TRUESDALE BOARD OF ALDERMEN
Public Hearing
February 26, 2025

The Truesdale Board of Aldermen held a Public Hearing on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, 5:15 p.m. at the Truesdale City Hall located at 109 Pinckney Street, Truesdale, MO 63380. Mayor Cannon Called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm. A roll call was taken, Alderman Hartley-present, Alderman Thomas-yes, and Alderman Brooks-present; there was a quorum present. Those attending on behalf of the City of Truesdale were Mayor Jerry Cannon, City Manager/City Clerk Elsa Smith-Fernandez, City Attorney Amber Bargen, Public Works Lead Steve Harlan, and Treasurer Missy Bachamp. Citizens in attendance were Philip & Shelby Weinrich (Truesdale Residents), Robert Green (Truesdale Resident), Greg Lane (Truesdale Resident), Kelly & Robert Riehl (Truesdale Residents), Amanda Lefholz (Truesdale Resident), Tammy Markman (Truesdale Resident), Bart Korman (Lewis-Bade), and Jack Underwood (Warren County Record).

Mayor Cannon opened the public hearing, and invited discussion from the public regarding their thoughts on the current Truesdale, Missouri Chicken ordinance. Philip Weinrich approached the Board of Aldermen stating that he was looking to get the restrictions eased back in the ordinance, and comparing the set back lines to neighboring residences, to Warrenton’s, Wright City’s, Marthasville, and Wentzville. Truesdale Currently has a 100-foot set back from a neighboring residence, the others have a (25) twenty five-foot set back. Aldermen Brooks asked Mr. Weinrich how tall his fence was, Mr. Weinrich stated that it was a six-foot privacy fence. Mr. Weinrich discussed that if the set back from the property line is 10 feet and then another (25) feet from a neighboring residence that would be at least (30) thirty-five feet. Mr. Weinrich talked about understanding that if a fence is required, while he is working in the back yard, he can let them out of the coop and he clips their wings. Aldermen Thomas asked if there were any troubles with other pests with the chickens, for example mice. Mr. Weinrich stated that there were no issues with pests, he has his feed locked up in steel containers. Aldermen Thomas stated that it isn’t that Truesdale is anti-chickens, it’s just that we have to think of residents as a whole. Aldermen Thomas also talked about his concern from chicken/bird waste and disease. Aldermen Thomas expressed that he believed Mr. Weinrich would be a responsible chicken owner, but we have to ensure that everyone would be.

Amanda Lefholz asked Mr. Weinrich if he had reached out to the city prior to getting chickens, Mr. Weinrich stated that he did not, he didn’t think much of it and got chickens for his kids. Ms. Lefholz says that she grew up on a farm and understands, but where we are at its not feasible and comparing yourself to other municipalities that have chicken ordinance its best to investigate those ordinances prior to getting the chickens. Mr. Weinrich agreed that he should have.

Aldermen Brooks stated that Alderman Naranjo stated that he was not interested in granting variances for people to have chickens but would have rather amended the ordinance to make it fair for everyone and this is why the Board wants to revisit the ordinance. Aldermen Brooks discussed some of the other ordinances and appreciates that Mr. Weinrich provided ordinances from other municipalities. Alderman Thomas confirmed with Mr. Weinrich that the change he would like to see is the set back allowance from neighboring residences. Mr. Weinrich agreed and stated that 100 feet is not going to work on any lot in Truesdale. Mayor Cannon confirmed that other cities have twenty-five feet set back from neighboring residences and stated that 100 feet does sound extreme.

 Alderman Hartley recalled from the original conversation that the higher set back from neighboring residences, was because Truesdale did not require the fence due to the costs of fencing. She stated that her issue was when the ordinance was originally discussed there were multiple meetings, discussions, reviewal of other ordinances and there was no public feedback provided or no public attendance. There was an ordinance passed and other people had been denied permits and have to get rid of chickens, and she had informed Mr. Weinrich in September that he needed to have a permit and that he states that he knew nothing about it.

Tammy Markam stated that is a good subject to discuss and that she moved here because of the guidelines and had a neighbor who had chickens in North County that did not take care of their chickens. She stated that instead of making all these rules and regulations, why not have a farmer’s market. Alderman Thomas explained that there is a Warren County Farmers Market and discussed the times and dates along with costs and that there is state funding to help cover the costs and that they are struggling to find vendors and participation. Ms. Markam stated that the community is growing and changing and reiterating that you’re always going to have people not taking care of the chickens.

Kelly Riehl discussed how prices are going up and people are losing their jobs, they are going to rely on food pantries and other sources. Ms. Riehl stated she agreed with Kari that a fence is needed, if people are going to get chickens, are they following the rules and regulations, and there must be bullet points of being very specific and inspections need to happen. Alderman Hartley stated that part of the ordinance is to apply for a permit prior to getting chickens. Ms. Riehl asked if this gentleman would be getting a penalty. Elsa explained that at the last meeting there was an extension granted while the ordinance was being reviewed. Ms. Riehl asked what would happen if someone didn’t follow the ordinance. Elsa stated that then that person would be in violation of the ordinance and could receive a citation or possibly jail time.

Ms. Lefholz asked who polices that everything is being maintained. Mayor Cannon stated that some people don’t keep up with their dogs, what we are trying to do is to come up with a solution to keep some fair guidelines for people to have chickens. Ms. Lefholz asked if the permit should be annual instead of a one time.

Mr. Weinrich stated that he got the chickens prior to egg prices rising, he got the chickens for his kids to teach them responsibilities, they are pets.

Alderman Brooks stated that there is a lot of things for the Board to discuss, for example the setbacks and fencing and other things from other ordinances, like annual inspections. Robert Green approached the Board and said he agrees with the chickens, and there needs to be a set of guidelines. He stated structuring those guidelines where the penalties get bigger as a repeat offense, and there definitely needs to be a fence.

Alderman Brooks expressed his appreciation for the public attendance, as this was the most public feedback the has had on this ordinance.

Mayor Cannon stated that we will take this information and have a work session and come back with something that is fair for everyone.

The work session will be held prior to the next meeting, in hopes that something will be put together for a new ordinance.

The Public Hearing ended at around 6:08 pm.

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 Elsa Smith-Fernandez

 City Manager/City Clerk

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Jerry Cannon-Mayor