ACTION BRIEF SYSTEM FORM

Title:
An Ordinance of the Governing Body of the City of Rock Springs, Wyoming, creating within Chapter 72: "Recreational Vehicles" Sections pertaining to Electric Bicycles and Electric Scooters.

Department:

Legal

Type of Action:

☑ Ordinance
☐ Resolution
- ☐ *Budget Amendment*
- ☐ *Contract/Bid*
- ☐ *Council Policy*
- ☐ *Grant Award*
- ☐ *MOU*
- ☐ *Purchase*
- ☐ *Other:* _____

☐ Appointment/Board Action
☐ New Business
- ☐ *Admin Policy*
- ☐ *Apply for Grant*
- ☐ *Bid Item or Project*
- ☐ *Fill Vacant Position*
- ☐ *Liquor License/24 Hr. Permit*
- ☐ *Road Closure*
- ☐ *Other:* _____

☐ Public Hearing
☐ Workshop/Discussion/Presentation

Supporting Documentation

Recommended Motion *(all motions must be positive in nature):*

(On third reading)
I make a motion to approve Ordinance No. _____-2026, creating Sections 72.02, 72.03, 72.04, 72.05, 72.06 within the Chapter pertaining to Recreational Vehicles in the City of Rock Springs Municipal Code.

Summary/Background/Alternatives Considered *(include relevant timelines and previous Council action taken, if any)*:

This is the ordinance handling Electric Bicycles and Electric Scooters with changes suggested by Councilor Bingham. It points out that Electric Bicycles are a narrow class of statutorily created vehicles and are governed by the Uniform Highway Code as adopted locally in RSO 70.01; as well as regulates locations where Electric Bicycles and Electric Scooters may travel. The ordinance also clarifies right-of-way obligations for Electric Bicycles and Electric Scooters when encountering pedestrians, and outlines safe operation obligations for riders of Electric Bicycles. Finally, the Ordinance creates a penalty provision including a preference for warning during the first year.

Fiscal Impact:
n/a

Staff Recommendation:

☑ Approve
☐ Table
☐ Deny
☐ Approve with Conditions

10.22.26

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-11

AN ORDINANCE OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF ROCK SPRINGS, WYOMING, CREATING WITHIN CHAPTER 72: "RECREATIONAL VEHICLES" SECTIONS PERTAINING TO ELECTRIC BICYCLES AND ELECTRIC SCOOTERS, 72.02 "DEFINITIONS", 72.03 "WHERE YOU CAN RIDE", 72.04 "SAFE OPERATION AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY", 72.05 "SITE-SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS", AND 72.06 "ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES".

WHEREAS, the prevalence of Electric Bicycles within the city limits of the City of Rock Springs has increased substantially this year;

WHEREAS, there have been numerous encounters between electric bicycles and motor vehicles and electric bicycles and pedestrians;

WHEREAS, the City of Rock Springs would be well served to pass an ordinance detailing when and where Electric Bicycles, as well as Electric Scooters, may ride, what laws apply, and detailing Electric Bicycle rider or operator responsibilities; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed ordinance was amended during the 2nd reading on 10-20-2026, with the new text being shown below, Exhibit A, attached, is the redline copy illustrating the changes made, attached hereto and by this reference made a part thereof; and,

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the City of Rock Springs has determined that it is in the best interests of the City and its citizens to create the ordinance as outlined below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF ROCK SPRINGS, WYOMING:

SECTION 1. That Section 72.01 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Rock Springs is hereby created to read as follows:

§ 72.01 PURPOSE & SCOPE.

The purpose of this chapter is to regulate the safe operation of Electric Bicycles and Electric Scooters on public roadways, sidewalks, and pedestrian paths within the City of Rock Springs, promoting multi-modal transportation while protecting pedestrian safety.

SECTION 2. That Section 72.01 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Rock Springs is hereby created to read as follows:

§ 72.02 DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning:

PARK RECREATIONAL ZONE: Any city park facility specifically designated for

organized recreation, sports, or play, including basketball courts, tennis/pickleball courts, soccer fields, baseball diamonds, playgrounds, and landscaped park lawns.

BICYCLE: As defined in W.S. 31-1-101(a)(i), every device propelled solely by human power upon which any person may ride, having two (2) tandem wheels, or two (2) parallel wheels and one (1) forward wheel, excluding scooters and similar devices.

ELECTRIC BICYCLE: As defined in W.S. 31-1-101(a)(xxxiv), a bicycle or tricycle equipped with fully operable pedals, a seat or saddle for the rider's use, and an electric motor of less than seven hundred fifty (750) watts that meets the requirements of one (1) of the following three (3) classes:

Class 1 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 twenty (20) miles per hour.

Class 2 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 twenty (20) miles per hour.

Class 3 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 twenty-eight (28) miles per hour.

Note: Any motorized cycle equipped with an electric motor of seven hundred fifty (750) watts or greater is not an electric bicycle under state law and is classified as a Motor Vehicle.

ELECTRIC SCOOTER / MOTORIZED SKATEBOARD: As defined in W.S. 31-1-101(a)(xxviii), a self-propelled device with a motor, a floorboard or deck on which a person may ride, no seat, and at least two (2) wheels in contact with the ground. Under this chapter, electric scooters are subject to the same location, yielding, and operational rules as electric bicycles.

MOTOR VEHICLE: As defined in W.S. 31-1-101(a)(xv), every self-propelled vehicle, strictly excluding human-powered devices, electric bicycles under 750W (W.S. 31-1-101(a)(xxxiv)), and electric scooters / motorized skateboards (W.S. 31-1-101(a)(xxviii)).

SIDEWALK & PEDESTRIAN PATH: Any concrete, paved, or improved path intended for pedestrian travel, whether immediately adjacent to a roadway or running through a public park, greenway, or municipal facility (replaces "Shared-Use Path").

SECTION 3. That Section 72.03 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Rock Springs is hereby created to read as follows:

§ 72.03 WHERE YOU CAN RIDE.

(A) Streets: Operation of Electric Bicycles and Electric Scooters upon public streets shall be governed by and subject to all applicable state traffic laws, municipal traffic regulations, and official traffic-control devices. Persons operating Electric Bicycles or Electric Scooters upon a public street shall be granted all of the rights and shall be

subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle under Wyoming law. Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed as designating or representing any City street as a bicycle route or as suitable for Electric Bicycle or Electric Scooter travel.

(B) Sidewalks & Pedestrian Paths: Electric Bicycles and Electric Scooters are permitted on all sidewalks and pedestrian paths. Operators shall ride at prudent speeds and yield the right-of-way to all pedestrians before overtaking or passing. Motor Vehicles are strictly prohibited.

(C) Park Recreational Zones: All Electric Bicycles, Electric Scooters, Motor Vehicles, and motorized devices of any kind are strictly prohibited on sports courts, playing fields, playgrounds, and landscaped park lawns (except-on designated paved sidewalks or pedestrian paths crossing through-a park).

SECTION 4. That Section 72.04 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Rock Springs is hereby created to read as follows:

§ 72.04 SAFE OPERATION.

(A) Pedestrian Priority: All riders of any Electric Bicycle or Electric Scooter shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians on all sidewalks, pedestrian paths, and crosswalks.

(B) Safe Operation: No person shall operate an Electric Bicycle or Electric Scooter on any sidewalk or pedestrian path in a careless, reckless, or aggressive manner that endangers persons or property.

(C) Compliance with Traffic Laws: Persons riding Electric Bicycles or Electric Scooters on any public street, roadway, sidewalk, or pedestrian path shall obey and observe all applicable traffic laws, municipal traffic ordinances, and official traffic-control signs, signals, and stop signs.

(D) Parental Responsibility: No parent, legal guardian, or person having legal custody of a minor child shall knowingly authorize, permit, or allow such minor child to operate an Electric Bicycle or Electric Scooter in violation of any provision of this chapter.

SECTION 5. That Section 72.05 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Rock Springs is hereby created to read as follows:

§ 72.05 PENALTIES & ENFORCEMENT.

(A) Violations & Fines: Any person violating any provision of this chapter shall be subject to a fine not to exceed fifty dollars ($50.00) per offense, issued to the operator (ages 12 and older), parent, or legal guardian.

(B) State Law Applicability: Nothing herein shall be construed to relieve the obligations of a rider, operator, or owner under applicable Wyoming State Statutes.

PASSED AND APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2026.

President of the Council

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor

1st Reading: _____

2nd Reading: _____

3rd Reading: _____

EXHIBIT A

REDLINE LEGEND: ~~Deleted language~~ Added language

§ 72.01 PURPOSE & SCOPE.

The purpose of this chapter is to regulate the safe operation of electric bicycles and electric scooters on public roadways, sidewalks, and pedestrian paths within the City of Rock Springs, promoting multi-modal transportation while protecting pedestrian safety.

§ 72.02 DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning:

~~ACTIVE~~ PARK RECREATIONAL ZONE: Any city park facility specifically designated for organized recreation, sports, or play, including basketball courts, tennis/~~pick.leball~~ pickleball ~~comts~~ courts, soccer fields, baseball diamonds, playgrounds, and landscaped park lawns.

BICYCLE: ~~Every~~As ~~vehicle~~defined in W.S. 31-1-101(a)(i), every device propelled solely by human power upon which any person may ride, having two (2) tandem wheels, ~~except~~ or two (2) parallel wheels and one (1) forward wheel, excluding scooters and similar devices.

ELECTRIC BICYCLE: ~~An electric bicycle as~~ As defined ~~by Wyoming law~~ in W.S. 31-1-101(a)(xxxiv), ~~including~~ a ~~Class~~ bicycle ~~1~~ or tricycle equipped with fully operable pedals, ~~Class~~a ~~2~~ seat or saddle for the rider's use, and ~~Class 3~~ an electric ~~bicycles.~~ motor of less than seven hundred fifty (750) watts that meets the requirements of one (1) of the following three (3) classes:

Class 1 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 twenty (20) miles per hour.

Class 2 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 twenty (20) miles per hour.

Class 3 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 twenty-eight (28) miles per hour.

Note: Any motorized cycle equipped with an electric motor of seven hundred fifty (750) watts or greater is not an electric bicycle under state law and is classified as a Motor Vehicle.

ELECTRIC SCOOTER / MOTORIZED SKATEBOARD: ~~A~~As defined in W.S. 31-1-101(a)(xxviii), a self-propelled device with a motor, a floorboard or deck on which a person may ride, no seat, and at least two ~~to three~~ (2) wheels in contact with the ground. Under this chapter, ~~and an~~ electric ~~motor~~ scooters ~~designed to be stood upon while operating with handlebars for steering. For purposes of this Chapter, an Electric Scooter shall be~~are subject to the ~~operating~~ same location, yielding, and ~~safety~~ operational ~~requirements~~ rules ~~applicable~~ as ~~to~~ electric ~~Electric Bicycles unless otherwise stated~~ bicycles.

MOTOR VEHICLE: ~~Means every vehicle which is self-propelled except vehicles moved solely by human power, electric bicycles as~~ As defined in W.S. 31-1-101(a)(xv), every self-propelled vehicle, strictly excluding human-powered devices, electric bicycles under 750W (W.S.

31-1-101(a)(xxxiv)), and electric scooters / motorized skateboards (W.S. 31-1-101(a)(xxviii)).

~~NATURAL-SURFACE TRAIL: An unpaved trail made of native dirt or gravel without asphalt or concrete.~~

~~SHARED-USE~~SIDEWALK & PEDESTRIAN PATH: ~~A~~ Any concrete, paved~~, concrete~~, or improved path ~~physically separated from street traffic~~ intended for ~~pedestrians~~ pedestrian travel, ~~bicycles~~ whether immediately adjacent to a roadway or running through a public park, ~~and~~ greenway, ~~other~~ or ~~permitted~~ municipal ~~users~~ facility (replaces "Shared-Use Path").

SECTION 2. That Section 72.03 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Rock Springs is hereby created to read as follows:

§ 72.03 WHERE YOU CAN RIDE

(A) Streets: Operation of Electric Bicycles and Electric Scooters upon public streets shall be governed by and subject to all applicable ~~Wyoming~~ state ~~law~~ traffic laws, ~~existing~~ municipal traffic regulations, and official traffic-control devices. Persons operating Electric Bicycles or Electric Scooters upon a public street shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle under Wyoming law. Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed as designating or representing any City street as a bicycle route or as suitable for Electric Bicycle or Electric Scooter travel.

(B) ~~Shared-Use~~ Sidewalks & Pedestrian Paths: Electric Bicycles and Electric Scooters are ~~allowed~~ permitted on ~~Shared-Use~~ all ~~Paths~~ sidewalks ~~unless~~ and ~~a~~ pedestrian ~~specific~~ paths. ~~Path~~ Operators shall ride at prudent speeds and yield the right-of-way to all pedestrians before overtaking or ~~portion thereof is posted as closed or restricted by the City~~ passing. Motor Vehicles are strictly prohibited. ~~Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to authorize Electric Bicycle or Electric Scooter operation on sidewalks where such operation is prohibited by Wyoming law.~~

~~(C) Natural-Surface Trails: Electric Bicycles and Electric Scooters are allowed unless a specific trail is posted as closed or restricted by the City. Motor vehicles other than Electric Bicycles and Electric Scooters may only be operated on Natural-Surface Trails where specifically authorized or designated by the City.~~

(~~D~~C) ~~Active~~ Park Recreational Zones: All Electric Bicycles ~~and~~, Electric Scooters, ~~shall~~ Motor ~~not~~ Vehicles, ~~be~~ and ~~operated~~ motorized ~~upon~~ devices of any kind are strictly prohibited on sports courts, playing fields, playgrounds, ~~or~~and ~~other~~landscaped ~~areas~~park ~~primarily~~lawns ~~intended~~ (except ~~for~~ on ~~organized~~ designated ~~recreation~~ paved sidewalks or ~~play.~~ pedestrian ~~This~~ paths ~~restriction does not apply to designated pathways or trails passing~~ crossing through ~~or adjacent to~~ a park).

SECTION 3. That Section 72.04 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Rock Springs is hereby created to read as follows:

§ 72.04 SAFE OPERATION, ~~AND~~AGE ~~PEDESTRIAN~~& ~~SAFETY~~HELMETS.

(A) Pedestrian Priority: All riders of any Electric Bicycle or Electric Scooter shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians on all sidewalks, ~~Shared-Use~~ pedestrian ~~Paths~~ paths, and ~~Natural-Surface Trails~~ crosswalks.

(B) Safe Operation: No person shall operate an Electric Bicycle or Electric Scooter on ~~a path,~~any sidewalk~~,~~ or ~~trail~~ pedestrian path in a careless, reckless, or ~~dangerous~~ aggressive manner that ~~creates~~ endangers ~~an unreasonable risk of injury to another person~~ persons or ~~damage to~~ property.

(C) Class 3 Electric Bicycle Requirements (W.S. 31-5-707):

1. No person under sixteen (16) years of age shall operate a Class 3 Electric Bicycle upon any

public street, sidewalk, or pedestrian path within the city.

2. All operators and passengers under eighteen (18) years of age on a Class 3 Electric Bicycle shall wear a properly fitted and fastened protective bicycle or motorcycle helmet.

(~~C~~D) ~~Traffic-Control~~ Compliance ~~Devices~~ with Traffic Laws: Persons riding Electric Bicycles or Electric Scooters on any public street, roadway, sidewalk, or pedestrian path shall obey and observe all applicable ~~traffic-control~~ traffic ~~devices and signs regulating the use of City paths~~laws, ~~trails~~ municipal traffic ordinances, and ~~recreational~~ official ~~areas~~ traffic-control signs, signals, and stop signs.

~~(D) Passing: When overtaking a pedestrian or other path or trail user, an operator shall pass only when it can reasonably be accomplished safely and shall provide reasonable notice when necessary for safe passing.~~

(E) Parental Responsibility: No parent, legal guardian, or person having legal custody of a minor child shall knowingly authorize, permit, or allow such minor child to operate an Electric Bicycle or Electric Scooter in violation of any pro vision of this chapter.

SECTION 4. That Section 72.05 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Rock Springs is hereby created to read as follows:

§ 72.05 ~~SITE-SPECIFIC~~PENALTIES ~~RESTRICTIONS~~& ENFORCEMENT.

~~(A) The City may restrict or prohibit the operation of Electric Bicycles or Electric Scooters on a specific City-owned path, trail, or recreational area when reasonably necessary to address:~~

~~i. A demonstrated safety concern;~~

~~ii. Significant conflicts between users;~~

~~iii. Maintenance or trail conditions;~~

~~iv. Environmental or resource damage; or~~

~~v. A temporary condition or event affecting safe use.~~

~~(B) Any restriction imposed under this section shall be clearly posted at the affected location and should be limited to the location and duration reasonably necessary to address the identified concern.~~

(A) Violations & Fines: Any person violating any provision of this chapter shall be subject to a fine not to exceed fifty dollars ($50.00) per offense, issued to the operator (ages 12 and older), parent, or legal guardian.

(B) State Law Applicability: Nothing herein shall be construed to relieve the obligations of a rider, operator, or owner under applicable Wyoming State Statutes.

~~**SECTION 5. That Section 72.06 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Rock Springs is hereby created to read as follows:**~~

~~§ 72.06 ENFORCEMENT & PENALTIES~~

~~(A) ONE-YEAR EDUCATION AND WARNING PERIOD:~~

~~i. For a period of one (1) year following the effective date of this Chapter, a person committing a first violation shall ordinarily be issued a warning rather than a citation.~~

~~ii. A second or subsequent violation occurring during the one-year education and warning period may be cited as a violation of this Chapter.~~

~~iii. The warning requirement shall not apply when an operator engages in reckless or dangerous~~

~~conduct that creates an immediate and substantial risk of injury to another person or significant damage to property.~~

~~iv. After expiration of the one-year education and warning period, a violation of this Chapter may be cited without issuance of a prior warning.~~

~~v. A violation of this Chapter shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding fifty dollars ($50.00).~~

~~(B) State Law: Nothing herein shall be construed to relieve the obligations of a rider, operator, or owner of any vehicle under Wyoming State Statutes or Rock Springs Municipal Code as may apply.~~

~~(C) Exceptions: Nothing in this Chapter shall prohibit authorized law enforcement, emergency response, City maintenance, public works, utility operations, mobility devices used by persons with disabilities, or activities specifically authorized by the City.~~