



CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION MINUTES

Monday, August 17, 2026
6:00 PM

Iowa Colony City Council Chambers, 3144 Meridiana Parkway Iowa Colony, Texas 77583

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STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF BRAZORIA

CITY OF IOWA COLONY

BE IT REMEMBERED ON THIS, the 17th day of August 2026, the City Council of the City of Iowa Colony, Texas, held a worksession at 6:00 P.M. at the Iowa Colony City Council Chambers, there being present and in attendance the following members to wit:

Mayor Wil Kennedy
Mayor Pro Tem Marquette Greene-Scott
Councilmember Arnetta Murray
Councilmember Margaret Madariaga
Councilmember Tim Varlack
Councilmember Kareem Boyce
Councilmember Sydney Hargroder

And being absent, constituting a quorum at which time the following business was transacted.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kennedy called the worksession to order at 6:00 P.M.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Presentation and discussion regarding the use of electric scooters.

Chief Bell presented information regarding the laws and regulations governing the use of electric scooters. He stated that the city has experienced an increase in electric scooter use among juveniles, combined with noncompliance with traffic laws and unsafe riding behaviors, resulting in an increased risk of collisions and injuries and raising community safety concerns.

Chief Bell provided photographs of the electric scooters being referenced to provide the City Council and audience with a visual representation of the devices. He explained that, under the Texas Transportation Code, these devices are classified as “motor-assisted scooters.” He stated that a motor-assisted scooter is self-propelled, has at least two wheels in contact with the ground during operation, has a braking system capable of stopping the device under typical operating conditions, is equipped with a gas or electric motor, and has a deck designed to allow a person to stand or sit while operating the device. He further explained that the device may also be propelled by human power alone, meaning the rider may use their foot to propel the scooter if the motor is not operating. The definition does not include pocket bikes or minibikes.

Chief Bell explained that electric scooters may be operated on roadways with a posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less. If the roadway has a posted speed limit greater than 35 miles per hour, the scooter may be operated on the sidewalk, subject to applicable laws.

Chief Bell stated that the City has the authority to adopt an ordinance regulating electric scooters, including imposing restrictions that are more stringent than state law or banning their use. He noted that several cities have adopted additional regulations; however, he did not believe additional regulations were necessary for Iowa Colony at this time. He stated that the Police Department has documented approximately 12 incidents involving electric scooters within the past 24 months.

Chief Bell stated that the Police Department would prefer an educational approach rather than making the first interaction between juveniles and officers a negative one related to scooter use. Officers would stop riders when appropriate, provide education regarding applicable laws and safety requirements, distribute an informational flyer, and allow them to continue on their way. He discussed the possibility of holding an educational class and providing participants with a certificate and sticker to place on their scooter. He noted that some cities seize scooters, require the owner to attend an educational class, store the scooter, and return it upon completion of the class; however, the Iowa Colony Police Department does not currently have the manpower or resources to implement such a program. Chief Bell stated that he would like to work with local schools and partner with them to provide educational presentations regarding electric scooter safety and applicable laws.

Councilmember Varlack commended Chief Bell and the Police Department for their participation in the event held at Alumni Hall during the previous month and stated that the presentation provided by the Police Department was excellent. Councilmember Varlack asked about bicycle laws concerning minors and required safety equipment. He also discussed the laws applicable to electric scooters and whether restrictions could be placed on the size of the scooter motors. He asked where residents could access information regarding bicycle laws on the City's website. Chief Bell stated that the Police Department has distributed informational flyers regarding bicycle and scooter laws and will continue to provide the information through the City's website and social media.

Councilmember Boyce expressed his support for the Police Department's educational approach to electric scooters. He noted that although attendance at the event held several weeks earlier was low, the recorded presentation had been posted online and had received more than 1,600 views. Councilmember Boyce asked about the possibility of partnering with Alvin ISD to provide additional education. He suggested that students could be required to register their scooters with the school and complete an online educational course or video, with both the parent and student acknowledging that the course had been completed. He stated that one of the primary concerns is that scooter riders are not stopping at intersections. Chief Bell asked whether Councilmember Boyce had observed similar behavior among bicycle riders. Councilmember Boyce stated that he had not. Chief Bell stated that he believed presentations should be conducted in classrooms to directly educate students regarding safe scooter operation and applicable laws.

Councilmember Hargroder stated that she did not believe an ordinance was necessary for enforcement at this time. She expressed support for working with local schools and taking a broader approach to pedestrian safety education. She stated that the City's efforts should address pedestrian safety and crossing intersections generally rather than focusing solely on electric scooters.

Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott asked whether a significant number of students currently ride electric scooters. She expressed support for Councilmember Boyce's suggestion to partner with

Alvin ISD. She also expressed interest in the possibility of placing a scannable identification tag on scooters that could be used to identify and contact a parent or guardian when necessary.

Councilmember Murray stated that she supported providing an educational presentation to junior high students and emphasized the importance of working with the school district. She stated that the City should take a proactive approach to the issue.

Councilmember Madariaga stated that she has witnessed accidents involving electric scooters and expressed concern about elementary school-aged children operating the devices. She acknowledged the value of educating students but stated that additional measures should also be considered. She noted concerns regarding distracted riding, including the use of headphones or listening to music while operating scooters. Councilmember Madariaga stated that, although she understood the Police Department's preference not to adopt an ordinance at this time, the city should consider other measures to improve safety. She suggested creating a registration system to allow the City or Police Department to identify and contact a child's parent or guardian in the event of an emergency. She stated that the City's responsibility is to promote the safety of the community. Councilmember Madariaga challenged Chief Bell to review the ages of children involved in reported scooter-related injuries. She also suggested that the City could consider requirements for protective equipment, scooter registration, and an age restriction regarding who may operate electric scooters.

Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott stated that behavior cannot always be legislated and noted that if parents allow young children to operate electric scooters, there are limits to what the city can regulate through an ordinance.

Mayor Kennedy thanked Chief Bell for his presentation and for the Police Department's support of the Alvin ISD event held at Alumni Hall. He expressed support for focusing on education and community awareness regarding electric scooter safety.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive session in accordance with 551.071 and 551.087 of the Texas Gov't Code to deliberate and consult with attorney on the following:

The City Council convened into Executive Session at 6:28 P.M. The City Council returned to open session at 7:00 P.M.

2. Discussion on Economic Development proposals

ADJOURNMENT

The worksession was adjourned at 7:03 P.M.

APPROVED THIS 21st DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2026

Kayleen Rosser, City Secretary

Wil Kennedy, Mayor

