

STROUD TOWNSHIP
MONROE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-_____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF STROUD, MONROE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING CHAPTER 27 (ZONING) OF THE STROUD TOWNSHIP CODE OF ORDINANCES TO PERMIT BACKYARD CHICKENS AS A REGULATED ACCESSORY USE ON LOTS IN THE R-1, R-2, AND R-3 RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICTS, TO ADD A NEW DEFINITION, AND TO ESTABLISH REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS ACCESSORY USE.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the attached Ordinance is a true and correct copy of the ***proposed*** Ordinance by the Board of Supervisors of Stroud Township, Monroe County, Pennsylvania, which shall be considered for enactment at a public hearing to be held at the Stroud Township Municipal Center, 1211 N. 5th Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, **on Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.**


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WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Second Class Township Code authorizes a board of supervisors to adopt ordinances necessary for the proper management, care, and control of the township and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its residents;

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (“MPC”) authorizes municipalities to enact and amend zoning ordinances pursuant to the procedures set forth in Article VI of the MPC;

WHEREAS, under the existing zoning ordinance, chickens are not permitted as an accessory use on lots in the R-1, R-2, or R-3 Residential Zoning Districts because chickens are not classified as customary household pets;

WHEREAS, residents have expressed interest in keeping a limited number of hens for personal use under reasonable standards that preserve neighborhood character and protect adjoining properties;

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors finds that allowing backyard hens under clear and enforceable regulations promotes responsible animal care, reduces potential nuisances, and supports orderly land use within residential zoning districts;

WHEREAS, the Board further finds that it is in the best interest of the Township to amend the zoning ordinance to permit backyard hens as a narrowly tailored accessory use, establish a supporting definition, and adopt related performance standards;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Supervisors of Stroud Township, Monroe County, Pennsylvania, hereby ordains and enacts the following amendments to Chapter 27 of the Township’s Code of Ordinances.

SECTION 1. – FINDINGS AND LEGAL AUTHORITY.

A. The Board of Supervisors finds the following:

- (1) Stroud Township’s zoning ordinance currently does not permit the keeping of chickens as an accessory use on lots in the R-1, R-2, or R-3 Residential Zoning Districts because chickens are not classified as customary household pets.
- (2) Residents have expressed interest in keeping a limited number of hens for personal use, subject to reasonable standards that protect neighboring properties and preserve residential character.
- (3) Allowing backyard hens under clear regulations promotes responsible animal care, public health, and orderly land use.
- (4) Establishing limits on the number of hens, setbacks, coops, fencing, and nuisance controls protects the quiet enjoyment, safety, and welfare of surrounding properties.
- (5) The Board determines that permitting a small number of hens as a regulated accessory use is consistent with the Township’s comprehensive plan and is in the public interest.

B. This ordinance is enacted under:

- (1) Section 1527 and Section 1601 of the Second Class Township Code, 53 P.S. §§ 66506 and 66601, which authorize the Board of Supervisors to make and adopt ordinances necessary for the proper management, care, and control of the Township and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its residents.
- (2) Article VI of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC), 53 P.S. §§ 10601–10617, which provides the authority and procedures for amending zoning ordinances.
- (3) All other applicable provisions of Pennsylvania law.

SECTION 2. – AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 27 (ZONING).

The following sections of Chapter 27 (Zoning) of the Stroud Township Code of Ordinances (the “Code”) are hereby amended as follows:

A. **§ 27-202 Definitions.**

The following new definition is added to § 27-202 in alphabetical order. All other definitions remain unchanged.

BACKYARD CHICKENS

Hens (female chickens) kept as an accessory use on a residential lot in accordance with § 27-508(1)(D)(2). Roosters are prohibited.

B. § 27-508(1)(D) – Keeping of Animals (Accessory Use).

Section 27-508(1)(D) is renumbered as § 27-508(1)(D)(1) and remains unchanged.

A new subsection § 27-508(1)(D)(2) is added as follows:

§ 27-508(1)(D)(2) – Backyard Chickens. Backyard chickens are permitted as an accessory use on a lot in the R-1, R-2, or R-3 Residential Zoning District that contains a single-family or two-family dwelling, subject to the following requirements:

- (1) **Lot Size Eligibility.** A lot in the R-1, R-2, or R-3 Residential Zoning District must contain at least 21,780 square feet (½ acre) to keep any backyard chickens.
- (2) **Number of Hens Permitted.** A lot meeting the minimum lot size may keep up to 3 hens. One additional hen may be kept for every additional 7,000 square feet of lot area. The total number of hens may not exceed 10.
- (3) **Roosters Prohibited.** Roosters are prohibited. If a rooster hatches or is acquired inadvertently, it must be removed from the property within 7 days.
- (4) **Zoning Permit Required.** A Township chicken-keeping permit is required before hens are kept on a property. Permits are valid for one year and must be renewed annually.
- (5) **Coops and Enclosures.**
 - (a) Hens must be kept in a secure coop or enclosure at all times.
 - (b) Coops and enclosures must be located to the rear of the principal structure.
 - (c) Setbacks: at least 25 feet from all property lines and at least 50 feet from any watercourse.
 - (d) Coops and fencing must be maintained in good repair, free of rust, rot, peeling paint, vermin, and other conditions that detract from the residential character of the property.
- (6) **Fencing and Containment.** Any outdoor enclosure must be fully surrounded by fencing or screening at least 4 feet high and designed to prevent escape and protect hens from predators.

- (7) **Nuisance Prevention.** Backyard chickens must be kept in a manner that prevents noise, odors, unsanitary conditions, or other nuisances affecting adjoining properties.
- (8) **Manure Management.** Manure must be stored in a watertight, vermin-proof container or composted on-site in a manner that does not create odors detectable on adjoining properties. Manure may not be allowed to accumulate in a way that attracts pests or creates runoff.
- (9) **Feed and Waste Storage.** Feed and waste must be stored in secure, covered containers to prevent attracting rodents, insects, or wildlife.
- (10) **Slaughtering Prohibited.** The slaughtering of chickens on a residential lot is prohibited. Any carcass must be disposed of within 24 hours in a sanitary and lawful manner.
- (11) **No Commercial Activity.** The sale of eggs, the sale or breeding of chickens, or any use meeting the definition of a business, agriculture, animal husbandry, or intensive agriculture is prohibited.
- (12) **Property Boundaries.** All hens must remain on the owner's property at all times and may not run at large.
- (13) **No Agricultural Uses Authorized.** Nothing in this subsection authorizes animal husbandry, agriculture, commercial poultry operations, or any other use listed in Schedule 27-I under agricultural land uses. Backyard chickens are permitted only as an accessory use on residential lots in accordance with this section.

SECTION 3. – SEVERABILITY.

If any part of this ordinance is held invalid or unconstitutional, that decision does not affect the remaining portions. The Board of Supervisors intends that the rest of the ordinance remains in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. – REPEALER.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances that conflict with this ordinance are repealed, but only to the extent of the conflict. All other provisions remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. – EFFECTIVE DATE.

This ordinance will take effect 5 days after the date of its enactment.

[SIGNATURES FOLLOW ON THE NEXT PAGE]

ORDAINED AND ENACTED into an Ordinance at a special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Stroud Township, Monroe County, Pennsylvania this ____ day of _____, 2026.

TOWNSHIP OF STROUD

JENNIFER SHUKAITIS, Chairwoman
and Secretary

(TOWNSHIP SEAL)

EDWARD C. CRAMER, Vice Chairman
and Assistant Treasurer

SUSAN LYONS, Supervisor
and Assistant Secretary

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