

ORDINANCE NO. 25-51

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 106, ENTITLED “TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES,” OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, ROLLING MEADOWS, ILLINOIS, IN ORDER TO REGULATE THE USE OF LOW-SPEED ELECTRIC BICYCLES 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 11-1517 of the Illinois Vehicle Code (625 ILCS 5/11-1517) regulates the operation of low-speed electric bicycles; and

**WHEREAS**, the corporate authorities of the City of Rolling Meadows have determined that it is in the best interests of the City to regulate the operation of low-speed electric bicycles within the corporate limits of the City, consistent with Section 11-1517 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:** 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 106-35.2, entitled “Low-Speed Electric Bicycles”, as follows:

**Sec. 106-35.2. – Low-Speed Electric Bicycles**

(a) *Definitions.*

- (1) *Low-Speed Electric Bicycle.* A low-speed electric bicycle means a bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts (that is not a moped, e-moto, motor driven cycle, minibike or pocket bike) that

meets the requirements of one of the following classes:

- i. *Class 1 low-speed electric bicycle* means a low-speed 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 a speed of 20 miles per hour.
- ii. *Class 2 low-speed electric bicycle* means a low-speed electric bicycle equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle and that is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of 20 miles per hour.
- iii. *Class 3 low-speed electric bicycle* means a low-speed 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 a speed of 28 miles per hour.

(2) *Incorporation of Terms Defined in Illinois Vehicle Code.* Unless otherwise defined in this code, terms in this section shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Illinois Vehicle Code.

(b) *Designated Areas of Operation of Low-Speed Electric Bicycles.*

- (1) A person may operate a low-speed electric bicycle upon any highway, street, or roadway in the City authorized for use by bicycles, including, but not limited to, bicycle lanes.
- (2) A person may operate a low-speed electric bicycle upon any bicycle path in the City.
- (3) A person may not operate a low-speed electric bicycle on a sidewalk in the City.

(c) *Rules and Regulations Applicable to Low-Speed Electric Bicycles.*

(1) Rules of general applicability:

- i. No person shall knowingly tamper or modify the speed capability or engagement of a low-speed electric bicycle without complying with the requirements of 625 ILCS 5/11-1517.
- ii. No person under 18 years of age shall operate or be a passenger on a low-speed electric bicycle unless the person is wearing a protective helmet.
- iii. No person shall operate a low-speed electric bicycle with a conscious disregard for the safety of others and/or the operator, which poses a substantial and unjustifiable risk to the safety of the operator or others. Reckless operation does not have to result in injury.
- iv. Every person operating a low-speed electric bicycle upon a roadway shall obey all traffic rules applicable to vehicles.

(2) Rules specifically applicable to Class 1 electric bicycles:

- i. A Class 1 low-speed electric bicycle shall operate in a manner so that the electric motor is disengaged or ceases to function when the rider stops pedaling.

(3) Rules specifically applicable to Class 2 low-speed electric bicycles:

- i. A Class 2 low-speed electric bicycle shall operate in a manner so that the electric motor is disengaged or ceases to function when the brakes are applied.

(4) Rules specifically applicable to Class 3 low-speed electric bicycles:

- i. A person may operate a Class 3 low-speed electric bicycle only if he or she is 16 years of age or older. A person who is less than 16 years of age may ride as a passenger on a Class 3 low-speed electric bicycle that is designed to accommodate passengers.
- ii. A Class 3 low-speed electric bicycle shall operate in a manner so that the electric motor is disengaged or ceases to function when the rider stops pedaling.
- iii. Each Class 3 low-speed electric bicycle shall be equipped with a speedometer that displays the speed the bicycle is traveling in miles per hour.

(d) *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 bicycle, 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 3:** Section 106-35 of 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 revise paragraph (a) and the title of said Section 106-35 to read as follows:

Sec. 106-35. - Operation of motor driven cycles, e-motos, 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)), e-moto, minibike or pocket bike upon any public street, sidewalk, parking lot, bike path, park or on any other public property. An e-moto means a motor driven cycle that has an electric motor with a power output exceeding 750 watts and is equipped with a dedicated throttle and without operable pedals.

**Section 4:** 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 5:** 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 6:** 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 7:** 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).

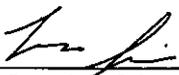
PASSED this 14<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2025, by the City Council of the City of Rolling Meadows on a roll call vote as follows:

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

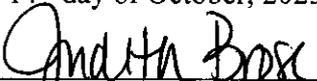
NAYS: 0

ABSENT: Boucher, Vinezeano

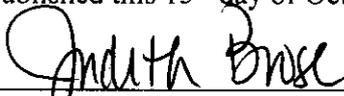
APPROVED this 14<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2025.

  
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Lara Sanoica, Mayor

ATTESTED and filed in my office,  
this 14<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2025.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Judith Brose, Deputy City Clerk

Published this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2025.

  
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Judith Brose, Deputy City Clerk