

ORDINANCE 2025-1094
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WAITSBURG, WASHINGTON, AMENDING SECTION
020 OF CHAPTER 1 OF TITLE 8 OF THE WAITSBURG MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO
LIVESTOCK RESTRICTIONS

WHEREAS, updates are needed to the City’s municipal code to clarify restrictions covering livestock in all areas of the City;

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has reviewed and considered a variety of potential changes to livestock restrictions;

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has sought, received, and considered public input related to the proposed changes;

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission incorporated public input into its proposed changes by significantly revising its recommended changes;

WHEREAS, the Council has carefully considered the recommendations from the Planning Commission, input from its citizens, the minimum standards set by the County of Walla Walla just outside the City limits, the health and safety of residents and livestock within the City, and proposed revisions from the city attorney; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds the following changes to be necessary to ensure public health and safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Waitsburg as follows:

Section I. Amendment. The following provisions of Chapter 1 of Title 8 of the Waitsburg Municipal Code shall be amended as follows :

“8.01.010 Definitions. As used in this Chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following words and terms shall have the meanings assigned to them by this section.

A. "Livestock" shall mean and include horses, cattle, sheep, goats, mules, jacks, burros, oxen, llama, alpaca, and other animals bred and raised for fur, milk, and/or meat.

....

8.01.020. Miscellaneous Livestock Violations.

H. “Zoning Restrictions.” No Livestock may be kept within the City on any Lot which is smaller than the square footage minimum standards for Livestock specified in Walla Walla County Code (“WWCC”) 17.26.020 (Table of Minimum Standards for Animals; *see e.g.*, square foot standards for horse, cattle, mules, cows, llamas, sheep, and goats). All other restrictions included in WWCC 17.26.020 (*e.g.*, pertaining to fences, other animals, etc.) are addressed in other sections of the City’s Municipal Code and do not apply within Waitsburg.

- (1) Exceptions. The restrictions stated herein do not apply under the following circumstances:
- a. A conditional use permit has been requested and secured. When a lot is too small to comply with the minimum square foot standards established by WWCC 17.26.020, an Owner or Keeper may apply for a conditional use permit. The City may require a livestock management plan and/or may impose such limitations (including number and type of Livestock) and conditions as reasonably necessary to ensure the health and safety of the Livestock and to avoid unreasonable impacts on neighboring property owners;
 - b. 4H or FFA Livestock lawfully kept at the Waitsburg Fairgrounds or participating in a County or State Fair occurring within the State of Washington;
 - c. Livestock removed temporarily from any lot to receive medical treatment; and
 - d. The offspring of sheep or goats in excess of the requirements of WWCC 17.26.020 for a period of up to 10 weeks.
- (3) No Swine. Notwithstanding the foregoing, swine are not allowed in any zone in the City, except as granted on a case-by-case basis by the City Administrator.
- (4) 6-month Grace Period. These changes to the Livestock Zoning Restriction shall not be enforceable against any lot, Owner, or Keeper in violation *for a period of six months* (the “Grace Period”) if such Livestock were already boarded, housed, or kept on the lot on the day this ordinance becomes effective (the “Effective Date”). Notwithstanding the Grace Period, it shall be a violation of this Ordinance for any Owner or Keeper to increase the number of Livestock housed, boarded or kept on any lot beyond that number boarded, housed, or kept on that lot on the Effective Date.
- (5) Following the Grace Period. Any Livestock that leaves any lot (and there remain on the lot any number of Livestock equal to or in excess of that allowed by WWCC 17.26.020) and the Livestock remain absent from the lot for seven (7) or more days for any reason (noted in section 2), such Livestock shall not be allowed to return to the lot and shall not be replaced. Any such Livestock (in excess of that allowed by WWCC 17.26.020) that returns to the lot after being absent from the lot for seven or more days, shall be considered in violation of this Section.

Section II. The remainder of Chapter 1 of Title 8 of the Waitsburg Municipal Code remains unchanged, and as currently written.

Section III. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage by the Council and publication as required by law.

Passed by the Waitsburg City Council this _____ day of April 2025.

Approved:

Martin Dunn, Mayor

Attest:

Randy Hinchliffe, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Jared Hawkins, City Attorney