

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 106, ENTITLED "TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES," OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, ROLLING MEADOWS, ILLINOIS, IN ORDER TO AUTHORIZE AND REGULATE THE USE OF LOW-SPEED ELECTRIC SCOOTERS WITHIN THE CITY OF ROLLING MEADOWS

WHEREAS, the Illinois Municipal Code, 65 ILCS 5/1-2-1, provides that the corporate authorities of each municipality may pass all ordinances and make all rules and regulations proper or necessary, to carry into effect the powers granted to municipalities, with such fines or penalties as may be deemed proper; and

WHEREAS, the City of Rolling Meadows is a home rule Illinois municipality pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Illinois of 1970, as amended; and

WHEREAS, Section 11-80-2 of the Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/11-80-2) grants to the corporate authorities of each municipality the power to regulate the use of streets or other municipal property; and

WHEREAS, Section 11-1518(a) of the Illinois Vehicle Code (625 ILCS 5/11-1518(a)) empowers the City to authorize and regulate the operation of low-speed electric scooters within the unit of local government on any or all highways, sidewalks, trails or other public right-of-way where the operation of bicycles is permitted; and

WHEREAS, if no action is taken by the City to expressly authorize the use of low-speed electric scooters within the City, use of these electric scooters is not allowed and would result in a violation of Section 11-1518 of the Illinois Vehicle Code; and

WHEREAS, the corporate authorities of the City of Rolling Meadows have determined that it is in the best interests of the City to permit and regulate the operation of low-speed electric scooters within the corporate limits of the City, consistent with Section 11-1518 of the Illinois Vehicle Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Rolling Meadows, Cook County, State of Illinois, as follows:

Section 1: The foregoing recitals shall be and are hereby incorporated herein as the findings of the Corporate Authorities.

Section 2: The purpose of this Ordinance is to permit and regulate the use of low-speed electric scooters within the City of Rolling Meadows to enhance urban mobility, promote environmental sustainability and ensure public safety.

Section 3: Article I, entitled “Local Regulations”, of Chapter 106, entitled “Traffic and Vehicles”, of the Code of Ordinances, Rolling Meadows, Illinois, shall be and is hereby amended to add a new Section 106-35.1, entitled “Low-Speed Electric Scooters”, as follows:

Sec. 106-35.1. – Low-Speed Electric Scooters

- (a) Low-Speed Electric Scooters Permitted and Regulated. The operation of low-speed electric scooters within the City of Rolling Meadows is hereby permitted on any or all highways, sidewalks, trails or other public right-of-way within the City where the operation of bicycles is permitted, and are further regulated pursuant to the provisions of this section.
- (b) Definition of Low-Speed Electric Scooter. A “low-speed electric scooter” shall mean “a device weighing less than 100 pounds, with 2 or 3 wheels, handlebars, and a floorboard that can be stood upon while riding, that is solely powered by an electric motor and human power, and whose maximum speed, with or without human propulsion, is no more than 10 miles per hour.” A “low-speed electric scooter” does not include a moped or motor driven cycle.
- (c) Permitted Use and Designated Areas.
- (1) Low-speed electric scooters may be operated on public roads, sidewalks, trails, bicycles paths and designated paths within the City of Rolling Meadows, except where prohibited by signage.
 - (2) Low-speed electric scooters may not be operated on State highways.
 - (3) Any use of a low-speed electric scooter in violation of this section is not an intended nor permitted use of a public right-of-way, as those terms are used in Section 3–102 of the Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act (745 ILCS 10/3–102).
- (d) Rules and Regulations. Low-speed electric scooters may only be operated in accordance with the following rules and regulations.
- (1) A person may not operate a low-speed electric scooter on any street or highway within the City with a posted speed limit in excess of 35 mph.
 - (2) A person operating a low-speed electric scooter must be at least 18 years of age.
 - (3) A low-speed electric scooter may be parked in the same manner and at the same locations as a bicycle may be parked.
 - (4) A low-speed electric scooter, when in use at nighttime, must have a lamp on the front that emits a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to

the front and with a red reflector on the rear that is visible from all distances from 100 feet to 600 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beams of headlamps on a motor vehicle, except that a lamp emitting a steady or flashing red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear may be used in addition to or instead of the red reflector.

- (5) A low-speed electric scooter must not be equipped with, nor should any low-speed electric scooter operator use, any siren. This paragraph does not apply to a low-speed electric scooter that is a police vehicle or fire department vehicle.
 - (6) Every low-speed electric scooter must be equipped with a brake that will adequately control movement of and stop and hold the low-speed electric scooter.
 - (7) A person may not operate a low-speed electric scooter while carrying any package, bundle or article that prevents the operator from keeping at least one hand upon the handlebars.
 - (8) A person may not use or operate a low-speed electric scooter to carry more than one person at a time.
 - (9) A person operating a low-speed electric scooter may not attach himself or herself or the scooter to any other vehicle being operated on the public right-of-way.
 - (10) A person operating a low-speed electric scooter must adhere to all applicable traffic laws, including yielding to pedestrians and obeying traffic signals and signs.
 - (11) A person may not operate a low-speed electric scooter while under the influence of alcohol or any drug.
 - (12) Every low-speed electric scooter must be well-maintained and in good operating condition.
- (e) Violations – Penalty. Any person who violates any of the provisions of this section shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$50.00 for the first offense, \$100.00 for the second offense and \$500.00 for the third offense. Any offenses after the third offense shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$750.00. The police shall have the authority to impound the low-speed electric scooter, subject to the code hearing unit adjudication provisions of chapter 3 of the City Code of Ordinances of the City of Rolling Meadows, Cook County, Illinois. An offense committed by a minor under the direct control or with the consent of a parent or guardian may subject the parent or guardian to the penalties provided in this section.

Section 4: Article I, entitled “Local Regulations”, of Chapter 106, entitled “Traffic and Vehicles”, of the Code of Ordinances, Rolling Meadows, Illinois, shall be and is hereby amended by amending Section 106-35 to read as follows:

Sec. 106-35. - Operation of motor driven cycles, minibikes and pocket bikes.

- (a) *Restricted.* No person shall operate a motor driven cycle (as defined in Section 1-145.001 of the Illinois Vehicle Code (625 ILCS 5/1-145.001)), minibike or pocket bike upon any public street, sidewalk, parking lot, bike path, park or on any other public property.
- (b) *Exemptions.* The following shall be exempt from the prohibitions contained in this section:
- (1) Any police vehicle, fire vehicle, municipal vehicle, special district vehicle, county vehicle or forest preserve district vehicle driven by an employee in the course of his or her duties.
 - (2) Motorized wheelchairs. For purposes of this section, a motorized wheelchair means any motorized vehicle designated for and used by a person with disabilities.
 - (3) Electric personal assistance mobility devices, as defined in Section 5/1-117.7 of the Illinois Vehicle Code (625 ILCS 5/1-117.5).
 - (4) Low-speed electric scooters as defined and regulated in Section 106-35.1 of Chapter 106 of the City Code.
 - (5) Low-speed electric bicycles as defined in Section 11-1517 of the Illinois Vehicle Code (625 ILCS 5/11-1517).
- (c) *Applicability of this section.* Without limitation, this section applies to all public property in the City of Rolling Meadows.
- (d) *Violations.* Any person who violates any of the provisions of this section shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$50.00 for the first offense, \$100.00 for the second offense and \$500.00 for the third offense. Any offenses after the third offense shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$750.00. The police shall have the authority to impound the motor driven cycle, mini bike or pocket bike, subject to the code hearing unit adjudication provisions of chapter 3 of the City Code of Ordinances of the City of Rolling Meadows, Cook County, Illinois. An offense committed by a minor under the direct control or with the consent of a parent or guardian may subject the parent or guardian to the penalties provided in this section.

Section 5: All ordinances, resolutions and policies or parts thereof, in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are, to the extent of the conflict, expressly repealed on the effective date of this Ordinance.

Section 6: If any provision of this Ordinance or application thereof to any person or circumstances is ruled unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other

provisions or applications of this Ordinance that can be given effect without the invalid application or provision, and each invalid provision or invalid application of this Ordinance is severable.

Section 7: The headings/captions identifying the various sections and subsections of this Ordinance are for reference only and do not define, modify, expand or limit any of the terms or provisions of the Ordinance.

Section 8: The clerk is directed by the corporate authorities to publish this Ordinance in pamphlet form. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect 10 days after its passage and publication in accordance with Section 1-2-4 of the Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/1-2-4).

PASSED this 27th day of May, 2025, by the City Council of the City of Rolling Meadows on a roll call vote as follows:

AYES: McHale, O'Brien, Boucher, Reyez, Koehler

NAYS: 0

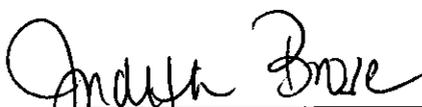
ABSENT: Budmats, Vinezeano

APPROVED this 27th day of May, 2025.



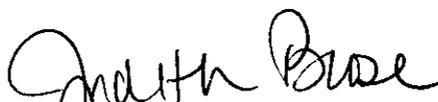
Lara Sanoica, Mayor

ATTESTED and filed in my office,
this 27th day of May, 2025.



Judith Brose, Deputy City Clerk

Published this 28th day of May, 2025.



Judith Brose, Deputy City Clerk