



MEMO

Department

To: Common Council
From: Tim Greenwood, City Attorney
Date: April 8, 2026
Re: 7.09 – Neighborhood Electric Vehicles and Other Motorized Vehicles Ordinance Update

Background information:

At the June 16, 2025 Legislative Committee meeting, members discussed the growing need to update City ordinances to address the increasing use of electric bicycles, electric scooters, and similar motorized personal-transportation devices within the community. A subcommittee was created to study the issue and recommend policy updates. Membership included Mayor Penterman, Alder Antoine, Alder Moore, Police Chief Graff, School Resource Officer (SRO) Lambie, and the City Attorney.

The subcommittee met four times, reviewing comparable ordinances from municipalities including Appleton and Oshkosh to evaluate regional best practices. After the framework was drafted, SRO Lambie met with ten students from the Riverview Middle School Eagle Council to obtain youth feedback, which was reported back to the subcommittee. Chief Graff and the City Attorney also met with Municipal Judge Hufschmid to discuss the potential ordinance and penalties for any violations.

The sub-committee had a good base to work from with the language existing in 7.09 already and incorporating language from Ordinance 7.11 Bicycles and other state statute to craft a new ordinance that is able to accurately categorize the different potential types of electric-powered vehicles based on their characteristics.

Electric bicycles, electric scooters, and personal motorized mobility devices are able to be operated in the same style and manner the regular peddle bicycles are able to be operated, except for at the City's Skate Park due to potential risk operating that type of equipment on the skate equipment. The sub-committee also considered restriction for multiple riders or having a pet on a device; along with considerations for safety features on the devices like front-facing lights and rear lights or reflective tape.

For purposes of enforcement against dangerous operation of the device, the sub-committee ended up recommending a “careless operation” standard where officers are able to have discretion to give citations that create an unnecessary risk.

Strategic Plan:

This change provides the City with an actionable ordinance to protect residents and riders of e-bikes, e-scooters, and similar vehicles from creating situations of unnecessary risk while the City, and the rest of the state, await the state legislature providing more explicit guidance on how the state wants to address these concerns.

Budget: N/A

Staff Recommended Action:

Recommend approval of the amendment to Ordinance 7.09 to the Common Council.