



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager

DATE OF MEETING: September 2, 2025

ITEM TITLE: Electric Scooters on Sidewalks

DISCUSSION:

This was tabled from the August 4, 2025, Work Session

During the July 28, 2025, City Council Meeting, Staff was asked to add a discussion item to the next City Council Work Session regarding Electric Scooters and their operation on City Sidewalks.

For reference, here is the pertinent section of code from the City of Spencer, IA, related to this type of activity:

§ 72.021 ELECTRIC STAND-UP SCOOTERS.

(A) Operators of electric stand-up scooters in the city shall be subject to the following provisions of this chapter in the same manner as operators of bicycles: 72.005, 72.008 through 72.010, 72.015 through 72.017 and 72.999.

(B) Operation of electric stand-up scooters.

(1) No operator of an electric stand-up scooter intended for one person shall carry a second person on any part of the scooter.

(2) No operator of an electric stand-up scooter shall carry any package, bundle or article which prevents the operator from keeping both hands on the handlebars.

(3) Operators of electric stand-up scooters on roadways shall not ride more than two abreast and, on laned roadways, shall ride within a single lane.

(4) No person operating an electric stand-up scooter shall ride so as to impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic.

(5) Electric stand-up scooters shall not be operated on city sidewalks except to enter or exit the nearest other public way.

(6) Electric stand-up scooters may be operated on recreational trails.

(7) The operator of an electric stand-up scooter shall exercise caution to avoid colliding with pedestrians, shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and shall give audible warning before overtaking and passing a pedestrian.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends discussion of this topic. No action is needed at this meeting, as any decision items needed would be brought forward to a City Council meeting for approval.