

Every so often, after I write an article I decide I don't like it and totally begin from scratch. Such was the case this week and I couldn't decide on which article to submit for publication.

So, what follows is my original coverage of Monday night's "Chicken Debate" at City Hall where council narrowly approved allowing backyard hens in an 18-month pilot project.

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Supporters of backyard chickens were as happy as a rooster in a henhouse, Monday.

Penticton city councillors were walking on eggshells during a one-hour debate on backyard hens. An idea was hatched permitting an 18-month pilot project where home owners, with a permit, could raise up to five backyard hens.

Coun. Judy Sentes, a tough old bird, said much of the opposition was due to "fear more than understanding." Clearly hen opponents are chickens.

There are many benefits to raising chickens, clearly something to crow about.

Mayor Garry Litke, who rules the roost, believes in "giving people choices."

Coun. Katie Robinson felt it was a bird-brained idea. She got her hackles up when arguing against the idea.

Switching to another animal, Coun. John Vassilaki called Wes Hopkin an "ass".

Hopkin's attempt at humour clearly ruffled some feathers. It's too bad. He's a pretty good egg.

It appeared as though the two wanted to wring each other's necks.

Helena Konanz, who voted against the bylaw, felt it wasn't everything it cracked up to be. This chick wondered what would happen to the chickens after 18 months if the pilot project laid an egg.

Supporters in the gallery of backyard hens felt council was the cock of the walk.

Perhaps feeling cooped up, Litke adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Better an egg today than a hen tomorrow.

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This column might seem ridiculous... but so was Monday night's council meeting.

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250-490-0880, ext. 300 between 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. because there's nobody here but us chickens.