



AGENDA
WATAUGA CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 13, 2026
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER, 7105 WHITLEY ROAD
5:30 PM

This notice is posted pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act. Notice is hereby given that a **City Council Workshop Meeting** of the City of Watauga, Texas will be held at which time the following subjects will be discussed and may be acted upon.

CALL TO ORDER (Council Members, City Staff, Members of the Public - when speaking during the meeting please speak directly into the microphones on the dais or podium)

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENT This is an opportunity for citizens to address the Council on items not posted on the current meeting agenda. Only those who have submitted a proper "Request to Speak Form" Shall be permitted to speak. Citizens should provide their name and address for the record and will have no more than 3 minutes to speak. If representing an organization or group, the speaker should identify who they represent. Those wishing to speak are reminded 1). All comments are to be directed to the Council. 2) Be respectful of others. 3) No profanity permitted. 4) Violators will be removed from the premises. No discussion by the Council or Staff is allowed except to correct factual inaccuracies or request that the item be placed on a future agenda.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation covering e-bikes, e-motorcycles, e-scooters, and applicable laws.
James Lewis, Chief of Police

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Notices and Reservation of Rights

The City Council may retire to executive session any time between the meeting's opening and adjournment for the purpose of consultation with legal counsel pursuant to Chapter 551.071 of the Texas Government Code; discussion of personnel matters pursuant to Chapter 551.074 of the Texas Government Code if the requisite information is otherwise posted; deliberation regarding real property pursuant to Chapter 551.072 of the Texas Government Code; deliberation regarding economic development negotiations pursuant to

Chapter 551.087 of the Texas Government Code; and/or deliberation regarding the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation of security personnel or devices pursuant to Chapter 551.076 of the Texas Government Code (as applicable) when determined necessary by the [City Council/Board/Commission/Committee] to address a subject matter on the agenda. Action, if any, will be taken in open session.

Attendance by Other Elected or Appointed Officials: It is anticipated that members of other governmental bodies, and/or city council, boards, commissions and/or committees may attend the meeting in numbers that may constitute a quorum of the body, board, commission and/or committee. Notice is hereby given that the meeting, to the extent required by law, is also noticed as a possible meeting of the other body, board, commission and/or committee, whose members may be in attendance, if such numbers constitute a quorum. The members of the city council, boards, commissions and/or committees may be permitted to participate in discussions on the same items listed on the agenda which occur at the meeting, but no action will be taken by such in attendance unless such item and action is specifically provided for on an agenda for that city council, body, board, commission or committee subject to the Texas Open Meetings Act.

BUDGET STATEMENT: Pursuant to Section 551.043, Government Code, the following taxpayer impact statement must be on the City Council meeting agenda at which the City Council will discuss or adopt a budget for the City of Watauga: For an average-valued homestead property \$ 237,285, the City's portion of the property tax bill in dollars for the current fiscal year (FY2025) is \$1,353, the City's portion of the property tax bill for the upcoming fiscal year (FY2026) for the same property if the proposed budget is adopted is estimated to be \$ \$1,353, and the City's portion of the property tax bill in dollars for the upcoming fiscal year (FY2026) for the same property if a budget funded at the no-new-revenue rate under Chapter 26, Tax Code, is adopted is estimated to be \$ \$1,366.

NOTICE

THIS FACILITY IS WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE AND ACCESSIBLE PARKING SPACES ARE AVAILABLE. REQUESTS FOR ACCOMMODATIONS OR INTERPRETIVE SERVICES MUST BE MADE 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THIS MEETING. PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY SECRETARY'S OFFICE AT (817) 514-5825, OR FAX (817) 514-3625.

I, Linda Proskey, City Secretary for the City of Watauga, hereby certify that this agenda was posted on the bulletin boards at City Hall, 7105 Whitley Road, Watauga, Texas, on July 7, 2026, before 5:00 p.m., in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

/S/ Linda Proskey
City Secretary





AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 29, 2026

TO: Honorable City Council Members

FROM: James Lewis, Chief of Police

THROUGH: Sandra Gibson, City Manager

SUBJECT: Presentation covering e-bikes, e-motorcycles, e-scooters, and applicable laws.

BACKGROUND/INFORMATION:

With the increasing number of electric conveyances being utilized in our city, the police department has been receiving an increasing number of inquiries regarding what defines an e-bike versus an e-motorcycle, the laws/regulations surrounding their use, and other safety considerations.

The Police Department will deliver a brief presentation covering e-bikes, e-motorcycles, e-scooters, and applicable laws. The purpose of this presentation will be to provide information to both Council and the community in an effort to increase safety and awareness around these types of vehicles. No response or action will be requested.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None

RECOMMENDATION/ACTION DESIRED:

No action required.

ATTACHMENTS/ SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

1. E-Bikes Presentation (1)

REVIEWED BY:

James Lewis, Chief of Police
Sandra Gibson, City Manager
Linda Proskey, City Secretary

Approved as to form for inclusion on Agenda

Approved - 6/30/2026
Approved - 7/6/2026
Final Approval - 7/6/2026



Electric Mobility Devices: Classification, Regulations, and Public Safety

Jim Lewis

Chief of Police

Watauga Police Department



Topics to be covered:

- E-bikes
- E-motorcycles
- E-scooters
- Safety Concerns
- Officer Concerns
- Community Impact



Electric Bikes

- Must be equipped with fully operable pedals
- Powered by an electric motor of less than 750 watts
- Top assisted speed of 28 mph or less
- Allowed on sidewalks and roadways
- Subject to all Texas bicycle laws
- (TX. Transportation Code Chs. 551 & 664)



Electric Bike Classes

- Class 1 Electric Bicycle
 - Motor provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling
 - Maximum assisted speed of 20 mph
- Class 2 Electric Bicycle
 - Motor can propel the bicycle without rider pedaling (throttle-assisted)
 - Maximum assisted speed of 20 mph
- Class 3 Electric Bicycle
 - Motor provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling
 - Maximum assisted speed of 28 mph
- No helmet requirements for any class



Electric Motorcycles

- Designed as a street-legal motor vehicle
- Has no functional pedals
- Capable of speeds exceeding 28 mph
- Equipped with an electric motor rated above 750 watts
- Requires vehicle registration, insurance, and a motorcycle endorsement
- Must comply with all applicable motorcycle laws
- Prohibited from operating on sidewalks
- Riders under 21 years of age required to wear a helmet





Electric Dirt Bikes & Pocket Bikes

- Features no operable pedals
- Designed for off-road operation
- Does not meet the legal definition of an electric bicycle
- Illegal to operate on public roadways, sidewalks, or shared-use paths
- Intended for use on private property or designated off-road areas
- (TX. Transportation Code Ch. 551.353)





Electric Scooters

- Has at least two wheels in contact with the ground during operation
- Features a deck designed for a person to stand or sit
- Equipped with an electric motor
- Features a braking system capable of stopping the device under normal operating conditions
- Able to be propelled by human power alone





Electric Scooters

City Ordinance

CHILDREN (under age 17)

- Permitted to ride on sidewalks
- Prohibited from riding on public roadways
- Required to wear a properly fitted helmet while on public property

ADULTS

- Permitted to operate on sidewalks or on roadways with speed limits of 35 mph or less
 - Must obey all applicable traffic laws when lawfully riding on a roadway
- (Watauga City Ord. Ch. 40 Art. V)





Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Devices

- A two-wheeled, non-tandem device designed to transport one person
- Must be self-balancing
- Propelled by an electric propulsion system with an average power output of 750 watts
- Permitted to operate on sidewalks
- Permitted to operate on roadway with a speed limit of 30 mph or less only under the following conditions:
 - While crossing in a marked or unmarked crosswalk
 - When no sidewalk is available
 - When directed to do so by an official traffic control device
- Subject to standard Bicycle laws
- No helmet requirements





Safety Concerns

- Increased use throughout the community
- Wide variation in performance between device types creates confusion for riders and motorists
- Improper operation increases risks of crashes, injuries, and conflicts with pedestrians and their vehicles
- Safe operation depends on education, voluntary compliance, and when necessary, consistent enforcement
- Riders (particularly juveniles) are often unfamiliar with laws governing their devices



Officer Concerns

- Difficulty distinguishing between devices that are legal on public roadways and those that are not
- High-speed devices on sidewalks, trails, and parks create safety hazards
- Limited visibility and quiet operation can reduce reaction time for drivers and pedestrians
- Citizen resistance to education regarding device use and applicable regulations



Community Impact

- Encouraging responsible use helps reduce crashes and injuries
- Clear guidance for citizens promotes voluntary compliance with state laws and city ordinances
- Education remains the Department's preferred approach, with enforcement reserved for unsafe or unlawful behavior when necessary



In Review

- Know what your device is classified as
- Know the laws that pertain to the device you're operating
- Always ride responsibly
- The Department's goal to educate over enforcement action
- Laws will be enforced when necessary
- Call 911 to report dangerous and irresponsible operation
- Call the non-emergency number for questions or concerns

Legal References

- Texas Transportation Code Chapter 664 Standards for Electric Bicycles
- Texas Transportation Code Chapter 551 Sub. Chapter E – Motor Assisted Scooters
- Texas Transportation Code Chapter 551.353 - Application of Subchapter to Pocket Bike or Mini motorbike
- Texas Transportation Code Chapter 551 Subchapter C – Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Devices
- City of Watauga Code of Ordinances Chapter 40 Art. V Sec. 40-288, 40-289, 40-290

CAN I RIDE IT ON THE ROAD IN TEXAS?				
Texas Electric Vehicle Road Use Guide				
VEHICLE	PEDALS	LICENSE	REGISTRATION	WHERE YOU CAN RIDE
 E-bike (Class 1-3) ✓ Pedals required ✗ No license required ✗ No registration required ⚠ Class 3 riders must be 15+ (Texas law - see note below)	✓ Yes	✗ No	✗ No	• Roads • Bike Lanes • Trails • Sidewalks* *Unless city ordinances restrict them
⚠ State law requires operators of a Class 3 e-bike to be at least 15 years old.				
 Stand-Up Electric Scooter	✗ No	✗ No	✗ No	• Roads < 35 mph* • Bike Lanes • Sidewalks* *Unless city ordinances restrict them
 Moped / Motor Scooter	✗ No	✓ Class M (Motorcycle License)	✓ Yes	Public roads only
 Electric Motorcycle	✗ No	✓ Class M (Motorcycle License)	✓ Yes	Public roads only
 Electric Dirt Bike / Pit Bike	✗ No	Not Street Legal	Not Street Legal	Off-road only (Private property)
Simple Rules to Remember ✓ Has working pedals = E-Bike ✗ No pedals = NOT an e-bike ⚠ State law requires operators of a Class 3 e-bike to be at least 15 years old.				
No license & registration required License & registration required Not street legal / Off road only				



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