Ordinance No. 6261

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND RAPID CITY MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 12.24.050 TO ALLOW E-BIKES ON CITY BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN TRAIL SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, the City of Rapid City has adopted provisions regulating park use in Chapter 12.24 of the Rapid City Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, RCMC 12.24.050 regulates use of the bicycle and pedestrian trail system within City parks and specifically prohibits any motorized vehicle from operating on the trail systems, except in limited circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the use of low-speed electric assist bikes, or e-bikes, is gaining popularity within Rapid City as well as throughout the state and country; and

WHEREAS, federal regulations adopted by the Consumer Product Safety Commission at the direction of the U.S. Congress define low-speed electric assist bikes as those bicycles which must be powered by a human using the pedals but which also have an electric motor of less than 750 watts (1 horsepower) that assists the bike operator; and

WHEREAS, regulations adopted by the Consumer Product Safety Commission limit the size of the motor, which in turn limits the possible top speed of these electric assist bikes; and

WHEREAS, citizens have asked the Parks and Recreation Department to consider an amendment to the ordinance to allow these electric assist bikes within the City’s parks; and

WHEREAS, Parks and Recreation staff agree that the use of low speed electric assist bikes as defined in federal regulations will have very little additional impact upon the City’s trail system beyond what is already occurring and will also encourage and support bicycle use by individuals of a variety of skill and ability levels; and

WHEREAS, the City of Rapid City wishes to amend R.C.M.C. 12.24.050 to allow for the use of electric assist bike on the City’s pedestrian trails and bicycle trails to support the health, safety, and general welfare of the City and its citizens.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Rapid City that R.C.M.C. 12.24.050 is hereby amended in its entirety to read as follows:


A. Except as provided in Section B, no person shall operate any automobile, motorcycle, golf cart or other motorized vehicle upon the primary and secondary bicycle and pedestrian trail system within City parks.
B. Motorized vehicles may be operated in the following circumstances: provided, however, that,

1. the Department may authorize the operation of golf carts on the system in the immediate area(s) of the Meadowbrook Golf Course and Executive Golf Course and;

2. may authorize the operation of motorized vehicles by handicapped persons of the vehicles and in a manner as he or she shall determine so long as such operation is not inconsistent with the purpose of the trail system;

3. This section shall not apply to the operation of City maintenance vehicles, nor to motorized law enforcement vehicles, or authorized vendors who are otherwise permitted under §12.24.080, nor to individuals operating with the permission of the Department.

4. The operation of low-speed pedal assist electric bikes as defined in 15 U.S.C. Section 2085 as adopted and amended provided that the electric motor provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling so long as such operation is not inconsistent with the purpose of the trail system; and

5. Individuals operating with the permission of the Department.

(Ord. 5793 (part), 2012; Ord. 6113 (part), 2017)

CITY OF RAPID CITY

Mayor

ATTEST

Finance Officer

(seal)