

A work session of the Grundy Center City Council was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, in the Council Chambers by Mayor Eberline. Present: Smith, McDonald, Lamp, Kuester and Stensland. Absent: None. Visitors: Dan Bangasser, James Natvig, Seth Schroeder, Rich Ahlberg.

Mayor Eberline opened the discussion on Ordinance 596, an ordinance on motorized scooters and electric bikes. Lamp questioned if there are any other codes in place already to assist with the uneducated young kids riding the electric bikes/scooters. Chief Natvig commented currently no tickets can be written to those under age 16, even then it is an expensive ticket written on the State of Iowa codes and lands on their driving record. Natvig explained with having this in the city codes with associated fines, it would be treated like all the other municipal fines or infractions. Lamp commented that each time a new toy or fad comes out, this ordinance would need to be changed. Mayor Eberline commented that most if not all complaints right now are about the kids riding the electric bikes/scooters not following the basic rules of driving on the streets, darting in and out of traffic, etc. Most adult drivers fear a child will be hit by a car or semi driving through the city. McDonald commented an ordinance in place like this is to prevent the worse case scenario. Stensland asked how we enforce a code for this when it is basically caused by bad behaviors. Chief Natvig a citation for these types of behaviors would be like a city parking ticket and the parents could be fined as well. He commented that more people may comply if the parent/guardians can be fined. Smith commented if an ordinance is put into place, it needs to be extremely enforceable and requiring a permit may be the only option. Smith asked for information from other cities where their ordinance is working and helping with the problem. Stensland commented that a \$25 fine is not going to be enough, needs to be more in the range of \$100-\$200. Lamp asked if the city could ban these types of motorized bikes/scooters or could we only allow for those 16 years old and above. Smith explained to do that a permit system would need to be in place just like a golf cart permit is now. Kuester commented that education and informing residents first and foremost. No further discussions were held and no action taken.

Mayor Eberline acknowledged Seth Schroeder, City Attorney, for an update on the nuisance cases that were sent to him for next legal steps. Schroeder commented that notices will be ready for signatures this week. No further updates were given.

Smith moved and Lamp seconded adjournment of the meeting at 6:10pm. Motion carried five ayes.

Attest: Kristy Sawyer, City Clerk

Dr. Paul Eberline, Mayor