

**CITY OF MUSCATINE
ORDINANCE 2026-0120**

**ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, TITLE 3; AND CHAPTERS 1 AND 14,
TITLE 7 OF THE CITY CODE TO ESTABLISH REGULATIONS FOR THE USE OF
ELECTRIC BIKES AND OTHER ELECTRIC MOBILITY DEVICES**

WHEREAS, Advances in lithium-ion battery technology have enabled a new class of small, lightweight transportation devices designed for short-distance travel. This includes electric bicycles (e-bikes), as well as a similar group of motorized mobility devices such as electric scooters, electric skateboards, hoverboards, and electric unicycles;

WHEREAS, Continuing technological advances have led to a surge in popularity as these devices become more affordable, even as their range and performance improve;

WHEREAS, There is an ever-increasing presence of these devices on the trails, sidewalks, and streets of Muscatine;

WHEREAS, Currently the use of such devices on Muscatine's trails and sidewalks violates City Code, which prohibits the use of all motorized vehicles on trails and sidewalks;

WHEREAS, Permitting the use of certain electric devices that are compatible with shared pedestrian spaces would significantly benefit the community. By offering a motorized boost, they make cycling and scooting accessible to a wider demographic, including older adults and individuals with physical limitations who might otherwise avoid traditional bicycles;

WHEREAS, Most jurisdictions, including the State of Iowa, are replacing total bans on the operation of motorized vehicles on sidewalks and trails with performance-based regulations. This framework permits electrically propelled devices, specifically those weighing less than 70 pounds and capped at 20 mph, to operate wherever bicycles are allowed. This shift recognizes that such devices are functionally equivalent to human-powered cycles regarding speed, weight, and noise characteristics, and should be regulated as such;

WHEREAS, The proposed amendment adopts clear, enforceable rules for electric bicycles and other electric mobility devices on sidewalks and trails. These regulations are in harmony with existing standards for human-powered cycles;

WHEREAS, current City Code requires bicycle registration, the program is currently inactive. Furthermore, State Code prohibits mandatory registration for electric bicycles and similar mobility devices. Therefore, this ordinance seeks to repeal bicycle registration requirements.

WHEREAS, a public hearing before the City Council on these proposed changes was held on April 7, 2026.

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Muscatine, in

the State of Iowa, as follows:

SECTION 1: **REPEAL** “7-14-1 Registration Required” of the Muscatine Municipal Code is hereby *repealed* as follows:

REPEAL

~~7-14-1 Registration Required (Repealed)~~

~~Every person who shall own a bicycle in the City shall register such bicycle as provided in this Chapter.~~

~~(Code of Iowa, Section 321.236[10])~~

SECTION 2: **REPEAL** “7-14-2 Application” of the Muscatine Municipal Code is hereby *repealed* as follows:

REPEAL

~~7-14-2 Application (Repealed)~~

~~The owner of any bicycle shall apply to the Police Department for registration of such bicycle and such registration shall be on a form furnished and prescribed by the Police Department and shall provide a full description of the bicycle, such as name and address of owner, type, color, manufacturer, and serial number.~~

~~(Code of Iowa, Section 321.236[10])~~

SECTION 3: **REPEAL** “7-14-3 License Type” of the Muscatine Municipal Code is hereby *repealed* as follows:

REPEAL

~~7-14-3 License Type (Repealed)~~

~~The Bicycle License shall be of a type designated by the Police Chief.~~

SECTION 4: **REPEAL** “7-14-4 Second Hand Sales Report” of the Muscatine Municipal Code is hereby *repealed* as follows:

R E P E A L

~~7-14-4 Second Hand Sales Report (Repealed)~~

~~All persons buying or selling second hand bicycles shall notify the Police Department within five (5) days of the purchase or sale.~~

SECTION 5: **REPEAL** “7-14-5 Destroying Frame Number Or License” of the Muscatine Municipal Code is hereby *repealed* as follows:

R E P E A L

~~7-14-5 Destroying Frame Number Or License (Repealed)~~

~~No person shall willfully or maliciously remove or destroy any frame number or license.~~

SECTION 6: **REPEAL** “7-14-6 Lost Or Destroyed License” of the Muscatine Municipal Code is hereby *repealed* as follows:

R E P E A L

~~7-14-6 Lost Or Destroyed License (Repealed)~~

~~In the event that an owner of a bicycle should lose a license or that such license should be destroyed or stolen, the owner shall report the same to the Police Department and there shall be furnished to the owner a new bicycle license at the cost as set by resolution of the Council.~~

SECTION 7: **REPEAL** “7-14-7 License Fees” of the Muscatine Municipal Code is hereby *repealed* as follows:

R E P E A L

~~7-14-7 License Fees (Repealed)~~

~~The bicycle license fee shall be as determined by resolution of the City Council and is listed in~~

~~the Schedule of Permit and Other Licensing Requirements in Appendix B to this Code of Ordinances.~~

~~(Code of Iowa, Section 321.236[10])~~

SECTION 8: **REPEAL** “7-14-8 Riding On Sidewalks” of the Muscatine Municipal Code is hereby *repealed* as follows:

R E P E A L

~~7-14-8 Riding On Sidewalks (Repealed)~~

~~Bicycles may be operated on sidewalks in the City, except in the downtown business area, however, Muscatine police officers while on duty may operate bicycles on sidewalks anywhere in the City. For the purpose of this Section, the downtown business area shall encompass an area bounded by and including Mississippi Drive, Mulberry Avenue, Fourth Street, and Pine Street. Under all circumstances, a driver of a bicycle shall yield the right of way to pedestrians using the sidewalk and due and proper care shall at all times be exercised by the driver of the bicycle for pedestrians.~~

~~(Code of Iowa, Section 321.236[10])~~

SECTION 9: **REPEAL** “7-14-9 Parking On Sidewalks (Business District)” of the Muscatine Municipal Code is hereby *repealed* as follows:

R E P E A L

~~7-14-9 Parking On Sidewalks (Business District) (Repealed)~~

~~No person shall park any bicycle upon the sidewalks in the business district; the business district is that area as defined in Section 7-14-8 of this Chapter.~~

SECTION 10: **REPEAL** “7-14-10 Number Of Persons” of the Muscatine Municipal Code is hereby *repealed* as follows:

R E P E A L

~~7-14-10 Number Of Persons (Repealed)~~

~~Only one person shall ride a bicycle at any time, unless it is of the tandem type.~~

SECTION 11: **REPEAL** “7-14-11 Riding Two Abreast” of the Muscatine Municipal Code is hereby *repealed* as follows:

R E P E A L

~~7-14-11 Riding Two Abreast (Repealed)~~

~~Bicyelists riding upon any street shall not ride more than two (2) abreast.~~

SECTION 12: **REPEAL** “7-14-12 Method Of Riding; Rate Of Speed” of the Muscatine Municipal Code is hereby *repealed* as follows:

R E P E A L

~~7-14-12 Method Of Riding; Rate Of Speed (Repealed)~~

~~When riding upon the streets, bicyelists shall at all times keep both hands on the handle bars of the bicycle, except to make hand signals and at no time shall ride at such a rate of speed as to endanger the person or property of others.~~

SECTION 13: **REPEAL** “7-14-13 Lamps: Reflective Devices” of the Muscatine Municipal Code is hereby *repealed* as follows:

R E P E A L

~~7-14-13 Lamps: Reflective Devices (Repealed)~~

~~Every bicycle operated within the City during the period from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise and at any other time when there is not sufficient light to render clearly discernible persons and vehicles at a distance of three hundred feet (300') ahead shall be equipped with a lighted white lamp on the front thereof of such bicycle. Every bicycle shall also be equipped with a reflex mirror reflector or lamp on the rear, visible under like conditions from a distance of at least three hundred feet (300') to the rear of such bicycle.~~

SECTION 14: **AMENDMENT** “CHAPTER 7-14 BICYCLES” of the Muscatine Municipal Code is hereby *amended* as follows:

AMENDMENT

CHAPTER 7-14 BICYCLES, ELECTRIC BICYCLES, AND OTHER ELECTRIC MOBILITY DEVICES

SECTION 15: **REPEAL** “7-14-14 Traffic Regulations” of the Muscatine Municipal Code is hereby *repealed* as follows:

REPEAL

~~7-14-14 Traffic Regulations (Repealed)~~

~~All persons riding bicycles upon any street shall observe the traffic laws of the City and of the State insofar as the same may apply to the riding of bicycles and specifically, but without limitation, shall include traffic rules as to traffic lights, highway stop signs, signaling change of direction of the course of travel, traveling on the right-hand side of the street, no turns to the right or left in traffic except at the regular intersection of streets or alleys and no weaving in and out of traffic.~~

SECTION 16: **ADOPTION** “7-14-1 General Regulations” of the Muscatine Municipal Code is hereby *added* as follows:

ADOPTION

7-14-1 General Regulations(*Added*)

Riders operating a bicycles, electric bicycle, or other electric mobility device shall be subject to the following regulations:

A. Careless and Dangerous Riding Prohibited

1. A rider shall not use a bicycle, electric bicycle, or other electric mobility device to carry more persons at one time than the number of persons for which the bicycles, electric bicycle, or other electric mobility device is designed and equipped.
2. Riders shall keep the bicycle, electric bicycle, or other electric mobility device under directional, speed, and stopping control at all times.
3. No rider shall operate a bicycle, electric bicycle, or other electric mobility device in an irregular or reckless manner so as to disregard the safety of the operator, others, or property.
4. Riders shall not ride at such at a speed greater than is careful and prudent at a

rate of speed no greater than is reasonable and proper under the conditions existing at the point of operation, taking into account the surroundings and environment, such as inclement weather, infrastructure conditions, and grade.

B. Lamps: Reflective Devices

1. Every bicycle, electric bicycle, or other electric mobility device when in use between sunset to sunrise and when weather conditions provide insufficient lighting to render clearly discernable persons and vehicles on the road at a distance of 300 feet ahead, shall be equipped with a lamp on the front emitting a white light visible from a distance of at least 300 feet to the front and with a lamp on the rear exhibiting a red light visible from a distance of 300 feet to the rear, except that a red reflector on the rear, may be used in lieu of a rear light.
2. The lamps or reflector may be attached to the rider of the device rather than the bicycle, electric bicycle, or other electric mobility device itself provided the visibility requirements are met
3. Equivalent equipment such as headlamps and red-light attachments to the head, back, arm, or leg may be used in lieu of a lamp on the front and a red light on the rear of the device.

SECTION 17: **ADOPTION** “7-14-2 Riding on Streets” of the Muscatine Municipal Code is hereby *added* as follows:

ADOPTION

7-14-2 Riding on Streets*(Added)*

- A.** Every person, riding a bicycles, electric bicycle, or other electric mobility device upon a roadway or in a bicycle lane shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle by the laws of the State declaring rules of the road applicable to vehicles or by applicable portions of City Code to the driver of a vehicle, except as to those provisions that by their nature can have no application or those for which specific exceptions have been set forth regarding police bicycles. This does not apply to the use of a bicycle, electric bicycle, or other electric mobility device in a parade authorized by proper permit.
- B.** Riders shall not ride more than 2 abreast.

SECTION 18: **ADOPTION** “7-14-3 Riding On Sidewalks And Trails” of the Muscatine Municipal Code is hereby *added* as follows:

ADOPTION

7-14-3 Riding On Sidewalks And Trails*(Added)*

Bicycles, electric bicycle, or other electric mobility device upon may be operated on trails and sidewalks subject to the following regulations:

A. Prohibited Types of Vehicles on Trails and Sidewalks:

1. Any vehicle equipped with an internal combustion engine.
2. Any vehicle equipped with an electric motor of more than 750 watts.
3. Any vehicle that is capable of speeds greater than 20 miles per hour when solely powered by the electric propulsion system.
4. These prohibitions do not apply to the use of ADA compliant power assisted devices, as defined in Section, 216E.1 of State Code, intended for personal transport.

B. Downtown Business Area

1. For the purpose of this section, the Downtown Business Area shall encompass an area bounded by and including Mississippi Drive, Mulberry Avenue, Fourth Street, and Pine Street.
2. Bicycles, electric bicycles, or other electric mobility devices, shall not be ridden on the sidewalks in the Downtown Business Area.
3. Law enforcement officers while on duty may operate bicycle, electric bicycle, or other electric mobility device on sidewalks anywhere in the City.
4. No person shall park any bicycles, electric bicycle, or other electric mobility device upon the sidewalks in the Downtown business area.

C. Riders shall yield the right of way to pedestrians.

D. Riders shall not ride more than 2 abreast when on a trail or sidewalk that is at least 10 feet in width, and not more than single file on a trail or sidewalk that is less than 10 feet in width.

E. When passing a pedestrian, a rider shall:

1. When approaching a pedestrian from behind, slow to a reasonable and safe speed to prevent startling or endangering the pedestrian;
2. Provide an audible signal, such as a bell or verbal warning (e.g., "On your left");
3. Such warning must be given at a sufficient distance to allow the pedestrian time to react; and
4. Maintain of a distance of at least 3 feet while passing a pedestrian or come to a near stop if such a distance is not feasible.

SECTION 19: **AMENDMENT** “7-1-1 Definitions” of the Muscatine Municipal Code is hereby *amended* as follows:

AMENDMENT

7-1-1 Definitions

Unless otherwise expressly stated or the context clearly indicates a different intention, the

following words and phrases when used in this Title shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them in this Section:

- A. "Bicycle" shall mean every device solely propelled by human power upon which any person may ride, having two (2) tandem wheels, and including any device generally recognized as a bicycle though equipped with two (2) front or two (2) rear wheels.
 - B. "Central Business or Traffic District" shall mean:
 - 1. The central business or traffic district shall consist of such streets and areas as shall from time to time be designated by motion of the Council.
 - 2. The following streets and alleys, and areas intersecting and adjacent thereto, are hereby designated as the central business or traffic district: Mississippi Drive from Oak Street to the theoretical intersection of Spruce Street; Second Street from Poplar Street to Pine Street; Third Street from Oak Street to Chestnut Street; Fourth Street from Poplar Street to Chestnut Street; Oak Street from Mississippi Drive to Fourth Street; Orange Street from Mississippi Drive to Fourth Street; Mulberry Avenue from Mississippi Drive to Seventh Street; Walnut Street from Mississippi Drive to Fourth Street; Cedar Street from Mississippi Drive to Fourth Street; Sycamore Street from Mississippi Drive to Fifth Street; Iowa Avenue from Mississippi Drive to Fourth Street; Chestnut Street from Mississippi Drive to Third Street; Pine Street from Mississippi Drive to Third Street.
 - C. "Curb Loading Zone" shall mean a space adjacent to a curb reserved for the exclusive use of vehicles during loading or unloading of passengers or materials.
 - D. "Electric Bicycle" shall mean a device meeting the definition, contained within the Code of Iowa of a "low-speed electric bicycle".
 - E. "Other Electric Mobility Device" shall mean a self-balancing, nontandem two-wheeled device powered by an electric propulsion system that averages seven hundred fifty watts and is designed to transport one person, with a maximum speed on a paved level surface of less than twenty miles per hour. The maximum speed shall be calculated based on operation of the device by a person who weighs one hundred seventy pounds when the device is powered solely by the electric propulsion system. This definition does not include an assistive device as defined in section 216E.1 of the Code of Iowa.
 - F. "Primary Road(s)" shall mean those roads and streets both inside and outside the boundaries of the City of Muscatine that are under the Iowa Department of Transportation jurisdiction.
- (Iowa Code, Section 306.3)*
- G. "Roadway" shall mean that portion of a street or highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel. In the event a highway includes two (2) or more separate roadways, the term "roadway" as used in this Chapter shall refer to any such roadway separately but not to all such roadways collectively.
 - H. "Sidewalk" shall mean any paved path designated for pedestrian use that runs parallel to a roadway or through a public space. To qualify under this definition, the path must be located within the public right-of-way or on City property. Outside of the

downtown business area—specifically the region bounded by and including Mississippi Drive, Mulberry Avenue, Fourth Street, and Pine Street—a path must be less than eight feet in width to be classified as a sidewalk.

- I. “Stop” shall mean complete cessation of movement when required.
- J. “Stop, Stopping, or Standing” shall mean, when prohibited, any stopping or standing of a vehicle whether occupied or not, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the direction of a Police Officer or traffic control sign or signal.
- K. “Traffic” shall mean pedestrians, ridden or herded animals, vehicles, and other conveyances, either singly or together, while using any street for purposes of travel.
- L. “Trail” shall mean a path, of at least eight feet in width, designed for shared use by pedestrians, cyclists, and other non-motorized users, which includes electric bicycles and other electric mobility devices.

SECTION 20: **AMENDMENT** “3-5-8 Traffic” of the Muscatine Municipal Code is hereby *amended* as follows:

AMENDMENT

3-5-8 Traffic

No person in a park shall:

- A. Ride or drive an automobile, motorcycle, moped, mini-bike, go-cart, snowmobile, or other vehicle, except upon the established roads and ways.
- B. Exceed a speed limit of fifteen (15) miles per hour at any time or such lower speed limits as posted in designated areas of the parks.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321.236[5])

- C. Fail to obey all posted traffic signs.
- D. Leave a motor vehicle unattended in any park after closing. Any motor vehicle left unattended in any park after closing shall be deemed abandoned and the City of Muscatine shall cause the same to be towed from the Park and the same shall not be redeemed by the owner or the person responsible therefore until reasonable towing and storage charges are paid.
- E. Parking of trucks that are wider than eighty inches (80"), self-propelled motor homes, buses, mobile homes, or any motor vehicle with trailer attached are prohibited in Weed Park from nine o'clock (9:00) A.M. on Friday to eleven o'clock (11:00) P.M. on Sunday.
- F. Operate or park semi-tractors and/or semi-trailers at any time, except when engaged in delivery, pick-up, loading, or unloading equipment and goods as approved by the Department of Parks and Recreation.
- G. Operate a bicycle, bicycle, electric bicycle, or other electric mobility device on

sidewalk or trail within a park in manner contrary to the regulations for the operation of bicycles, electric bicycles, or other electric mobility devices as set forth in Chapter 14 of Title 7 of City Code.

REPEALER CLAUSE All ordinances or resolutions or parts thereof, which are in conflict herewith, are hereby repealed.

SEVERABILITY CLAUSE Should any part or provision of this Ordinance be declared by the courts to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the Ordinances a whole or any part thereof other than the part so declared to be unconstitutional or invalid.

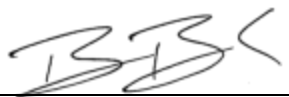
EFFECTIVE DATE This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from _____ and after the required approval and publication according to law.

First Reading:
Second Reading:
Third Reading:
Publication:

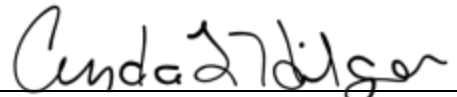
PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY OF MUSCATINE CITY COUNCIL MAY 05, 2026.

Presiding Officer

Attest



Dr. Brad Bark, Mayor, City of
Muscatine



Cinda Hilger, City Clerk, City of
Muscatine

