

Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment

Ordinance No. 289

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF MERCERSBURG, FRANKLIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, BY AMENDING THE TEXT SET FORTH IN SECTION 202 TO PERMIT THE KEEPING OF CERTAIN NON-COMMERCIAL DOMESTIC ANIMALS

WHEREAS, the Borough of Mercersburg Council and staff have reviewed the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of Mercersburg to evaluate whether the definition of “Pets, Keeping of” should be amended to permit the keeping of non-commercial domestic animals, and more specifically, the keeping of female chickens; and

WHEREAS, the Council has determined that the text amendment contemplated by this Ordinance is in the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the Borough of Mercersburg; and

WHEREAS, the Council has determined that the definition of “Pets, keeping of” should be amended to permit the keeping of female chickens for non-commercial use; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained and enacted that the following amendment be made to the Borough of Mercersburg Zoning Ordinance as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 202, Terms Defined. Section 202 of the Zoning Ordinance, entitled “Terms Defined”, should be amended as follows:

- a. The term “Livestock, Raising of” shall be replaced with the term “Commercial Farm Animals, Raising of.” All references to the “Livestock, Raising of” in the Zoning Ordinance shall be replaced with “Commercial Farm Animals, Raising of.”
- b. The term “Pets, Keeping of” shall be replaced with the term “Pets (non-commercial domestic animals), Keeping of.” All references to the “Pets, Keeping of” in the Zoning Ordinance shall be replaced with “Pets (non-commercial domestic animals), Keeping of.”
- c. The definition for “Pets (non-commercial domestic animals), Keeping of” shall be amended to provide the following additional Use Standard:
 - f. The keeping of female chickens (hens) for non-commercial use is permitted, provided such use complies fully with applicable State laws. The maximum number of chickens allowed per property is eight (8). Male chickens (roosters) are not allowed. Chickens must be

kept in a secure enclosure or fence at all times. Chickens shall be secured within a henhouse during non-daylight hours.

SECTION 2. Repealer. All provisions of previous ordinances of the Borough of Mercersburg, or parts thereof, which are contrary to or inconsistent with this Ordinance, are expressly repealed.

SECTION 3. Savings Clause. In all other respects the Borough of Mercersburg Zoning Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

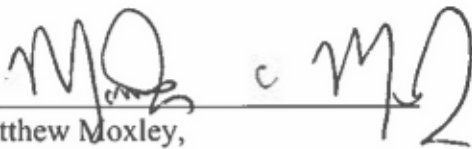
SECTION 4. Severability. In the event any provision, section, sentence, or clause or part of this Ordinance shall be held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect or impair any remaining provisions, section, sentence, clause or part of this Ordinance, it being the intent of the Borough that such remainder shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. Effective Date: This Ordinance shall become effective immediately.

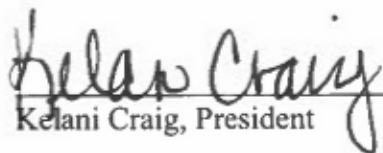
ENACTED AND ORDAINED, this 9th day of March, 2026.

ATTEST:

BOROUGH OF MERCERSBURG
COUNCIL



Matthew Moxley,
Secretary



Kelani Craig, President



Michael Pedersen, Mayor

