

ORDINANCE NO. 011-2026

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 76 BICYCLE AND MICROMOBILITY DEVICE REGULATIONS; REPEALING CHAPTER 78 SCOOTERS, SKATEBOARDS, ROLLER SKATES AND IN-LINE SKATES; AND REPEALING CHAPTER 79 ELECTRIC PERSONAL ASSISTIVE AND MICROMOBILITY DEVICES OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MANCHESTER, IOWA

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANCHESTER, IOWA:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this ordinance is to consolidate the City's regulations governing bicycles, scooters, skateboards, roller skates, in-line skates, electric personal assistive mobility devices, and micromobility devices into a single chapter; to update the title and definitions in Chapter 76; to incorporate the operational, safety, roadway, sidewalk, parking, equipment, towing, authorized police use, and penalty provisions formerly addressed in Chapters 78 and 79; and to repeal Chapters 78 and 79 in their entirety.

SECTION 2. CHAPTER 76 AMENDED. Chapter 76 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester, Iowa, is hereby repealed in its entirety, to be hereafter titled: **CHAPTER 76 "Micromobility and Nonmotorized Device Regulations"**, and replaced with the following:

76.01 DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this chapter, the following terms are defined:

1. **Bicycle** means a device having two or three wheels and at least one saddle or seat for the use of a rider and that is propelled by human power, or a low-speed electric bicycle as defined by Iowa law.
2. **Electric personal assistive mobility device** has the same meaning as set forth in Iowa Code Section 321.1 and shall be operated in accordance with Iowa Code Section 321.235A and this chapter.
3. **Micromobility device** means any device designed or used to carry one rider or operator, not otherwise required to be licensed or registered by the State of Iowa and equipped with an electric motor of less than 750 watts or otherwise propelled by human power, electric power, or a combination thereof. Micromobility devices include, but are not limited to, electric unicycles, electric tricycles, electric stand-up scooters, electric sit-down scooters, Segways, motorized skateboards, hoverboards, and similar devices, but do not include bicycles, electric personal assistive mobility devices, wheelchairs, or devices used as other power-driven mobility devices by persons with mobility disabilities.
4. **Roller skates and in-line skates** mean skates equipped with wheels instead of a runner, including skates arranged in either paired or in-line wheel configurations.
5. **Scooter** means a device having two wheels and a low footboard that is steered by a handlebar and is propelled by pushing one foot against the ground while resting the other on the footboard.
6. **Skateboard** means a device consisting of a short oblong piece of wood, plastic, aluminum, fiberglass, or similar material mounted on wheels and used for riding while standing.

76.02 SCOPE OF REGULATIONS. This chapter applies whenever a bicycle, scooter, skateboard, roller skates, in-line skates, electric personal assistive mobility device, or micromobility device is operated upon any street, sidewalk, bikeway, public path, or publicly owned property within the City, subject to the exceptions stated herein. This chapter does not apply to any law enforcement officer operating such a device while on duty and acting within the officer's official duties, nor does it prohibit the reasonable use of a wheelchair or other power-driven mobility device by an individual with a mobility disability.

76.03 TRAFFIC CODE APPLIES: OPERATION ON STREETS. Every person operating a bicycle, scooter, skateboard, roller skates, in-line skates, electric personal assistive mobility device, or micromobility device upon a roadway shall observe all traffic control devices and shall be subject to all duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle by State law and the City Traffic Code, except as to provisions

that by their nature can have no application. Operators shall stay as near to the right-hand side of the roadway as practicable, exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction. A person operating a micromobility device on a roadway must obey the rules of the road and shall not operate such device upon any roadway with a posted speed limit greater than 25 miles per hour, unless crossing the roadway at an intersection or marked pedestrian crossing.

76.04 SIDEWALK AND BIKEWAY OPERATION. Electric personal assistive mobility devices may be operated on sidewalks and bikeways in accordance with Iowa Code Section 321.235A and this chapter. Micromobility devices may be operated on sidewalks and bikeways in accordance with this chapter.

76.05 PROHIBITED AREAS AND RESTRICTED USE. No person shall operate a scooter, skateboard, roller skates, in-line skates, bicycle, electric personal assistive mobility device, or micromobility device where signs are erected prohibiting such operation. No person shall operate any such device on any planter, flower or tree box, playground equipment, public stairway, access ramp built for use by persons with disabilities or other people, parking lot, tennis court, band shell, swimming pool, or other public improvement not intended for such use. All operation in places not prohibited shall be conducted in a careful and prudent manner and not in a manner causing or likely to cause danger or injury to any person or property.

76.06 SPEED; NIGHTTIME OPERATION; EQUIPMENT. No person shall operate a device regulated by this chapter at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions then existing, and no person shall operate an electric personal assistive mobility device or micromobility device upon publicly owned property at a speed greater than 20 miles per hour. Every bicycle, electric personal assistive mobility device, and micromobility device used from sunset to sunrise shall display, or the operator shall wear, a lamp emitting a white light visible from at least 300 feet to the front and shall display a red light or red reflector visible from at least 300 feet to the rear. Every bicycle and micromobility device shall be equipped with a brake adequate to enable the operator to stop safely under normal operating conditions. The use of scooters, skateboards, roller skates, in-line skates, coasters, or similar devices is prohibited from sunset to sunrise and at other times when fog, snow, sleet, rain, or other conditions provide insufficient light to render persons clearly discernible on the street at a distance of 500 feet ahead.

76.07 DOUBLE RIDING; TWO ABREAST; CARRYING ARTICLES. A person propelling a bicycle shall not ride other than astride a permanent and regular seat attached thereto. No device regulated by this chapter shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped. Persons riding bicycles or micromobility devices upon a roadway shall not ride more than two abreast except on paths or portions of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles or micromobility devices. No operator shall carry any package, bundle, or article that prevents the operator from keeping at least one hand upon the handlebars or other steering mechanism, if any.

76.08 EMERGING FROM ALLEY OR DRIVEWAY; SIGNALS. The operator of a bicycle, scooter, skateboard, roller skates, in-line skates, electric personal assistive mobility device, or micromobility device emerging from an alley, driveway, or building shall, upon approaching a sidewalk or sidewalk area extending across any alleyway, yield the right-of-way to all pedestrians approaching on said sidewalk or sidewalk area, and upon entering the roadway shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles approaching on said roadway. Operators shall signal turns and stops when practicable in the manner required by law for bicycles or vehicles, except where the nature of the device makes such signal impracticable and provided that the operator otherwise exercises due care.

76.09 TOWING; IMPROPER RIDING. It is unlawful for any person operating or riding a device regulated by this chapter to be towed by any vehicle upon the streets of the City, or to tow any other vehicle or device upon the streets of the City, unless the device or vehicle is manufactured and lawfully equipped

for such use. No person shall operate any device regulated by this chapter in an irregular, reckless, willful, or wanton manner, including zigzagging, stunting, speeding, or otherwise disregarding the safety of the operator, pedestrians, motorists, or other persons.

76.10 PARKING. No person shall park a bicycle, scooter, skateboard, electric personal assistive mobility device, or micromobility device upon a street other than upon the roadway against the curb or in another lawful parking location. No person shall park any such device upon a sidewalk except in a rack or against a building or at the curb in a manner that affords the least obstruction to pedestrian traffic and does not obstruct any accessible route, access ramp, doorway, fire hydrant, or traffic control device.

76.11 AUTHORIZED POLICE DEVICES. The provisions of this chapter shall not prohibit the City, the Police Department, or any authorized law enforcement officer from owning, operating, or using electric personal assistive mobility devices, bicycles, micromobility devices, or similar devices for patrol, emergency response, enforcement, training, or other official purposes, provided such use is conducted in a lawful and reasonably safe manner.

76.12 PENALTY; IMPOUNDMENT. Any person violating this chapter shall be subject to the scheduled fine or standard penalty provided for violations of this Code of Ordinances, unless a specific penalty is otherwise provided by State law. In lieu of the scheduled fine or standard penalty, an offender may voluntarily allow the device involved in the violation to be impounded by the City for not less than five days for a first offense, 10 days for a second offense, and 30 days for a third offense. Punishment for fourth and subsequent offenses, or for any offense where voluntary impoundment is refused, shall be handled as a municipal infraction or other applicable enforcement action as provided by this Code of Ordinances and State law.

If the person whose device is subject to impoundment is under the age of 18 and refuses to voluntarily relinquish the device, the City may seek consent for impoundment from the minor's parent or legal guardian. The parent or guardian's voluntary agreement shall be deemed sufficient authorization for the City to take possession of the device in accordance with this chapter. If the City is unable to obtain consent from the minor and the minor's parent or legal guardian, the City may issue notice that future violations will be treated as municipal infractions and that the parent or legal guardian may be liable for any municipal infraction arising from the minor's subsequent offenses to the extent permitted by law.

A notice of special penalty or impoundment option may include a summary of the offense, an explanation of the special penalty, an explanation that impoundment is voluntary, an explanation that refusal may result in municipal infraction treatment for future violations, an explanation concerning parent or guardian responsibility for minors where applicable, and the location from which the impounded device may be recovered.

SECTION 3. CHAPTERS 78 AND 79 REPEALED. Chapter 78, Scooters, Skateboards, Roller Skates and In-Line Skates, and Chapter 79, Electric Personal Assistive and Micromobility Devices, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester, Iowa, are hereby repealed in their entirety.

SECTION 4. REPEALER. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY. If any section, provision or part of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any section, provision, or part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall be in effect after its final passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 28th day of September, 2026.

Connie Behnken, Mayor

ATTEST:

Erin Learn, City Clerk