

**TOWN OF JOHNSTOWN, COLORADO
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-290**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 8 OF THE JOHNSTOWN
MUNICIPAL CODE CONCERNING LOW-POWERED SCOOTERS,
ELECTRIC ASSISTED AND SELF-POWERED DEVICES AND OFF-
HIGHWAY VEHICLES**

WHEREAS, the Town of Johnstown, Colorado (“Town”) is a Colorado home rule municipality, duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Colorado and the Town’s Home Rule Charter; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council is vested with authority to administer the affairs of the Town; and

WHEREAS, electric powered vehicles have increased in popularity in recent years, causing an increase in public health, safety and welfare concerns; and

WHEREAS, Section 42-4-111, C.R.S. provides, among other provisions, that local governments may regulate the operation of electric assisted and self-powered devices; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 8 of the Johnstown Municipal Code contains vehicle and traffic regulations; and

WHEREAS, after discussion with Town staff during a work session on February 23, 2026, Town Council desires to add regulations, in addition to those set forth in the previously adopted Model Traffic Code, to Chapter 8 concerning electric assisted and self-powered devices in the Town, including, but not limited to, bicycles, electric assisted bicycles, electric and non-electric scooters, skateboards and off-highway vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council finds, determines and declares that this Ordinance is promulgated under the general police power of the Town and is in the best interests of the Town.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF JOHNSTOWN, COLORADO, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. The foregoing recitals are affirmed and incorporated herein

Section 2. Section 8-23 of the Johnstown Municipal Code is hereby amended to add a new subsection (1) and to renumber the current subsections (1) to (10) to be referred to as subsections (2) to (11). The new subsection (1) shall read as follows:

Sec. 8-23. Additions or modifications to the 2024 model traffic code

...
(1) Section 109 is hereby amended to add a new subsection (14) to read as follows:

(14) It shall be unlawful for any parent, guardian, legal custodian, or any adult to authorize,

assist, permit, or encourage any minor to operate a low-power scooter in violation of the provisions contained herein.

Section 3. Chapter 8 of the Johnstown Municipal Code is hereby amended by the addition of a new Article VII, which shall read as follows:

ARTICLE VII – Electric Assisted and Self-Powered Devices

Sec. 8-91. Scope of regulations.

In addition to the requirements contained in this Article, bicycles, electrical assisted bicycles and electric scooters are regulated by the Model Traffic Code, adopted in Article II of this Chapter.

Sec. 8-92. Definitions.

For purposes of this Article, the following terms have the meanings set forth below:

Bicycle means a vehicle propelled by human power applied to pedals upon which a person may ride having two tandem wheels or two parallel wheels and one forward wheel, all of which are more than fourteen inches in diameter.

Electric assisted bicycle means a vehicle having two or three wheels and fully operable pedals, and an electric motor not exceeding seven hundred fifty watts of power. Electrical assisted bicycles shall conform to one of three classes as follows:

(a) “Class 1 electrical assisted bicycle” means an electrical assisted bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of twenty miles per hour;

(b) “Class 2 electrical assisted bicycle” means an electrical assisted bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance regardless of whether the rider is pedaling but ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of twenty miles per hour; or

(c) “Class 3 electrical assisted bicycle” means an electrical assisted bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of twenty-eight miles per hour.

Electric Scooter means a device: (i) weighing less than one hundred pounds; (ii) with handlebars and an electric motor; (iii) that is powered by an electric motor; and (iv) that has a maximum speed of twenty miles per hour on a paved level surface when powered solely by the electric motor.

Self-powered device means, without limitation, a skateboard, scooter or similar such device.

Sec. 8-93. Riding bicycles and self-powered devices; dismount zones.

(a) No person shall ride a bicycle or self-powered device upon and along a sidewalk or across a roadway upon and along a crosswalk where such use is prohibited by an official traffic control device, a sign or other official marking designating a dismount zone or an ordinance.

(1) The following shall be a permanent dismount zone for bicycles and self-powered devices: the sidewalks and crosswalks in the downtown corridor between South 1st Street and North 2nd Street, including the adjacent alleys.

- (2) The Town Manager or the Town Manager's designee may designate additional dismount zones within the Town and install or have installed a traffic control device or a sign or other official marking designating such dismount zone.
- (3) Any person operating a personal assistive mobility device to aid with a disability shall be exempt from these requirements.
- (b) No person shall operate or ride a bicycle or self-powered device in excess of ten (10) miles per hour on Town sidewalks. No person shall operate or ride a bicycle or self-powered device in excess of twenty (20) miles per hour on Town bikepaths or trails.

Sec. 8-94. Riding electrical assisted bicycles and electric scooters.

- (a) No person shall operate or ride an electrical assisted bicycle or electric scooter except on Town roads, bikepaths and trails.
- (b) No person shall operate or ride an electrical assisted bicycle or electric scooter on Town sidewalks.
- (c) No person shall operate or ride an electrical assisted bicycle or electric scooter on Town bikepaths or trails in excess of twenty (20) miles per hour.
- (d) Notwithstanding the foregoing, no person shall operate a Class 3 electrical assisted bicycle on Town bikepaths and trails.

Sec. 8-95. Yield to pedestrians.

Persons riding a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, electric scooter or self-powered device shall yield to pedestrians.

Sec. 8-96. Exceptions.

Except for the requirement to yield to pedestrians, the restrictions set forth in this Article do not apply to Town employees or Town authorized officials acting in the course of their official duties.

Sec. 8-97. Parental Responsibility.

It shall be unlawful for any parent, guardian, legal custodian, or any adult to authorize, assist, permit, or encourage any minor to operate a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, electric scooter or self-powered device in violation of the provisions of this Article.

Section 4. Chapter 8 of the Johnstown Municipal Code is hereby amended by the addition of a new Article VIII, which shall read as follows:

ARTICLE VIII – Off-Highway Vehicles

Sec. 8-101. Definitions.

For purposes of this Article, the following term shall have the meaning set forth below:

Off-highway vehicle means any self-propelled vehicle that is designed to travel on wheels or tracks in contact with the ground, designed primarily for use "off-road" of the public highways, and generally and commonly used to transport persons for recreational purposes. *Off-highway vehicle* does not include: (i) vehicles designed and used primarily for travel on, over, or in the water; (ii) snowmobiles; (iii) golf cars; (iv) vehicles designed and used to carry individuals with disabilities; (v) vehicles

designed and used to specifically for agricultural, logging, or mining purposes; or (vi) surplus military vehicles owned or leased by a municipality, county, or fire protection district, for the purpose of assisting with firefighting efforts, including mitigating the risk of wildfires.

Sec. 8-102. Operation prohibited on public ways and property.

- (a) No person shall operate an off-highway vehicle upon or within any Town street, alley, roadway, highway, shoulder, median, sidewalk, pedestrian way, multi-use path, bicycle lane or path, trail, park, open space, public right-of-way, or other Town-owned or Town-controlled property.
- (b) No off-highway vehicle routes are designated within the Town. The Town does not authorize off-highway vehicle operation on any street or highway within its jurisdiction.

Sec. 8-103. Exceptions.

The restrictions set forth in this Article do not apply to:

- (a) The operation of an off-highway vehicle by Town employees or Town authorized officials acting in the course of their official duties;
- (b) The operation of an off-highway vehicle entirely on private property with the authorization of the property owner; or
- (c) The loading or unloading an off-highway vehicle from a trailer or truck when parked lawfully on private property, provided the off-highway vehicle is not driven on any public way or public property.

Sec. 8-104. Parental Responsibility.

It shall be unlawful for any parent, guardian, legal custodian, or any adult to authorize, assist, permit, or encourage any minor to operate an off-highway vehicle in violation of the provisions of this Article.

Section 5. Severability. If any part or provision of this Ordinance, or its application to any person or circumstance, is adjudged to be invalid or unenforceable, the invalidity or unenforceability of such part, provision, or application shall not affect any of the remaining parts, provisions or applications of this Ordinance that can be given effect without the invalid provision, part or application, and, to this end, the provisions and parts of this Ordinance are declared to be severable.

Section 6. Repealer. All ordinances, or parts thereof, inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent only of such inconsistency. This repealer shall not be construed to revise any ordinance, or part thereof, heretofore repealed.

Section 7. Publication; Effective Date. This Ordinance, after its passage on final reading, shall be numbered, recorded, published and posted as required by the Home Rule Charter of the Town of Johnstown, Colorado ("Charter") and the adoption, posting and publication shall be authenticated by the signature of the Mayor and the Town Clerk. This Ordinance shall become effective upon final passage as provided by the Charter. Copies of the entire Ordinance are available at the office of the Town Clerk.

INTRODUCED, AND APPROVED on first reading by the Town Council of the Town of Johnstown, Colorado, this 16th day of March, 2026.



TOWN OF JOHNSTOWN, COLORADO

ATTEST:

By: Meghan C. M.
Meghan Martinez, Town Clerk

By: [Signature]
Michael P. Duncan, Mayor

PASSED UPON FINAL APPROVAL AND ADOPTED on second reading by the Town Council of the Town of Johnstown, Colorado, this 14th day of April, 2026.



TOWN OF JOHNSTOWN, COLORADO

ATTEST:

By: Meghan C. M.
Meghan Martinez, Town Clerk

By: [Signature]
Michael P. Duncan, Mayor