

**CITY OF WAUSAU**  
**407 Grant Street, Wausau, WI 54403**

Ordinance from the Infrastructure & Facilities Committee and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Repealing and Recreating Wausau Municipal Code Chapter 10.40 Bicycles and Repealing Chapter 10.41 Electric Scooters, Chapter 10.42 Go-Carts, Mini-Bikes, and Motorized Scooters, and Chapter 10.43 Motorized Bicycles.

**Committee Action:** Infrastructure & Facilities Committee Approved 4-0; Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Approved 4-0.

**File Number:** 26-0507

**Date Introduced:** May 26, 2026

**Ordinance Number:** 61-6014

The Common Council of the City of Wausau do ordain as follows:

Section 1. That Chapter 10.40, Bicycles, is hereby repealed and recreated to read as follows:

**10.40 BICYCLES, E-BIKES, AND SIMILAR DEVICES REGULATED**

**10.40.010 Purpose and Intent.**

The purpose of this Ordinance is to establish clear, consistent, and enforceable regulations for the use of bicycles, electric bicycles (e-bikes), electric scooters, and similar devices within the City in order to:

- (a) Promote the safety of all trail, sidewalk, and roadway users;
- (b) Provide clarity and consistency across jurisdictions;
- (c) Encourage responsible use of emerging micromobility technologies; and
- (d) Align local regulations with applicable Wisconsin State Statutes.

**10.40.020 Definitions.**

The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this Chapter shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this Section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

(a) Bicycle means a vehicle propelled solely by human power through pedals and having one or more wheels.

(b) Electric Bicycle or E-Bicycle means a bicycle that is equipped with fully operative pedals for propulsion by human power and an electric motor of 750 watts or less and that meets the requirements of any of the following classifications:

- (1) Class 1 E-bicycle means an electric bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.

(2) Class 2 E-bicycle means an electric bicycle that may be powered solely by the motor and is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.

(3) Class 3 E-bicycle means an electric bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 miles per hour.

(c) Electric Motorized Device or E-Moto means any electric-powered device designed for transportation without fully operable pedals, including electric dirt bikes, electric motorcycles, one-wheeled devices, or similar devices. E-Moto does not include any motor vehicle that would be classified as a motorcycle per Wis. Stat. § 340.01(32) or otherwise be required to be registered pursuant to Wis. Stat. Ch. 341.

(d) Electric Scooter means a device weighing less than 100 pounds that has handlebars and an electric motor, is powered solely by the electric motor and human power, and has a maximum speed of not more than 20 miles per hour on paved level surface when powered solely by the electric motor. Electric Scooter does not include any electric personal assistive mobility device, motor bicycle, electric bicycle, or moped.

(e) Motorized Bicycle has the same meaning as in Wis. Stat. § 340.01(30).

(f) Multi-use Path or Trail means any paved or unpaved off-street path intended for shared use by pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized users.

(g) Personal Assisted Mobility Device ("PAMD") means a self-balancing device with two wheels not in tandem, designed to transport only one person by an electric propulsion system with an average power of seven hundred fifty watts (one horsepower) having a maximum speed on a paved level surface, when powered solely by such a propulsion system while ridden by an operator weighing one hundred seventy pounds, of less than twenty miles per hour or a self-balancing device with one wheel designed to transport only one person by an electric propulsion system with an average power of two thousand watts (two and two-thirds horsepower) having a maximum speed on a paved level surface, when powered solely by such a propulsion system, of less than twenty miles per hour.

#### 10.40.030. State Law Adopted.

(a) Wisconsin Stats. §§ 346.02(12), 346.80, 346.803, and 346.806 are hereby adopted by reference, as amended from time to time.

#### 10.40.040 Rules of the Road and Areas of Operations.

(a) Roadways.

(1) Any person operating a Bicycle, E-Bicycle, Electric Scooter, or PAMD upon a roadway without designated bicycle lanes, shall ride as close as practicable to the right-hand edge or curb of the unobstructed traveled roadway, including operators who are riding two or more abreast where permitted under Subsection (4) below, except:

i. When overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction.

ii. When preparing for a left turn or U-turn at an intersection or a left turn into a private road or driveway.

iii. When reasonably necessary to avoid unsafe conditions, including fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, pedestrians, animals, surface hazards or substandard width lanes that make it unsafe to ride along the right-hand edge or curb.

iv. When upon a one-way roadway having two or more lanes available for traffic, a person may ride as near the left-hand edge or curb of the roadway as practicable.

(2) Any person operating a Bicycle, E-Bicycle, Electric Scooter, or PAMD upon a roadway shall exercise due care when passing a standing or parked vehicle or a vehicle proceeding in the same direction.

(3) Operating two abreast.

i. Persons riding Bicycle, E-Bicycle, Electric Scooter, or PAMD upon a roadway may ride two abreast if such operation does not impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic. Bicycle, electric scooter, or electric personal assistive mobility device operators riding two abreast on a two-lane or more roadway shall ride within a single lane.

ii. Persons riding Bicycle, E-Bicycle, Electric Scooter, or PAMD upon a roadway may not ride more than two abreast except upon any path, trail, lane or other way set aside for the exclusive use of Bicycles, E-Bicycles, Electric Scooters, or PAMDs.

(4) No person may operate a Bicycle, E-Bicycle, Electric Scooter, or PAMD upon a roadway where a sign is erected indicating that Bicycle, E-Bicycle, Electric Scooter, or PAMD riding is prohibited. The Infrastructure and Facilities Committee is the delegated authority to recommend to the Common Council rules restricting bicycle operation within the City. After adoption by the Council and publication, the Infrastructure and Facilities Committee shall cause signs to be posted bearing the restrictions at appropriate places upon the streets.

(5) Persons operating a Bicycle, E-Bicycle, Electric Scooter, or PAMD upon a roadway with a designated bicycle lane shall operate within the bicycle lane.

(b) Sidewalks.

(1) Bicycle, E-Bicycle, Electric Scooter, and PAMD shall be permitted to operate on the sidewalks in the following locations:

i. Grand Avenue, from Schofield City limits to the southern boundary line of Forest Street.

ii. Forest Street, from the east boundary of Sixth Street to the west boundary of Fifth Street.

iii. East Randolph Street, at the beginning of the curb radii, of the East Randolph Street terminus, to approximately 350 feet east onto Burek Avenue.

iv. Bridge Street bridge

v. Thomas Street bridge

vi. Scott Street and Washington Street bridges.

(2) When sidewalks are present on both sides of a roadway identified above, Bicycles, E-Bicycles, Electric Scooters, and PAMDs must use the sidewalk on the side of the roadway so as to travel in the same direction as traffic.

(3) Bicycle, E-Bicycle, Electric Scooter, and PAMD operating on sidewalks shall adhere to the rules of the road in Subsection (c)(2), (4), and (5).

**(c) Multi-use Paths and Trails.**

(1) Bicycle, E-Bicycle, Electric Scooter, and PAMD shall be permitted on Multi-use Paths and Trails, unless otherwise posted.

(2) Every person operating a Bicycle, E-Bicycle, Electric Scooter, or PAMD upon a Multi-use Path or Trail shall:

i. Exercise due care and give an audible signal when passing a Bicycle, E-Bicycle, Electric Scooter, PAMD, or a pedestrian proceeding in the same direction.

ii. Obey each traffic signal or sign facing a roadway which runs parallel and adjacent to a bicycle way.

(3) Every person operating a Bicycle, E-Bicycle, Electric Scooter, or PAMD upon a Multi-use Path or Trail open to two-way traffic shall ride on the right side of the Multi-use Path or Trail.

(4) Every operator of a Bicycle, E-Bicycle, Electric Scooter, or PAMD entering a Multi-use Path or Trail shall yield the right-of-way to all Bicycles, E-Bicycles, Electric Scooters, PAMDs, and pedestrians in the Multi-use Path or Trail.

(5) Bicycles and E-Bicycles operated on Multi-use Path or Trail shall be operated at a reasonable and prudent speed to avoid colliding with any other person, object, or vehicle.

**10.40.050 Operating Speed.**

(a) No Bicycle, E-Bicycle, Electric Scooter, or PAMD shall be operated at a speed greater than the posted speed limit on any roadway.

(b) No Bicycle, E-Bicycle, Electric Scooter, or PAMD shall be operated at a speed greater 15 MPH on a Multi-Use Path or Trail

**10.40.060 Disorderly and Reckless Operation of a Bicycle, E-Bicycle, or Similar Device.**

(a) Reckless Operation. No person may operate a Bicycle, E-Bicycle, Electric Scooter, PAMD, E-Moto, or Motorized Bicycle in a manner that:

(1) Endangers the safety of any person or property by negligent operation.

(2) Causes bodily harm or great bodily harm to another by negligent operation.

(b) Disorderly Operation. No person shall operate Bicycle, E-Bicycle, Electric Scooter, PAMD, E-Moto, or Motorized Bicycle in a manner that:

(1) Demonstrates carelessness or indifference to the safety of the operator or others;

(2) Is boisterous, raucous, or otherwise disorderly under circumstances in which such conduct tends to cause or provoke a disturbance; or

(3) Involves the intentional, deliberate, or unnecessary performance stunts or wheelies, skids, or other maneuvers that unreasonably endangers any person or property.

(c) Penalties. Any person who shall violate this section shall be subject to a forfeiture of not less than \$50.00 and not more than \$200.00 plus the costs of prosecution.

#### 10.40.070 Age Restrictions

(a) Operators of Class 3 E-Bicycles must be at least 16 years of age.

(b) There is no minimum age requirement for Class 1 or Class 2 E-Bicycles.

#### 10.40.080 Equipment Requirements

(a) E-Bicycles shall be equipped with:

(1) Fully operable pedals;

(2) A permanent manufacturer's label indicating the E-Bicycles class, top assisted speed, and motor wattage.

(b) Class 3 E-Bicycles must be equipped with a speedometer.

(c) Bicycles and E-Bicycles shall be equipped with lighting and reflector equipment that complies with Wis. Stat. § 347.489.

#### 10.40.090 Registration and licensing.

(a) No registration or licensing shall be required for Bicycles, E-Bicycles, E-Scooters, E-Motos, or Motorized Bicycles but owners are encouraged to register their devices with the Wausau Police Department.

(b) A driver's license is not required to operate an E-Bicycle of any Class.

#### 10.40.100 Prohibited Devices.

(a) E-Motos, Motorized Bicycles, and other electric motorized devices without pedals are prohibited from operating on:

(1) Sidewalks;

(2) Multi-use paths;

(3) Trails; and

(4) Parks, unless otherwise permitted by ordinance and posted.

#### 10.40.110 Penalties.

Except as otherwise provided in this Chapter, any person who shall violate this Chapter shall be subject to a forfeiture of not less than \$25.00 and not more than \$50.00 plus the costs of prosecution.

Section 2. That Chapter 10.41 Electric Scooters, is hereby repealed.

Section 3. That Chapter 10.42 Go-Carts, Mini-Bikes, and Motorized Scooters, is hereby repealed.

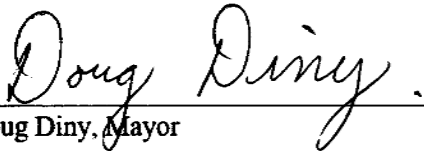
Section 4. That Chapter 10.43 Motorized Bicycles, is hereby repealed.

Section 5. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

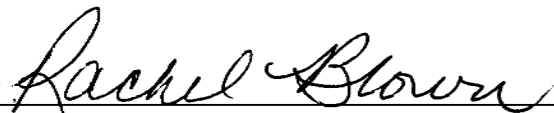
Section 6. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect on the day after its publication.

Adopted: 5/26/2026  
Approved: 5/27/2026  
Published: 6/3/2026  
Attest: 5/27/2026

Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Doug Diny, Mayor

Attested:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rachel Brown, City Clerk



|                   |                                                                        |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Account Number:   | 1012784                                                                |
| Customer Name:    | Wausau City Of                                                         |
| Customer Address: | Wausau City Of<br>407 Grant St<br>Kim, Finance<br>Wausau WI 54403-4737 |
| Contact Name:     | Carrie Edmondson                                                       |
| Contact Phone:    | 715-261-6009                                                           |
| Contact Email:    | Carrie.Edmondson@wausauwi.gov                                          |
| PO Number:        |                                                                        |

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| Date:              | 06/03/2026 |
| Order Number:      | 12390808   |
| Prepayment Amount: | \$ 0.00    |

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| Column Count:     | 1.0000   |
| Line Count:       | 483.0000 |
| Height in Inches: | 39.9300  |

Print

| Product                   | #Insertions | Start - End             | Category       |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| WDH Wausau Daily Herald   | 1           | 06/07/2026 - 06/07/2026 | Public Notices |
| WDH wausaudailyherald.com | 1           | 06/07/2026 - 06/07/2026 | Public Notices |

As an incentive for customers, we provide a discount off the total order cost equal to the 3.99% service fee if you pay with Cash/Check/ACH. Pay by Cash/Check/ACH and save!

|                                          |          |
|------------------------------------------|----------|
| Total Cash Order Confirmation Amount Due | \$371.91 |
| Tax Amount                               | \$0.00   |
| Service Fee 3.99%                        | \$14.84  |
| Cash/Check/ACH Discount                  | -\$14.84 |
| Payment Amount by Cash/Check/ACH         | \$371.91 |
| Payment Amount by Credit Card            | \$386.75 |

Order Confirmation Amount

\$371.91

Small text block at the bottom of the page, likely containing legal disclaimers or contact information.