapter 91 of the Woodfin Code of Ordinance.

Attached you will find the ordinances concerning chickens from a variety of North Carolina municipalities. As you might imagine, there is a wide degree of latitude in how various communities have approached this issue. In reviewing the North Carolina ordinances that were readily available on line, I believe that Asheville's is amongst the most comprehensive and yet it doesn't seem a good fit for our community in large part due to the licensing requirement. It would seem to me that if the Town is interested in moving into the licensing business than dogs and cats would be higher on the list than chickens. This is something that the present ordinance seems to contemplate a situation in which the Town would move into the business of licensing dogs at least given that our ordinance requires that every dog over six months has to have a collar with an identification tag along with a rabies inoculation tag. I am not under the impression that there is a great deal of interest in licensing dogs or cats at this point, but it does make it seem odd that we would require licenses for chickens and not other domestic animals.

In preparing the proposed chicken/fowl ordinance I have attempted to balance the interests of all parties. It may be that subsequent to the Public Hearing on this matter that the Board will wish to revise the proposed ordinance to include other concepts, however, I believe that the attached proposal is a good starting place – at least- for controlling the spread of urban/suburban chicken raising to ensure that it does not create difficulties for the citizens of Woodfin. As noted above I will be attempting to improve this proposed ordinance over the next week, but wanted to give the Board a sense of where I think our new ordinance should wind up.

Reports

Police

Parks and Recreation

Public Works

Administration

Adjournment