

**From:** [County Ordinances](#)  
**To:** [Ordinances](#); [County Ordinances](#)  
**Cc:** [Heidi Prouse](#); [Paige Jefferys](#); [Nienke Osinga](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Hernando County Ordinance No. 2026-05 - Adopted on March 3, 2026  
**Date:** Thursday, March 5, 2026 11:16:59 AM  
**Attachments:** [Hernando20260304\\_Ordinance2026\\_05\\_Ack.pdf](#)

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Good morning,

Attached is the acknowledgement letter for Hernando County Ordinance 2026-05.

Thank you,

**David Parrish**

Government Operations Consultant II  
Office of the General Counsel  
Department of State  
Room 701 – The Capitol – Tallahassee, FL  
P: (850) 245-6270

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**From:** Ordinances <ord@hernandoclerk.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 4, 2026 2:41 PM  
**To:** County Ordinances <CountyOrdinances@dos.fl.gov>  
**Cc:** Heidi Prouse <hprouse@hernandoclerk.org>; Paige Jefferys <pjefferys@hernandoclerk.org>; Nienke Osinga <nosinga@hernandoclerk.org>  
**Subject:** Hernando County Ordinance No. 2026-05 - Adopted on March 3, 2026

EMAIL RECEIVED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCE

The attachments/links in this message have been scanned by Proofpoint.

Sender Full Name:	Nienke Osinga
Sender Phone number:	352-754-4201
County Name:	Hernando
Ordinance Number:	2026-05

Thank You,

*Nienke Osinga*

Administrative Services | Administrative Services Clerk I  
Office of Doug Chorvat Jr., Clerk of Circuit Court and Comptroller



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

**RON DESANTIS**  
Governor

**CORD BYRD**  
Secretary of State

March 5, 2026

Doug Chorvat, Jr.  
County Clerk  
Hernando County  
20 North Main Street, Rm. 362  
Brooksville, Florida 34601

Dear Doug Chorvat Jr.,

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 125.66, Florida Statutes, this will acknowledge receipt of your electronic copy of Hernando County Ordinance No. 2026-05, which was filed in this office on March 4, 2026.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Leijon  
Administrative Code and Register Director

AL/dp

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ORDINANCE NO.: 2026<sup>05</sup>

1 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING APPENDIX A, ARTICLE V, SECTION 4 OF  
2 THE HERNANDO COUNTY CODE, RELATING TO THE CONDITIONAL  
3 USE PERMITS ALLOWABLE WITH ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL  
4 APPROVAL AND BACKYARD CHICKENS; AMENDING THE TYPES OF  
5 ALLOWABLE BIRDS PERMITTED; AMENDING THE NUMBER OF BIRDS  
6 PERMITTED BY PARCEL SIZE; AMENDING THE COOP STRUCTURE SIZE  
7 THAT REQUIRES A BUILDING PERMIT; PROVIDING FOR NO MINIMUM  
8 LOT SIZE ALLOWED; PROVIDING FOR NO TIME PERIOD FOR THE  
9 LENGTH OF TIME A PERMIT IS ISSUED; PROVIDING FOR  
10 SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE; PROVIDING  
11 FOR THE REPEAL OF CONFLICTING PROVISIONS; AND PROVIDING FOR  
12 AN EFFECTIVE DATE.  
13

14  
15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
16 COMMISSIONERS OF HERNANDO COUNTY:

17 Section 1. Amendment of Hernando County Conditional Use Permits Allowable  
18 with Administrative Official Approval. Hernando County Code Appendix A, Article V § 4  
19 Subsection C(3) is hereby amended to read as follows:

20 C. *Conditional use permits allowable with administrative official approval:*

21 ...

22 (3) Backyard chickens/ducks may be permitted in any residential district, excluding  
23 multifamily districts. All permits shall be subject to the following restrictions:

24 (a) The number of ~~chickens~~ birds shall be limited to ~~no more than four (4) birds~~  
25 chickens and/or ~~no~~ ducks. No geese, turkeys, peafowl, male chickens/roosters,  
26 or any other poultry or fowl shall be ~~are~~ allowed. The number of birds shall be  
27 limited by parcel size as follows:

28 Four (4) birds for parcels smaller than 6,000 square feet

29 Eight (8) birds for parcels up to 10,000 square feet

1 Twelve (12) birds for all parcels over 10,000 square feet

2 Residential PDP/Planned Development District shall be permitted at the same  
3 rate; however, the ordinance is not intended to preempt Homeowners  
4 Association Restrictions or from enforcing stricter guidelines.

5 (b) Chickens/ducks shall be kept in an enclosed area with a coop that provides for  
6 the free movement of chickens/ducks, and are not permitted to be free range.  
7 The coop must have a roof, and be completely secured from predators,  
8 including all openings, ventilation holes, doors and gates. No more than one  
9 (1) coop allowed per permitted parcel.

10 (c) If the coop structure exceeds one hundred and twenty ~~(100)~~ (120) square feet  
11 (ten (10) x ~~ten~~ ~~(10)~~ twelve (12) feet), a building permit shall be required  
12 pursuant to the Florida Building Code. For purposes of this section, the 120-  
13 square-foot threshold applies solely to the coop structure and does not include  
14 chicken runs or other outdoor areas ancillary to the coop structure.

15 ~~(d) The minimum lot size shall be ten thousand (10,000) square feet.~~

16 (d) (e) The chicken/duck coop shall be kept in the rear yard and must not be visible  
17 from adjoining properties or the street. Fence construction shall meet standards  
18 pursuant to the fence ordinance and shall be permitted separately. The  
19 chicken/duck coop shall be situated a minimum of twenty-five (25) feet from  
20 the nearest neighbor's residence and at least five (5) feet from all property  
21 lines.  
22

23 (e) (f) Persons wishing to have chickens in residential districts shall be subject to a  
24 compliance inspection after permit issuance. Accessibility and allowable entry  
25 shall be required for such inspection.

26 (f) (g) The coop shall provide a minimum of three (3) square feet per chicken/ducks  
27 and be of sufficient size to permit free movement of the chickens/ducks. The  
28 coop may not be taller than six (6) feet measured from the natural grade. The  
29 coop must be easily accessible for cleaning and maintenance.

30 (g) (h) The coop and surrounding area shall be kept clean, sanitary and odor free at all  
31 times.

32 (h) (i) Chickens/Ducks shall not be permitted to create a nuisance consisting of odor,  
33 noise or pests, or contribute to any other nuisance condition.

34 (i) (j) All stored feed must be kept in a rodent- and predator-proof container.



1 such intention, and that the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section," "article," or any other  
2 appropriate designation.

3 **Section 4. Conflicting Provisions Repealed.** All ordinances or parts of ordinances in  
4 conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

5 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon receipt of  
6 official acknowledgment from the office of the Secretary of State of Florida that this ordinance  
7 has been filed with said office.

8 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF**  
9 **HERNANDO COUNTY** in Regular Session this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March 2026.



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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12  
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14  
15  
16 Attest: *Douglas A. Chorvat, Jr.* Deputy Clerk By: *Jerry Campbell*  
17 **Douglas A. Chorvat, Jr.** **Jerry Campbell**  
18 **Clerk of Circuit Court & Comptroller** **Chairman**  
19  
20

21 Approved for Form and Legal Sufficiency

22  
23 *Natasha López Perez*  
24 **County Attorney's Office**  
25