



City Council Workshop Meeting

Agenda

205 S Webster Ave
Omro, WI 54963
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Barbara J Van Clake
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Tuesday, July 21, 2026

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Adoption of Minutes**
 - a. City Council Meeting - June 16, 2026
- 4. Review of Ordinance Language: E. Bikes and E. Scooters**
 - a. ORD: 260721-C#512 An Ordinance Creating Section 7.25 of the Omro Municipal Code Regulating the Operation of Electric Bicycles and Electric Scooters Within the City of Omro
- 5. Adjournment**

ORD: 260721-C#512 AN ORDINANCE CREATING SECTION 7.25 OF THE OMRO MUNICIPAL CODE REGULATING THE OPERATION OF ELECTRIC BICYCLES AND ELECTRIC SCOOTERS WITHIN THE CITY OF OMRO

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Omro recognizes that electric bicycles and electric scooters have become increasingly common modes of transportation and recreation throughout Wisconsin and within the City of Omro; and

WHEREAS, the City of Omro has invested substantial public resources in streets, sidewalks, bicycle facilities, parks, recreational trails, and pedestrian infrastructure intended to provide safe and accessible transportation and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council finds that the operation of electric bicycles and electric scooters presents unique public safety concerns involving pedestrians, school zones, parks, recreational facilities, public events, and vehicular traffic; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council desires to encourage the responsible use of electric bicycles and electric scooters while protecting the health, safety, and welfare of residents, visitors, children, pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council is authorized pursuant to Wis. Stats. §§ 62.11(5), 340.01, 346.78, 346.79, 347.489, 349.06, 349.18, and related provisions of Wisconsin law to regulate the operation of bicycles and electric mobility devices upon public highways and municipal property;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Common Council of the City of Omro, Winnebago County, Wisconsin, does ordain as follows:

SECTION 1

Creation of Section 7.25 – Electric Bicycles and Electric Scooters

Section 7.25 of the Omro Municipal Code is hereby created to read as follows:

7.25.010 Purpose

The purpose of this Chapter is to promote the safe and responsible operation of electric bicycles and electric scooters within the City of Omro; protect public health, safety, and welfare; reduce conflicts among pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and electric mobility device operators; preserve public infrastructure and recreational facilities; and establish local regulations consistent with Wisconsin law.

7.25.015 Legislative Intent

A. The Common Council finds that electric bicycles and electric scooters are capable of greater speeds, acceleration, and weight than traditional bicycles and present unique safety concerns when operated upon public streets, sidewalks, bicycle lanes, bicycle paths, multi-use trails, parks, and other public property. The Council further finds that younger operators may lack the maturity, judgment, and experience necessary to safely operate such devices in areas shared with pedestrians and motor vehicle traffic. Accordingly, the following age restrictions are adopted to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the public and to supplement applicable provisions of Wisconsin Statutes.

7.25.020 Definitions

- A. Class 1 Electric Bicycle. An electric bicycle as defined in Wis. Stat. § 340.01(15ph) that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases assistance at twenty (20) miles per hour.
- B. Class 2 Electric Bicycle. An electric bicycle as defined in Wis. Stat. § 340.01(15ph) that may be propelled solely by the motor and ceases assistance at twenty (20) miles per hour.
- C. Class 3 Electric Bicycle. An electric bicycle as defined in Wis. Stat. § 340.01(15ph) that provides assistance only while the rider is pedaling, ceases assistance at twenty-eight (28) miles per hour, and is equipped with a speedometer.
- D. Electric Scooter. A device meeting the definition contained in Wis. Stat. § 340.01(15ps), as amended.
- E. Shared Mobility Device. Any electric bicycle or electric scooter made available for rental, lease, or shared use.
- F. Minor. Any person under eighteen (18) years of age.
- G. Sidewalk. Any public pedestrian walkway owned or maintained by the City or State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation on a bridge
- H. Trail. Any paved or improved pathway intended for pedestrian, bicycle, or recreational use.

7.25.030 Applicability

- A. This Chapter shall apply to all electric bicycles and electric scooters operated upon:
 - 1. Public streets;
 - 2. Alleys;
 - 3. Sidewalks;
 - 4. Public trails;
 - 5. Parks;
 - 6. Public parking lots; and
 - 7. Other public property owned, controlled, or maintained by the City.

7.25.040 Compliance with Traffic Laws

- A. Operators shall comply with all applicable provisions of Wisconsin Statutes Chapters 340 through 349 and all City ordinances. All statutes in those chapters not already adopted by the Omro Municipal Code are hereby adopted.
- B. Operators shall obey all traffic control devices and lawful directions of law enforcement officers.
- C. Electric bicycles and electric scooters shall be subject to bicycle regulations under Wisconsin law unless otherwise provided herein.

7.25.045 Electric Off-Highway Vehicles Prohibited

- A. Except as expressly authorized by this Code or Wisconsin Statutes, no person shall operate or ride an electric off-highway motorcycle, electric dirt bike, electric mini-bike, electric trail bike, electric motocross motorcycle, or any other electric-powered motor vehicle that is not an electric bicycle or electric scooter as defined by Wisconsin Statutes upon any street, sidewalk, bicycle path, multi-use trail, park, or other public property owned or controlled by the City.
- B. For purposes of this section, an electric off-highway vehicle means an electric-powered motor

vehicle designed or manufactured primarily for off-road or recreational use and not meeting the statutory definition of an electric bicycle under Wis. Stat. § 340.01(15ph) or an electric scooter under Wis. Stat. § 340.01(15ps). This includes, but is not limited to, electric dirt bikes, electric motocross motorcycles, electric pit bikes, and similar vehicles.

C. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the lawful operation of:

1. Electric bicycles as authorized by this chapter and Wisconsin Statutes;
2. Electric scooters as authorized by this chapter and Wisconsin Statutes; or
3. Mobility devices used by persons with disabilities or emergency, law enforcement, or City- owned vehicles operated in the course of official duties.

7.25.050 General Rules of Operation

A. No person shall operate an electric bicycle or electric scooter:

1. In a careless, reckless, or negligent manner;
2. While under the influence of intoxicants or controlled substances;
3. In a distracted manner that creates an unreasonable risk to persons or property; or
4. In a manner endangering persons or property.

B. Operators shall maintain at least one hand on the handlebars while operating.

C. No person shall carry more passengers than the manufacturer designed the device to accommodate.

7.25.055 Passengers on Electric Bicycles and Electric Scooters

A. Electric Bicycles.

1. No person shall operate an electric bicycle while carrying or transporting more persons than the number for which the electric bicycle was designed and equipped by the manufacturer.
2. A passenger may be carried only upon a permanent seat specifically designed for carrying a passenger and equipped with appropriate footrests when required by the manufacturer.
3. Nothing in this section prohibits the transportation of a child in a securely attached child safety seat or bicycle trailer designed for use with bicycles and installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
4. Operators and passengers shall comply with all applicable provisions of Wisconsin Statutes §§
5. 346.79 and 346.806, as amended.

B. Electric Scooters.

1. No person shall operate an electric scooter while carrying or transporting another person.
2. No passenger shall ride upon an electric scooter unless the scooter has been specifically designed, manufactured, and equipped by the manufacturer to safely carry more than one person.
3. A person shall not ride as a passenger upon an electric scooter by standing on the operator

platform, handlebars, frame, or any portion of the scooter not intended by the manufacturer for passenger use.

4. Violation of this subsection shall constitute a traffic ordinance violation subject to the penalties provided in this chapter.

C. General Safety.

No operator of an electric bicycle or electric scooter shall permit any passenger to ride in a manner that interferes with the safe operation or control of the vehicle.

7.25.060 Speed Regulations

- A. No person shall operate an electric bicycle or electric scooter at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under existing conditions.
- B. No electric scooter shall be operated at a speed exceeding twenty (20) miles per hour.
- C. No electric bicycle or electric scooter shall be operated on a sidewalk at a speed exceeding ten (10) miles per hour.
- D. No person shall operate an electric bicycle or electric scooter at a speed greater than ten (10) miles per hour within:
 1. School zones;
 2. School crossings;
 3. Playground areas;
 4. Areas supervised by a crossing guard; or
 5. Special event areas designated by the City.

7.25.070 Operation on Streets

- A. Operators shall ride as near as practicable to the right-hand edge of the roadway except when:
 1. Passing another vehicle;
 2. Preparing for a left turn;
 3. Avoiding hazards; or
 4. Operating in a lane too narrow for safe side-by-side travel.
- B. Electric bicycles and electric scooters may utilize bicycle lanes where available.

7.25.080 Operation on Sidewalks

- A. Electric bicycles and electric scooters may be operated on sidewalks except where prohibited by this Chapter or by posted signage.

Operators shall:

 1. Yield the right-of-way to pedestrians;
 2. Give an audible signal before overtaking a pedestrian; and
 3. Exercise due care to avoid collisions.

7.25.085 Class-Specific Operational Restrictions

- A. Class 1 electric bicycles may be operated wherever conventional bicycles are permitted unless otherwise prohibited.
- B. Class 2 electric bicycles shall not be operated:

1. On any sidewalk within the City;
 2. Within playground areas; or
 3. On trails where motorized devices are prohibited by posted signage.
- C. Class 3 electric bicycles shall not be operated:
1. On any sidewalk within the City;
 2. Within playground areas;
 3. Upon school grounds except designated bicycle access routes; or
 4. On trails where prohibited by posted signage.
- D. Class 3 electric bicycles shall primarily operate on streets, bicycle lanes, and designated bicycle routes.
- E. Electric scooters shall not be operated:
1. On sidewalks within the Central Business District;
 2. Within playground areas;
 3. Inside park shelters;
 4. On athletic fields; or
 5. On natural surface trails unless authorized.
- F. The Director of Public Works may, by written order and appropriate signage, restrict or prohibit the operation of specific classes of electric bicycles or electric scooters where necessary to protect public safety or municipal property.

7.25.090 Central Business District Restrictions

- A. Class 1 electric bicycles, Class 2 electric bicycles, Class 3 electric bicycles, and electric scooters are prohibited on sidewalks within the Central Business District.
- B. The Central Business District shall include:
1. East and West Main Street corridors;
 2. East and West Huron Street corridors;
 3. Webster Avenue between Main Street and Larrabee Street; and
 4. Other areas designated by Common Council resolution and identified by map or signage.

7.25.100 Parks and Recreational Areas

- A. Class 1 electric bicycles are permitted on paved trails, multi-use paths, and park roadways unless otherwise posted.
- B. Class 2 electric bicycles are permitted on paved trails and park roadways but prohibited within playground areas, athletic facilities, and designated natural areas.
- C. Class 3 electric bicycles are permitted only on paved trails designated for bicycle use and park roadways.
- D. Electric scooters are permitted only on paved trails and park roadways designated by the Director of Public Works.
- E. Electric bicycles and electric scooters are prohibited from:
1. Athletic fields;
 2. Ball diamonds;
 3. Playgrounds;
 4. Park shelters;
 5. Natural resource areas;

6. Landscaping beds; and
7. Areas closed by written order of the Director of Public Works.

7.25.110 Electric Bicycles and Electric Scooters During Closed Park Hours

- A. No person shall operate an electric bicycle or electric scooter within any City park between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m., except as otherwise permitted under this chapter.
- B. This section shall not apply to:
 1. Persons lawfully present in a City park during otherwise closed hours for fishing or any other activity specifically authorized by this chapter or by Wisconsin Statutes;
 2. City employees, law enforcement officers, emergency responders, or contractors acting within the scope of their official duties; or
 3. Persons specifically authorized by written permit or approval issued by the City.
- C. Any person operating an electric bicycle or electric scooter pursuant to an exception under this section shall travel only by the most direct route reasonably necessary to access or depart the authorized activity and shall otherwise comply with all provisions of this chapter.

7.25.115 Operation on Pedestrian Bridges

- A. No person shall ride or operate an electric bicycle or electric scooter upon any pedestrian bridge, footbridge, or walkway bridge located within any City park or upon any bridge or structure designated by the City for pedestrian use only.
- B. An individual operating an electric bicycle or electric scooter shall dismount prior to entering a pedestrian bridge and shall walk the electric bicycle or electric scooter across the bridge.
- C. This section shall not apply to City employees, law enforcement officers, emergency personnel, or other persons acting within the scope of their official duties when operation of an electric bicycle or electric scooter is necessary to perform those duties.

7.25.120 Equipment Requirements

- A. All electric bicycles and electric scooters operated between sunset and sunrise shall be equipped with:
 1. A white front light visible from at least 500 feet; and
 2. A red rear reflector or rear light visible from at least 500 feet.
- B. All devices shall have functioning brakes and manufacturer-installed safety equipment maintained in working order.

7.25.130 Age Restrictions

- A. No person under fourteen (14) years of age shall operate an electric scooter on public

property at a speed exceeding 15 mph.

- B. No person under sixteen (16) years of age shall operate a Class 3 electric bicycle except as otherwise authorized by Wisconsin Statutes.
- C. No person under twelve (12) years of age shall operate a Class 2 electric bicycle upon a public street unless accompanied by a parent or guardian or an adult designated by the parent or legal guardian.
- D. Children under ten (10) years of age shall not operate any electric bicycle or electric scooter upon a public street or public property except under direct parental supervision.

7.25.135 Helmet and Safety Equipment Requirements

A. Legislative Intent. The Common Council finds that the use of properly fitted protective helmets and safety equipment significantly reduces the risk of serious head injuries and other bodily injuries resulting from accidents involving electric bicycles and electric scooters. The Council further finds that minors are at greater risk of injury due to their age, judgment, and experience. Accordingly, the following safety requirements are adopted to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

B. Helmet Required for Minors. Every person under eighteen (18) years of age operating or riding as a passenger upon an electric bicycle or electric scooter on any public street, sidewalk, bicycle lane, bicycle path, multi-use trail, park, or other public property within the City shall wear a properly fitted and securely fastened bicycle helmet meeting the standards of the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) or other nationally recognized safety standard approved by the Chief of Police.

C. Passenger Requirement. No operator of an electric bicycle shall knowingly permit a passenger under eighteen (18) years of age to ride unless the passenger is wearing a helmet as required by this section.

D. Parent or Guardian Responsibility. A parent, legal guardian, or other person having custody or control of a minor shall not knowingly permit the minor to operate or ride upon an electric bicycle or electric scooter in violation of this section.

E. Safety Equipment. Every electric bicycle and electric scooter operated within the City shall be equipped with all lighting, reflectors, brakes, bells, and other safety equipment required by this chapter and applicable Wisconsin Statutes.

F. Effect on Civil Liability. Failure to wear a helmet as required by this section shall constitute a violation of this Code but shall not be construed as evidence of negligence or comparative fault in any civil action.

7.25.140 Operators Safety

A. No person shall:

1. Ride on one wheel;
 2. Perform stunts or tricks;
 3. Jump curbs, benches, retaining walls, or public improvements;
 4. Race another bicycle, scooter, or motor vehicle; or
 5. Operate in a manner causing pedestrians to take evasive action.
- B. No person shall operate an electric bicycle or electric scooter upon school property contrary to school district regulations.

7.25.145 Education and Safety Program

- A. The City recognizes that education is an essential component of promoting the safe and responsible operation of electric bicycles and electric scooters. The Omro Police Department is authorized to develop, coordinate, or partner with schools, community organizations, bicycle safety organizations, local businesses, and other governmental agencies to provide public education and safety awareness programs.
- B. Educational programs may include, but are not limited to, instruction regarding:
1. Applicable Wisconsin traffic laws and City ordinances governing the operation of electric bicycles and electric scooters;
 2. The proper use, fitness, and importance of protective helmets and other recommended safety equipment;
 3. Safe riding practices, including speed management, yielding to pedestrians, maintaining safe following distances, and operating in a predictable manner;
 4. Proper trail, sidewalk, and shared-use path etiquette, including courteous interaction with pedestrians, bicyclists, and other lawful users;
 5. Visibility and nighttime safety, including the use of required lights, reflectors, and brightly colored or reflective clothing;
 6. Safe crossing of intersections, driveways, and railroad crossings;
 7. Recognition of roadway hazards, weather conditions, and other circumstances affecting the safe operation of electric bicycles and electric scooters;
 8. The dangers of distracted or impaired operation, including the use of handheld electronic devices while riding;
 9. Passenger restrictions, age requirements, bridge restrictions, and other operational requirements established by this chapter; and
 10. Respect for public parks, trails, natural resources, and private property while operating electric bicycles and electric scooters.
- C. The Police Department is encouraged to promote voluntary compliance through public education, community outreach, safety demonstrations, bicycle rodeos, school presentations, informational materials, and other educational activities before or in conjunction with enforcement efforts whenever appropriate.
- D. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of any law enforcement officer to enforce the provisions of this chapter or other applicable laws.

725.150 Responsibility of Parents and Guardians

A. No parent, legal guardian, or other person having custody or control of a minor shall knowingly permit, authorize, or allow the minor to operate an electric bicycle or electric scooter in violation of any provision of this chapter.

B. A parent, legal guardian, or other person having custody or control of a minor shall exercise reasonable supervision to ensure that the minor complies with the requirements of this chapter, including, but not limited to, applicable age restrictions, helmet requirements, passenger limitations, operating restrictions, and other safety provisions.

C. A violation of this section shall not be construed to impose strict liability upon a parent, legal guardian, or other person having custody or control of a minor. A violation shall require proof that the parent, guardian, or custodian knowingly permitted, authorized, or allowed the conduct constituting the violation.

D. Any civil or forfeiture liability imposed upon a parent, legal guardian, or other person having custody or control of a minor under this chapter shall be limited to the extent authorized by Wisconsin Statutes and other applicable law.

E. Nothing in this section shall be construed to relieve a minor from responsibility for his or her own violation of this chapter where such responsibility is otherwise provided by law.

7.25.160 Parking Regulations

A. No person shall park an electric bicycle or electric scooter:

1. In a manner obstructing pedestrian travel;
2. Within ADA-accessible routes;
3. Within a crosswalk;
4. In front of a fire hydrant;
5. In a traffic lane; or
6. In a manner creating a public nuisance or safety hazard.

7.25.170 Shared Mobility Devices

No person or entity shall operate a shared electric bicycle or electric scooter program within the City without prior approval of the Common Council.

7.25.180 Accident Reporting

Any operator involved in an accident resulting in injury, death, or otherwise required to be reported under Wisconsin law shall immediately notify the Omro Police Department.

7.25.190 Temporary Restrictions

A. The Chief of Police, Director of Public Works, Mayor, or Common Council may temporarily restrict operation during:

1. Parades;
2. Festivals;

3. Community events;
4. Construction projects;
5. Emergencies; or
6. Public safety incidents.

B. Such restrictions shall be implemented by written order and appropriate signage whenever practicable.

7.25.220 Penalties

- A. First Offense:
\$25.00 to \$250.00 forfeiture.
- B. Subsequent Offenses:
\$50.00 to \$500.00 forfeiture.
- C. Court costs and statutory assessments shall be added.

SECTION 2. SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this ordinance is declared invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 3. REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication as required by law.