



City Council Workshop Meeting

Minutes

205 S Webster Ave
Omro, WI 54963
www.omro-wi.com

Barbara J Van Clake
(920) 685-7000

Tuesday, July 21, 2026

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

Call to Order

Mayor Mary B. Berndt called the council meeting to order at 6:00 PM in the council chambers at Omro City Hall located at 205 S. Webster Avenue.

Roll Call

Present: Council Member David Wiese, Council Member Darin Treleven, Council Member Justin Schmick, Council Member Scott Jorgenson, Council Member Amanda Zick, Council Member Peggy Williams

Staff Present: Mayor Mary B. Berndt, City Administrator Kaija Snyder, Clerk Barbara J. Van Clake, City Attorney Ludwig Wurtz, Public Works Director Sam Mingo, Police Chief Cory Andersen

Adoption of Minutes

City Council Meeting -
June 16, 2026

Darin Treleven motioned and Justin Schmick seconded to approve the 06/16/22026 Council Workshop Meeting Minutes as presented.

RESULT: 6 to 0
MOVER: Darin Treleven
SECONDER: Justin Schmick
AYES: 6
NAYS: 0

Review of Ordinance Language: E. Bikes and E. Scooters

Workshop Discussion – Proposed Electric Bicycle and Electric Scooter Ordinance

The Council conducted an extensive workshop to review the proposed ordinance regulating the operation of electric bicycles and electric scooters within the City of Omro. The workshop was intended to review each section of the draft ordinance prior to consideration of the first reading during the regular Common Council meeting.

Purpose and Legislative Intent

The City Administrator reviewed the introductory provisions explaining the purpose and legislative intent of the ordinance, emphasizing that the ordinance is intended to promote public safety while recognizing the increasing use of electric bicycles and electric scooters within the community. Council members agreed the legislative intent appropriately emphasized: protection of public health, safety and welfare,

responsible operation of electric mobility devices, protection of pedestrians and public infrastructure, providing law enforcement with clear enforcement authority. No substantive changes were requested.

Definitions

The Council reviewed the definitions section, including the classifications of Class 1, Class 2 and Class 3 electric bicycles, electric scooters, minors, sidewalks, trails and shared mobility devices. Chief Andersen explained the operational differences between the three classes of electric bicycles, including pedal assist, throttle operation and maximum speeds. Discussion included: identification of bicycle classifications by manufacturers, enforcement considerations, applicability of state statutory definitions, clarification that shared mobility devices refer to commercial rental programs such as Lime or Bird scooters rather than mobility devices used by persons with disabilities. The City Attorney clarified that mobility devices used by persons with disabilities remain protected under applicable law.

Applicability

The Council reviewed the public locations where the ordinance would apply, including: streets, sidewalks, trails, parks, parking lots, and other City-owned property. Members acknowledged that the ordinance regulates operation only upon public property and does not restrict operation on private property.

Compliance with Traffic Laws

The draft ordinance incorporates applicable Wisconsin traffic laws governing operation of electric bicycles and scooters. Chief Andersen explained that the ordinance provides law enforcement with additional enforcement authority where current state statutes are limited. Discussion focused on increasing safety through education while providing officers the ability to issue citations when necessary.

Electric Off-Highway Vehicles

The Council reviewed the prohibition against operating electric dirt bikes, electric motorcycles, mini bikes and similar off-highway vehicles upon public property. Questions were raised regarding golf carts. Staff noted that golf carts are regulated separately and are not addressed within this ordinance.

General Rules of Operation

The Council reviewed operational requirements including: prohibition against reckless operation, operating while intoxicated, distracted

operation, maintaining control of the device, and carrying only the number of passengers intended by the manufacturer.

Discussion also addressed passenger safety and manufacturer-designed passenger seating.

Passenger Regulations

Separate standards for electric bicycles and electric scooters were reviewed. The Council discussed passenger seating requirements, child safety seats, bicycle trailers, and the prohibition of passengers on electric scooters. A drafting correction was identified in the numbering of one subsection. Remove (5) after 7.25.090(4).

Speed Regulations

Considerable discussion occurred regarding speed limits.

Topics included: Maximum roadway speeds. Sidewalk speed limits. School zones. Playground areas. Crossing guards. Special event restrictions. Chief Andersen discussed practical enforcement using radar and officer discretion. Council members generally agreed that the existing language was appropriate while acknowledging additional review prior to adoption.

Sidewalk Operation

The Council extensively discussed the operation of electric bikes and scooters on sidewalks. Discussion included: Allowing Class 1 electric bicycles on sidewalks. Restrictions for throttle-operated devices. Pedestrian safety. Audible warning requirements. Yielding the right-of-way. Council also identified inconsistency with the City's existing bicycle ordinance, which currently prohibits bicycles on sidewalks. Staff was directed to prepare amendments to the existing bicycle ordinance, so both ordinances would be consistent before final adoption.

Central Business District Restrictions

The Council reviewed proposed restrictions within the downtown business district. Discussion included: East Main Street, West Main Street, East Huron Street, West Huron Street, and S. Webster Avenue. After discussion, Council members generally supported removing the Huron Street corridor from the restricted area because of its residential character even though zoned C-1 Central Commercial. Members also discussed requiring bicycles and scooters to be walked within portions of the downtown business district to improve pedestrian safety. Additional refinement of this section was requested before final adoption.

Parks and Recreational Areas

The Council reviewed restrictions prohibiting the operation on: athletic fields, ball diamonds, playgrounds, natural resource areas, landscaped areas, and other designated park facilities. No substantive changes were requested.

Closed Park Hours

The Council reviewed restrictions prohibiting operation during park closing hours. No changes were requested.

Pedestrian Bridges

The Council reviewed language prohibiting operation on pedestrian bridges and walkway bridges. No changes were requested.

Equipment Requirements

The Council reviewed required safety equipment including: front lighting, rear reflectors or lighting, functional braking systems, manufacturer-installed safety equipment. No changes were requested.

Age Restrictions

The Council reviewed proposed age limitations, including: minimum age for electric scooter operation, Class 3 electric bicycle restrictions, Class 2 bicycle operation by younger riders, and supervision requirements for children under ten years of age. Chief Andersen discussed enforcement considerations involving minors and parental notification.

Helmet Requirements

The Council reviewed mandatory helmet requirements for minors. Discussion included: helmet use by passengers, parent and guardian responsibilities, safety equipment requirements. Members expressed support for strengthening youth safety requirements.

Safety Provisions

The Council reviewed provisions prohibiting wheelies, jumping curbs, racing, stunts, reckless operation, and actions causing pedestrians to take evasive action. Council members agreed these provisions strengthened pedestrian protections.

Education Program

The proposed educational outreach section was reviewed. Discussion

included partnerships with schools, community organizations, families. Topics included traffic laws, helmet safety and safe riding practices. Following discussion, Council directed that the educational program language be removed from the ordinance and addressed administratively rather than through municipal code. Remove 7.25.145 in its entirety.

Parent and Guardian Responsibility

The Council reviewed provisions establishing parental responsibility when knowingly allowing minors to violate the ordinance. The City Attorney explained the distinction between reasonable supervision and strict liability. Council members supported the language as drafted.

Parking Regulations

The Council reviewed parking restrictions prohibiting obstruction of: sidewalks, ADA routes, crosswalks, fire hydrants, traffic lanes. No changes were requested.

Shared Mobility Programs

The Council reviewed language requiring Common Council approval before any commercial shared mobility program could operate within the City. No changes were requested.

Accident Reporting

The Council reviewed accident reporting requirements. No changes were requested.

Temporary Restrictions

The Council reviewed authority allowing temporary restrictions during festivals, parades, construction, emergencies, public safety incidents. Discussion included appropriate signage and written orders.

Penalties

The Council reviewed the proposed forfeiture schedule: First offense: \$25.00–\$250.00 plus costs. Subsequent offenses: \$50.00–\$500.00 plus costs. No changes were requested.

Workshop Conclusion

Council members agreed that the ordinance was substantially complete, subject to revisions discussed during the workshop, including: revising sidewalk language for consistency with the bicycle ordinance, removing East and West Huron Street from the downtown

restriction area, clarifying downtown business district operation, removing the education program from the ordinance, correcting minor drafting errors and numbering, Preparing amendments to the existing bicycle ordinance for consistency. The consensus of the Council was to move the ordinance forward for first reading at the regular Common Council meeting, with the discussed revisions incorporated into the next draft.

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

Adjournment

Darin Treleven motioned and Scott Jorgenson seconded to adjourn the workshop at 7:00 PM.

RESULT: 6 to 0
MOVER: Darin Treleven
SECONDER: Scott Jorgenson
AYES: 6
NAYS: 0

Respectfully Submitted by,



Barbara Van Clarke, WCPC, MMC
Clerk/Deputy Treasurer