

## ORDINANCE NO. 4584

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF AMES, IOWA, BY AMENDING CHAPTERS 4 AND 19 THEREOF, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING USE OF BICYCLES AND PERSONAL TRANSPORTATION DEVICES; REPEALING ANY AND ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT TO THE EXTENT OF SUCH CONFLICT; PROVIDING A PENALTY; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ENACTED, by the City Council for the City of Ames, Iowa, that:

Section One. The Municipal Code of the City of Ames, Iowa shall be and the same is hereby amended by amending Chapters 4 and 19 as follows:

### "CHAPTER 4

### BICYCLES AND PERSONAL TRANSPORTATION DEVICES

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#### **Sec. 4.5 DEFINITIONS**

(1) Bicycle. Bicycle means either:

(a) a device having up to four (4) wheels and having at least one saddle or seat for the use of a rider which is propelled by human power, or

(b) a device having up to four (4) wheels with fully operable pedals and the assistance of an electric motor of less than 750 watts.

(2) Personal Transportation Device. Personal Transportation Device means a mobility device which may be equipped with an electric motor for assistance or sole propulsion, designed for conveying the operator, with speeds of less than 20 miles per hour, but excluding a bicycle or low-speed electric bicycle.

#### **Sec. 4.6. APPLICABILITY OF TRAFFIC LAWS.**

Every person riding or operating a bicycle, tricycle, unicycle, skateboard, longboard, inline or quad skates, or other personal transportation device upon a roadway is granted all rights and subject to all duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle, except as otherwise provided by this chapter or where the nature of the device renders specific provisions inapplicable.

#### **Sec. 4.7. NUMBER OF PASSENGERS.**

No bicycle, tricycle, unicycle or personal transportation device shall be used to carry more than one person unless equipped with a seat for each person carried.

#### **Sec. 4.8. RIDING ON ROADWAYS, SIDEWALKS, BICYCLE PATHS.**

(1) Every person operating a bicycle, tricycle, unicycle or personal transportation devices upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right-hand side of the roadway as practicable and safe, exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction.

(2) Persons riding bicycles, tricycles, unicycles or personal transportation devices upon a roadway shall not ride more than two (2) abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles. Single file when traffic is heavy.

(3) Persons riding bicycles, tricycles, or unicycles or personal transportation device upon a bicycle path not affixed to a roadway shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicular traffic traveling on the public roadways which intersect with the bicycle path. Persons riding bicycles or personal transportation devices upon a bicycle path which is a designated lane or part of a roadway shall obey the instructions of official traffic-control signals, signs, and other control devices applicable to vehicles.

(4) No person shall operate any motor vehicle, including a motorcycle, motor scooter, 'mo-ped' or motorized bicycle, when under power, upon any sidewalk or bike path separated from the roadway, except that golf carts may be operated on the following described portions of bike paths:

(a) The bike path along South Sixteenth Street commencing at the South Riverside Drive intersection and going north to University Boulevard, across University Boulevard and continuing north along the east side of Jack Trice Stadium to South Fourth Street, across South Fourth Street, and then north to Center Drive;

(b) The bike path along Beach Avenue from South Fourth Street north to Lincoln Way, across Lincoln Way then north along Wallace Road to its intersection with Union Drive, then south on Union Drive to Welch Avenue, then along Welch Avenue to Lincoln Way;

(c) The bike path along Center Drive from University Boulevard to Beach Avenue; and

#### **Sec. 4.9. SPEED, OPERATION TO BE REASONABLE AND PRUDENT.**

If a bicycle, tricycle, unicycle, or personal transportation device is being used on the roadway, it must adhere to the speed of the roadway and be operated in a manner that is reasonable and prudent under the conditions then existing.

If a bicycle, tricycle, unicycle or personal transportation device is being used anywhere other than a roadway, it must not be operated at a speed greater than 20 miles per hour if no other speed limit is posted or applicable, and it must be operated in a manner that is reasonable and prudent under the conditions then existing.

#### **Sec. 4.10. EMERGING FROM ALLEY, DRIVEWAY, BUILDING.**

The operator of a bicycle, tricycle, unicycle emerging from an alley, driveway or building shall, upon approaching a sidewalk or the 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.

**Sec. 4.11. CLINGING TO VEHICLES.**

No person riding upon any bicycle, tricycle, unicycle or personal transportation device shall attach themselves to any vehicle or be in any manner towed upon a roadway, sidewalk, or trail.

**Sec. 4.12. CARRYING ARTICLES.**

No person operating a bicycle, tricycle, unicycle or personal transportation device shall carry any package, bundle, or article which prevents the rider from keeping at least one hand upon the handlebars, when handlebars are provided.

**Sec. 4.13. RIDING ON SIDEWALKS.**

It is unlawful for any person to operate a bicycle, tricycle, unicycle or personal transportation device upon any sidewalk on the following streets:

**Main Street** from Duff Avenue to Clark Avenue.

**Lincoln Way** on the south side thereof from Stanton Avenue to Hayward Avenue.

**Hayward Avenue** on the east side thereof from Lincoln Way to Hunt Street.

**Welch Avenue** from Lincoln Way to Knapp Street.

Exception: A person with a disability who uses a wheelchair or other mobility device is permitted to use such a device on the sidewalks and areas listed above.

**Sec. 4.14. RIGHT-OF-WAY OF PEDESTRIANS ON SIDEWALKS AND SHARED-USE PATH; SIGNAL REQUIRED.**

Whenever any person is riding a bicycle, tricycle, unicycle or personal transportation device upon a sidewalk, such person shall operate in a careful and prudent manner that is safe, respectful, and responsive to conditions and others using the sidewalk and shared-use path.

Every person operating a bicycle, tricycle, unicycle or personal transportation device upon a sidewalk and share-use path, shall yield the right-of-way when approaching a pedestrian and shall give an audible signal, such as a voice call and bell, before overtaking and passing.

**Sec. 4.15. BICYCLES, TRICYCLES, UNICYCLES AND PERSONAL TRANSPORTATION DEVICES PROHIBITED ON GRAND AVENUE.**

The riding of bicycles, tricycles, unicycles or personal transportation devices on the roadway of Grand Avenue in the City of Ames, Iowa, is prohibited. Any person who rides a bicycle, tricycle, unicycle, or personal transportation device on the traveled portion of the roadway of Grand Avenue between Lincoln Way and 30th Street in the City of Ames will be in violation of this section.

**Sec. 4.16. LAMPS, REFLECTORS REQUIRED.**

Every bicycle, tricycle, unicycle or personal transportation device ridden at any time from sunset to sunrise and at such other times when conditions such as fog, snow, sleet, or rain provide insufficient lighting to render clearly discernible persons and vehicles on the highway at a distance of three hundred feet ahead must be equipped

with a lamp on the front exhibiting a white light visible from a distance of at least three hundred feet to the front.

Every bicycle, tricycle, unicycle or personal transportation device ridden at any time from sunset to sunrise and at such other times when conditions such as fog, snow, sleet, or rain provide insufficient lighting to render clearly discernible persons and vehicles on the highway at a distance of three hundred feet ahead must be equipped with a lamp on the rear exhibiting a red light visible from a distance of three hundred feet to the rear; except that a red reflector may be used in lieu of a rear light.

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 bicycle.

A peace officer riding a police bicycle is not required to use either front or rear lamps if duty so requires.

#### **Sec. 4.17. BRAKE REQUIRED.**

Every bicycle, tricycle, unicycle, or personal transportation device operated within the City boundaries must be able to come to a complete stop within a safe distance.

#### **Sec. 4.18. SIRENS, WHISTLES AND HORNS PROHIBITED.**

A bicycle, tricycle, unicycle, or personal transportation device shall not be equipped with, and a person shall not use upon a bicycle, tricycle, unicycle, or personal transportation device any siren, whistle, and horn. This section does not apply to bicycles, tricycles, unicycles, or personal transportation devices ridden by peace officers in the line of duty.

#### **Sec. 4.19. PARKING.**

No person shall park a bicycle, tricycle, unicycle or personal transportation device upon a sidewalk, street, or alley in such a manner that provides no adequate path for pedestrian or motor vehicle travel, or a curb ramp, building entrance, or fire hydrant.

#### **Sec. 4.20. IMPOUNDMENT.**

The Police Department may impound the bicycle, tricycle, unicycle or personal transportation device that is used by any person who creates a hazardous condition while violating this chapter. If impounded, the bicycle, tricycle, unicycle, or personal transportation device will be released by the Police Department to the owner if proof of ownership is shown and any associated fees and charges are paid.

#### **Sec. 4.21. RESPONSIBLE RIDING.**

(1) A person must operate a bicycle, tricycle, unicycle, or personal transportation device in a manner that is safe, respectful, and responsive to conditions of roadways, shared-use paths, sidewalks, and city parks.

(2) A person operating a bicycle, tricycle, unicycle, or personal transportation device must keep it under control at all times.

(3) A person must not operate a bicycle, tricycle, unicycle, or personal transportation device while using a phone or another device which prevents the rider

from keeping at least one hand upon the handlebars, when handlebars are provided.

(4) A person must not operate a bicycle, tricycle, unicycle, or personal transportation device in a manner so as to disregard the safety of the operator, others, or property.

**Sec. 4.22 PENALTIES FOR OFFENSES PERTAINING TO BICYCLES.**

(1) A violation of any provision of Chapter 4, Bicycles and Personal Transportation Devices, shall be a municipal infraction punishable by a penalty of \$50.00 for a person's first violation thereof, and a penalty of \$100.00 for each repeat violation.

(2) Alternatively, a violation of Chapter 4 can be charged by a peace officer of the City as a simple misdemeanor.

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**CHAPTER 19**

**PARKS AND RECREATION**

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**Sec. 19.9. UNLAWFUL TO OPERATE A MOTOR VEHICLE IN CITY PARK; EXCEPTIONS.**

It is unlawful for any person, other than authorized personnel, to operate a motor vehicle as defined in the laws of the state in any public park or greenway of the city, except upon the streets and parking lots therein which are specifically designated for motor vehicle travel.

Exception: This section does not apply to manual or powered mobility devices used by individuals with a disability. Use of Other Power-Drive Mobility Devices (OPDMDs) by individuals with mobility disabilities are subject to a case-by-case assessment based on official factors (i.e., device characteristics, park characteristics, safety requirements, environmental factors, and/or land management).

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**Sec. 19.12. BIKE RIDING PROHIBITED IN CERTAIN PARKS.**

Riding of bicycles, tricycles, unicycles, and personal transportation devices, (i.e., manual, electric) are prohibited in Munn Woods; East River Valley Park; and in Brookside Park on the Audubon Trail.

See also 19.14.

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**Sec. 19.14. PROHIBITED USE OF GEORGIE TSUSHIMA MEMORIAL SKATE PARK.**

(1) No person shall use or have in or on the Georgie Tsushima Memorial Skate Park any type of scooter, coaster, sled, bicycle, tricycle, unicycle, personal

transportation device or vehicle, except for skateboards and in-line roller skates.

(2) Violation of this section shall be a municipal infraction punishable by a penalty of \$50.00 for a first offense, \$100 for a second offense, and \$200 for each subsequent offense.

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Section Two. Violation of the provisions of this ordinance shall constitute a municipal infraction punishable as set out by law.

Section Three. All ordinances, or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict, if any.

Section Four. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as required by law.

Passed this 27 day of January, 2026.

Taylor Swann  
Deputy City Clerk

John A. Haila  
John A. Haila, Mayor

First Reading: December 09, 2025

Second Reading: January 13, 2026

Third Reading: January 27, 2026

Passed on: January 27, 2026

I, Renee Hall, City Clerk of the City of Ames, Iowa, hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true copy of Ordinance No. 4584, passed by the City Council of said City at the meeting held on January 27, 2026 and signed by the Mayor on January 27, 2026, and published in the Ames Tribune on January 30, 2026.

Renee Hall  
Renee Hall, City Clerk