

ORDINANCE NO. 1896

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ST. JOHN, INDIANA,
REGULATING THE OPERATION OF ELECTRIC BICYCLES AND MOTORIZED
ELECTRIC DEVICES WITHIN THE TOWN**

WHEREAS the Town Council of the Town of St. John, Indiana (hereinafter referred to as "Town Council") is desirous to establish regulations pertaining to the operation of Electric Bicycles and Motorized Electric Devices within the Town, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has been advised by the Administrative Team that these regulations pertaining to the operation of Electric Bicycles and Motorized Electric Devices within the Town should be adopted; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has determined that it is necessary and advisable to adopt these regulations pertaining to the operation of Electric Bicycles and Motorized Electric Devices within the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council having reviewed the relevant applicable law, now concurs that it is advisable, necessary, and in the best interests of the residents of the Town of St. John to adopt these regulations pertaining to the operation of Electric Bicycles and Motorized Electric Devices.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of St. John, Indiana, that:

SECTION ONE: That Town Code references **CHAPTER XIII, Entitled: MOTOR VEHICLES and TRAFFIC**; and is now establishing and creating **ARTICLE XIII, Entitled: ELECTRIC BICYCLES and MOTORIZED ELECTRIC DEVICES** and **SECTION 13-1000, Entitled: RULES and REGULATIONS**, of the St. John Town Code, be, and the same is hereby establishing to create the following Section, namely:

"Section 13-1000 RULES and REGULATIONS

(A) PURPOSE. The purpose of this Ordinance is to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the public by establishing reasonable, behavior-based regulations governing the operation of electric bicycles and motorized electric devices on public roadways, sidewalks, and multi-use paths within the Town.

(B) DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this Ordinance, Electric Bicycles as defined under Indiana Code may be subject to additional operational restrictions under this Ordinance based on speed, location, or manner of use.

(1) "Electric Bicycle" shall have the same meaning as set forth in I.C. § 9-13-2-49.2, as may be amended.

- (2) "Low-Speed Electric Device" means any electric bicycle, electric scooter, or similar electric-powered device that is designed to travel at a maximum speed of twenty (20) miles per hour or less when powered solely by the motor.
- (3) "Motorized Electric Device" means, for purposes of operation under this Ordinance, any electric-powered device that:
 - (a) Is capable of traveling at speeds exceeding twenty (20) miles per hour under motor power; or
 - (b) Has been modified to exceed the manufacturer's intended speed capabilities.
- (4) "Electric Personal Mobility Device" means any self-propelled device powered by an electric motor, including electric scooters and similar devices, but excluding motor vehicles as defined under Indiana Code.
- (5) "Shared-Use Path" means a multi-use trail or pathway intended for use by pedestrians, bicyclists, and similar users, including those located within parks and greenways.
- (6) "Sidewalk" means that portion of a public right-of-way intended primarily for pedestrian use.

The classifications set forth herein are intended solely to regulate the operation of devices within the Town and are not intended to conflict with or alter definitions established under Indiana Code.

(C) OPERATION ON PUBLIC ROADWAYS.

- (1) Electric bicycles and Low-Speed Electric Devices may be operated upon public roadways and bicycle lanes in the same manner as traditional bicycles and shall be subject to all applicable state and local traffic laws.
- (2) It shall be unlawful for any person under sixteen (16) years of age to operate a Motorized Electric Device upon any public roadway within the Town.
- (3) No person shall operate any electric bicycle or electric device upon a public roadway in a manner or at a speed that is unsafe for conditions or that endangers the safety of persons or property.

(D) OPERATION ON SIDEWALKS, PATHWAYS, AND TRAILS.

- (1) Electric bicycles and Low-Speed Electric Devices are permitted on sidewalks, pathways, and multi-use trails unless otherwise prohibited by posted signage.
- (2) Motorized Electric Devices are prohibited on all sidewalks, multi-use paths, and trails within Town parks and public rights-of-way.
- (3) All operators shall:
 - (a) Yield the right-of-way to pedestrians at all times;

- (b) Provide an audible signal before overtaking and passing;
- (c) Maintain control of the device at all times; and
- (d) Operate at a speed that is safe and reasonable for existing conditions.

- (4) In addition to the provisions of this Ordinance, the Town of St. John Parks Department may establish and post rules governing the use of electric bicycles and other devices within parks, pathways, and trail systems. Such posted regulations shall have the force and effect of this Ordinance.

(E) RECKLESS OR UNSAFE OPERATION.

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate an electric bicycle or electric device in a careless, reckless, or imprudent manner, having regard for traffic, pedestrians, surface conditions, visibility, or other existing conditions, so as to endanger the safety of any person or property.

(F) MINOR SAFETY REQUIREMENTS.

- (1) Any person under sixteen (16) years of age operating an electric bicycle shall wear a properly fitted and fastened protective helmet.
- (2) A parent or legal guardian shall not knowingly permit a minor to operate a Motorized Electric Device in violation of this Ordinance.

(G) EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS.

Any electric bicycle or electric device operated between sunset and sunrise shall be equipped with:

- (a) A white front lamp visible from a distance of at least five hundred (500) feet; and
- (b) A red working light or lamp visible from a distance of at least one hundred (100) feet.

(H) ENFORCEMENT.

- (1) Any person who violates any provision of this Ordinance may be issued a warning or citation.
- (2) Violations of this Ordinance may be subject to penalties as provided under the Town Municipal Code.
- (3) The St. John Police Department is authorized to impound any Motorized Electric Device operated in violation of this Ordinance where repeated violations or dangerous conduct are observed.
- (4) The Town may implement an initial education and warning period prior to full enforcement.

- (I) FINES.** A fine shall be issued of no less than Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00) for a first offense, no less than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for a second offence; and One Hundred Fifty

Dollars (\$150.00) for a third or subsequent offence. The determination of period of time for a fine shall be a calendar year, with computation of time for fines being each calendar year. In the event of violation citation being docketed for prosecution of violation of same in the Town Court, Attorney fees of the Town for prosecution shall be imposed.

SECTION 2. That if any section, clause, provision or portion of this Ordinance shall be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect any other section, clause, provision or portion of this Ordinance.

SECTION 3. That all existing Ordinances, or parts thereof, in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance, are hereby deemed null, void, and of no legal effect, and are specifically repealed.

SECTION 4. That this Ordinance shall take effect, and be in full force and effect from and after its passage and adoption by the Town Council.

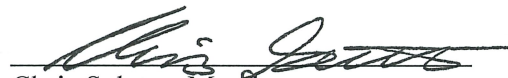
ALL OF WHICH IS PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ST. JOHN, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, THIS 26 DAY OF AUGUST, 2026.

**TOWN OF ST. JOHN, LAKE COUNTY,
INDIANA, TOWN COUNCIL**


Michael Bouvat, President


Christian Jorgensen, Vice-President

Absent
Ann Oster, Member


Chris Salatas, Member


Gerald Swets, Member

ATTEST:


Beth Hernandez, IAMC, CMC, MMC, CPFIM
Clerk-Treasurer