

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE IV, TRAFFIC CODE, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GLADSTONE, MISSOURI TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 125 ENTITLED “ELECTRIC BICYCLES”.**

**WHEREAS**, The Code of Ordinances of the City of Gladstone, Missouri (the “City Code”) includes provisions in Title IV addressing traffic regulations within the City of Gladstone, Missouri (the “City”); and

**WHEREAS**, the City staff have prepared revisions to add to Title IV of the City Code a new Chapter 125, Electric Bicycles, addressing the usage, classification, safety, and other regulations of electric bicycles or “E-Bike(s)”.

**WHEREAS**, the City Council desires to approve the proposed addition to Title IV of the City Code as set forth in this ordinance.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GLADSTONE, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1:** That Title IV, Traffic Code, of the City Code is hereby amended by enacting a new Chapter 125, entitled “Electric Bicycles”, which shall read as follows:

**Section 4.125.010 – Electric Bicycle Defined.**

Electric bicycle or “E-Bike(s)” as used in this Chapter shall mean a bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals, a saddle or seat for the operator, brakes that disengage electric assist or cause electric assist function to cease when the bicycle's brakes are applied, and an electric motor of less than seven hundred fifty (750) watts that meets the requirements of one of the following three classes:

- (a) Class 1 electric bicycle is equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the operator is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of twenty (20) miles per hour;
- (b) Class 2 electric bicycle is 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 the speed of twenty (20) miles per hour;
- (c) Class 3 electric bicycle is equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the operator is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of twenty-eight (28) miles per hour and such vehicle shall also be equipped with a speedometer that is capable of displaying speed of travel in miles per hour.

**Section 4.125.020 – Applicability of Traffic Laws.**

Every person driving, operating, or riding an electric bicycle, upon any roadway in this City 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 this state declaring the rules of the road applicable to vehicles or by the provisions of Title IV of the City Code applicable to the drivers of vehicles, except as to special regulations in Title IV of the City Code and except as to those provisions of state law and Title IV

of the City Code which, by their nature, can have no application. An electric bicycle shall be considered a vehicle to the same extent as a bicycle.

**Section 4.125.030 – Brakes.**

Every electric bicycle shall be equipped with a brake or brakes which will enable its driver to stop the E-Bike within twenty-five (25) feet from a speed of ten (10) miles per hour on dry, level, clean pavement.

**Section 4.125.040 – Lights, Reflectors, When Required: Standards to be Met.**

Every electric bicycle when in use on any street or highway during the period from one-half (1/2) hour after sunset to one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise shall be equipped with the following:

- (a) A front-facing lamp on the front or carried by the rider which shall emit a white light visible at night under normal atmospheric conditions on a straight, level, unlighted roadway at five hundred (500) feet;
- (b) A rear-facing red reflector, at least two (2) square inches in reflective surface area, or a rear-facing red lamp, on the rear which shall be visible at night under normal atmospheric conditions on a straight, level, unlighted roadway when viewed by a vehicle driver under the lower beams of vehicle headlights at six hundred (600) feet;
- (c) Reflective material and/or lights on any part of the bicyclist's pedals, crank arms, shoes or lower leg, visible from the front and the rear at night under normal atmospheric conditions on a straight, level, unlighted roadway when viewed by a vehicle driver under the lawful lower beams of vehicle headlights at two hundred (200) feet; and
- (d) Reflective material and/or lights visible on each side of the electric bicycle or bicyclist and visible at night under normal atmospheric conditions on a straight, level, unlighted roadway when viewed by a vehicle driver under the lawful lower beams of vehicle headlights at three hundred (300) feet.

**Section 4.125.050 – Riding on Roadways.**

- (a) A Class 1 or Class 2 electric bicycle shall be operated only on roadways with a speed limit of thirty-five (35) miles per hour or less, except when upon a marked paved shoulder or bike lane. This shall not prohibit the use of such vehicle when crossing roadways with speed limits in excess of thirty-five (35) miles per hour.
- (b) No person shall operate a Class 3 electric bicycle on any street or highway with a designated speed limit greater than forty-five (45) miles per hour, or on any sidewalk or other public property.
- (c) Every person operating an electric bicycle at less than the posted speed or slower than the flow of traffic upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as safe, exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction, except when making a left turn, when avoiding hazardous conditions, when the lane is too narrow to share with another vehicle, or when on a one-way street.

**Section 4.125.060 – Electric Bicycles on Sidewalks.**

- (a) A person may not operate a Class 3 electric bicycle on sidewalks or crosswalks.
- (b) A person operating a Class 1 electric bicycle, or a Class 2 electric bicycle upon and along a sidewalk, or across a roadway upon and along a crosswalk, shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrians and shall give audible signal before overtaking and passing such pedestrian.
- (c) A person operating a Class 1 electric bicycle, or a Class 2 electric bicycle upon and along a sidewalk, or across a roadway upon and along a crosswalk shall have all the rights and duties applicable to a pedestrian under the same circumstances.

**Section 4.125.070 – Electric Bicycles on Multi-Use Paths and Trails.**

- (a) A Class 1 or Class 2 electric bicycle may be ridden on multi-use paths where bicycles are permitted.
- (b) A Class 3 electric bicycle shall not be ridden on multi-use paths or trails.
- (c) A “Multi-Use Path” as used in the Section shall mean a path designated to accommodate the movement of pedestrians and cyclists.
- (d) No person shall operate or ride on any electric bicycle on a trail where such trail is designated for pedestrian use only or limited to use(s) inconsistent with the use of an electric bicycle.

**Section 4.125.080 – Electric Bicycle Safety Requirements.**

- (a) No Person shall operate an electric bicycle on any street or highway in this City unless it is equipped in accordance with the minimum requirements established by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission, 16 C.F.R. 1512, as the same may be subsequently amended or superseded.
- (b) Electric bicycles shall have affixed to them the labeling required under Section 307.194 RSMo., as the same may be subsequently amended or superseded.
- (c) No person shall tamper with or modify an electric bicycle so as to change the motor-powered speed capability or engagement of an electric bicycle, unless he or she replaces the label required under Subsection (b) of this Section with a new label indicating the new classification. If the classification of an electric bicycle is altered, the bicycle must be operated in accordance with the regulations applicable to the new classification of the electric bicycle.

**Section 4.125.090 – Inspection.**

A uniformed City Police Officer may at any time, upon reasonable cause to believe that an electric bicycle is unsafe or not equipped as required by law, or that its equipment is not in proper adjustment or repair, require the person operating the electric bicycle or to stop and submit the electric bicycle to an inspection and such test with reference thereto as may be appropriate.

**Section 4.125.100– Minimum Age to Operate Class 3 Electric Bicycle.**

No person under the age of sixteen (16) shall operate a Class 3 electric bicycle on any roadway within the City.

**Section 4.125.110 – Helmet Required.**

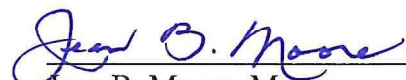
- (a) Every person operating or being a passenger on an electric bicycle upon any roadway, alleyway, or public right-of-way within the City limits shall wear a bicycle helmet of good fit, fastened securely upon the head with the straps of the helmet.
- (b) "Bicycle helmet" shall be defined as a piece of headgear which meets or exceeds the impact standard for protective bicycle helmets set by the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission Federal safety standards, those developed by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), the Snell Memorial Foundation or the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM).
- (c) No parent, custodian or legal guardian of a person age sixteen (16) and under shall knowingly permit said person to operate or be a passenger on an electric bicycle operated upon any roadway, alleyway, sidewalk, crosswalk or public right-of-way within City limits without wearing a helmet as required by this Section.

**Section 4.125.120 – Penalty.**

Any person seventeen (17) years of age or older who violates any provision of this Chapter, is guilty of a municipal ordinance violation and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00). Such violation does not constitute a crime, and conviction shall not give rise to any disability or legal disadvantage based on conviction of a criminal offense. If any person under seventeen (17) years of age violates any provision of this Article in the presence of a Police Officer possessing the duty and power of arrest for violation of the general criminal laws of the state or for violation of ordinances of counties or municipalities of the State, said officer may impound the electric bicycle involved for a period not to exceed five (5) days upon issuance of a receipt to the child riding it or to its owner.

**SECTION 2:** This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval as provided by law.

**INTRODUCED, READ, PASSED, AND ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GLADSTONE, MISSOURI, THIS 8TH DAY OF JUNE 2026.**

  
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 Jean B. Moore, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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 Kris Keller, City Clerk

First Reading: June 8, 2026

Second Reading: June 8, 2026



## *Request for Council Action*

RES # City Clerk Only

BILL # 26-17

ORD # 4.734

Date: 6/1/2026

Department: Police

Meeting Date Requested: 6/8/2026

Public Hearing: Yes  Date: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

Subject: An Ordinance authorizing an amendment to Title IV of the Gladstone City Code.

Background: Currently, our City Code does not address the use and regulation of Electric Bicycles. During the City Council Goal Setting session this past November, E-Bike regulation was discussed. Given the rapid adoption of E-Bikes amongst the public, Staff and Council discussed E-Bike safety, regulation, and usage within the City. In order to address the discussions surrounding E-Bikes from Goal Setting, staff is proposing an amendment to Title IV of the City Code that will create a new Chapter of the Code which addresses E-Bikes. The proposed amendment will allow the City to have clear regulations, usage guidelines, and safety standards for E-Bikes moving forward as they continue to become more popular and prevalent within the City.

Budget Discussion: N/A

Public/Board/Staff Input: Staff recommends approval of the proposed Ordinance.

Provide Original Contracts, Leases, Agreements, etc. to: City Clerk and Vendor.

Fred Farris  
Chief of Police

JA  
City Attorney

BB  
City Manager