



VILLAGE OF THIENSVILLE  
Plan Commission  
MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, February 11, 2025

LOCATION: 250 Elm Street, Thiensville, WI

TIME: 6:00 PM

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. ROLL CALL**

**Chairman**

John Rosing

**Director of Community  
Services/Public Works**

Andy LaFond

**Village Planner**

Meredith Perks

**Commissioners**

Jeff Hershberger      Joe Nelson (Absent)

Rebecca Holyoke-      M. Randy Pasternak  
Odeja

Ken Kucharski      Jerry Schmitz

**III. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

A. Open to any resident or taxpayer on items not subject to a public hearing: Please be advised per §19.84(2), information will be received from the public. Village policy limits a three (3) minute time period per person, with time extension by the presiding official's discretion or a vote of 2/3 of the Board or Committee; be further advised that there may be limited discussion on the information received, however, no action will be taken under public comments. Written comments on agenda items are encouraged to be sent and addressed to the intended body by noon on the day of the meeting. Comments received timely will be forwarded to all members of the body. If you wish to speak, you must pre-register by emailing the Village Clerk at [clandisch@village.thiensville.wi.us](mailto:clandisch@village.thiensville.wi.us) by 4:00 PM on the day of the meeting or by signing in immediately prior to the meeting.

John Grau, 120 N Orchard Street inquired about who owned the garbage carts, the Village or the homeowner.

Chairman Rosing clarified that the carts were distributed to residents by the Village and remain with the house, not the homeowner.

Mr. Grau expressed frustration over the new carts, arguing that previous systems were

sufficient and questioned the necessity of concealing the carts.

Mr. Grau also shared the opinion that concealing the carts would be impractical in some homes and suggested the ordinance as written is overly restrictive.

Chairman Rosing thanked Mr. Grau for his comments.

#### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. January 14, 2025 (att)

**MOTION** to approve by Commissioner Holyoke-Odeja **SECONDED** by Commissioner Kucharski. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Aye:** 6

**No:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

#### **V. BUSINESS**

A. Review and recommendation to the Village Board an Ordinance Amendment regulating Refuse Cart Screens (att)

Director LaFond reminded the commission that Village ordinance requires that refuse carts be screened from view from the street. Director LaFond noted that the ordinance amendment as proposed here is simply an option the Plan can recommend for consideration. The intent of the Ordinance amendment would be to provide a visual screen or fence as an option to conceal refuse carts and is intended to remove any fees or permit requirements as long as the screen or fence conforms to the ordinance.

Director LaFond also mentioned the broken window effect, where one person not concealing their cart leads to others following suit.

Director LaFond acknowledged the challenges of enforcing the ordinance and the preference for education over penalties.

**MOTION** to Approve Recommendation to the Village Board an Ordinance Amendment regulating Refuse Cart Screens by Commissioner Pasternak **SECONDED** by Commissioner Schmitz. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Aye:** 6

**No:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

B. Review and recommendation regarding amending the zoning code to allow for the keeping of domesticated chickens as an accessory use in the R1 and R2 zoning districts  
(att)

Director LaFond summarized the background behind the proposed amendment and how it arrived in front of the Commission.

Commissioner Pasternak asked if there would be a fee associated with the keeping of chickens.

Director LaFond clarified that yes, there would be a \$50 application and a \$25 annual renewal fee.

Commissioner Schmitz asked if four chickens was a magic number for some reason. Director LaFond stated the number was used after a review of other communities ordinances.

Commissioner Pasternak asked for confirmation that potential owners would not be permitted to sell the eggs produced by the chickens and Director LaFond confirmed that is correct.

Commissioner Pasternak also asked if the desire for chickens was more as a hobby or interest.

Chairman Rosing answered that one of the Board of Trustees members said that it's something that people want to have more control over where their food comes from, what the chickens would be fed, and therefore what the eggs produced would be like.

Director LaFond also clarified that this proposed amendment would only apply to chickens and no other farm animals and that it would not allow for roosters to be kept.

Commissioner Schmitz questioned if predator proof means fully enclosed.

Director Lafond replied that it does.

Commissioner Holyoke-Odeja questioned how the setback requirements were determined.

Director LaFond answered that the setback distance starting point came from other municipalities ordinances. It was adjusted from there to strike a balance between not forcing the coop location to be right up against a home while also not placing it too close to neighboring property.

Commissioner Hershberger raised some additional concerns such as increased rodent issues due to the presence of chicken feed, the unsanitary nature of chicken waste, the ambiguity of the noise section of the amendment, and potential complaints from residents who are unable to keep chickens due to setbacks while their neighbors around them are able.

Director LaFond noted that the amendment includes provisions for daily removal of chicken waste, the need for secure, predator-proof enclosures, and that the language around noise is consistent with other Village ordinances.

Commissioner Kucharski shared that residents who he asked for their opinion on the keeping of chickens have mostly questioned why rather than been against or in favor.

Commissioner Holyoke-Odeja posited that some residents may want to keep chickens as the eggs produced are of a preferred quality and flavor.

**MOTION** to Recommend Amending the Zoning Code to Allow for the Keeping of Domesticated Chickens as an Accessory use in the R1 and R2 Zoning Districts by Commissioner Holyoke-Odeja **SECONDED** by Chairman Rosing. **MOTION IS DEFEATED.**

**Aye:** 3 (Schmitz, Rosing, Holyoke-Odeja)

**No:** 3 (Hershberger, Pasternak, Kucharski)

**Abstain:** 0

## **VI. STAFF REPORT**

A. January 2025 (att)

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** to Adjourn by Commissioner Pasternak **SECONDED** by Commissioner Kucharski. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Aye:** 6

**No:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

Submitted by,

Ben Honeck  
Deputy clerk

Signed by,

Colleen Landisch-Hansen  
Village Administrator/Clerk