

Around Town

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By Billy Ray McKelvy

De Queen Mayor

A new city ordinance limits the number and types of chickens that can be kept inside the city limits of De Queen.

Ordinance 914, which was passed at the Sept. 19 city council meeting, went into effect on Oct. 19. The ordinance says that poultry owners will have 90 days from the effective date to comply. That deadline will be Jan. 17.

Ordinance 914 states that no domesticated fowl are allowed to run at large inside the city limits. The ordinance further states that no more than four hens may be kept at a single-family residence and roosters are forbidden altogether. Also, birds may not be slaughtered inside the city limits.

The ordinance also states that all fowl must be kept in a secure enclosure with a top. Pens must be at least 25 feet from the nearest residence and must be kept clean to prevent odors.

Anyone wishing to keep chickens within the city limits must have the pens inspected by the animal control officer in order to obtain a permit from the Office of the City Clerk. The cost of a permit is \$5 per year.

Fowl currently inside the city limits will not be “grandfathered” or permitted to stay after the effective date of the ordinance.

The De Queen Police Department is currently in the process of notifying people known to have chickens about the new ordinance so they will have time to make arrangements. There will be additional publicity and advertising before the Jan. 17 compliance deadline. Copies of the ordinance and poultry permit application will be available on the city’s web site at www.dequeenarkansas.us.