

ORDINANCE NO. 1040

AN ORDINANCE ADDING A NEW SUBCHAPTER TO CHAPTER 70 OF THE BRIDGEPORT CITY CODE WITH REGARD TO ELECTRIC BICYCLES, ELECTRIC SCOOTERS, AND SIMILAR ELECTRIC VEHICLES WITHIN THE CITY; DEFINING ELECTRIC VEHICLES; REQUIRING STATE LICENSING, REGISTRATION, AND LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR VEHICLES ELIGIBLE FOR STATE REGISTRATION; REQUIRING CITY REGISTRATION AND A REGISTRATION STICKER FOR VEHICLES NOT ELIGIBLE FOR STATE REGISTRATION; REQUIRING LIABILITY INSURANCE WHEN AVAILABLE; PROVIDING FOR APPLICATION OF THE RULES OF THE ROAD AND ENFORCEMENT; PRESCRIBING THE TIME WHEN THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; AND ORDERING THE PUBLICATION OF THE ORDINANCE IN PAMPHLET FORM.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, NEBRASKA:

Section 1. Chapter 70 of the Bridgeport City Code, and its corresponding ordinance or ordinances, shall be amended by adding a new subchapter entitled ELECTRIC BICYCLES, ELECTRIC SCOOTERS, AND SIMILAR ELECTRIC VEHICLES, with section numbers to be assigned upon codification, as follows:

For purposes of this subchapter, ELECTRIC VEHICLE means any motorized vehicle powered by electricity.

Section 2. The new subchapter shall further provide as follows:

LICENSING, REGISTRATION, AND LIABILITY INSURANCE.

(A) No person shall operate, or permit another person to operate, an electric vehicle upon a public street, highway, alley, sidewalk, path, trail, or other way open to public travel within the city (a public way) unless the vehicle complies with the licensing, registration, sticker, and insurance requirements of this subchapter applicable to that vehicle.

(B) Any electric vehicle that is eligible to be licensed or registered for highway operation under Nebraska law shall be properly titled, licensed, and registered, as applicable, and shall display all required license plates before being operated upon a public way within the city. The vehicle shall carry liability insurance meeting at least the minimum requirements of Nebraska law. Registration in another jurisdiction recognized as valid under Nebraska law satisfies the state registration requirement. The operator shall possess any operator's license, permit, or endorsement required by Nebraska law for that vehicle.

(C) Any electric vehicle that is not eligible for state licensing or motor vehicle registration, including a vehicle exempt from state motor vehicle registration, shall be registered with the City of Bridgeport before being operated upon a public way within the city. City registration shall constitute a municipal vehicle license for purposes of

this subchapter only and shall not substitute for an operator's license or any state-required title, registration, or license plate.

(D) The owner shall apply for City registration through the City Clerk/Treasurer on a form prescribed by the City. The application shall identify the owner's name, address, and contact information; the vehicle's make, model, serial or identification number, if any, and general description. An owner who is a minor shall apply through a parent or legal guardian. The application shall include proof of ownership and proof of liability insurance, or documentation of insurance unavailability under division (G). Any registration or replacement sticker fee shall be established by resolution of the City Council. No fee shall be collected unless so established.

(E) Upon receipt of a complete application satisfying this subchapter, the City Clerk/Treasurer shall issue a registration certificate and a numbered sticker showing the City of Bridgeport registration and the year for which it is valid. The sticker shall be affixed to the vehicle in a conspicuous location and shall remain legible and visible while the vehicle is operated. City registrations shall expire on December 31 of the year of issuance and shall be renewed before further operation in the next calendar year. A sticker shall apply only to the vehicle for which issued and shall not be transferred to another vehicle. A new owner shall register the vehicle before operation. A lost, damaged, or illegible sticker shall be replaced before further operation.

(F) An electric vehicle subject to City registration shall carry appropriate liability insurance whenever liability coverage for the vehicle's operation upon public ways is available from an insurer authorized to transact insurance in Nebraska. The coverage shall insure liability for bodily injury, death, and damage to the property of others arising from ownership, maintenance, or operation of the vehicle, including operation by persons authorized by the owner. Minimum limits shall be \$25,000 for bodily injury to or death of one person, \$50,000 for bodily injury to or death of two or more persons in one occurrence, and \$25,000 for property damage in one occurrence, or a combined single limit providing no less protection. A separate vehicle policy or an endorsement to another liability policy may satisfy this requirement if the insurer confirms that the required vehicle operation is covered. Coverage limited to theft or physical damage to the vehicle does not satisfy this requirement.

(G) If liability insurance described in division (F) is unavailable for the vehicle and its intended operation, the owner shall provide a written statement from a Nebraska-licensed insurance agent or an insurer authorized to transact insurance in Nebraska explaining that unavailability. The City Clerk/Treasurer shall record the documentation with the application and issue the registration without requiring unavailable coverage. Cost alone shall not establish unavailability. Insurance availability shall be reviewed upon each annual renewal. This division does not excuse insurance required by Nebraska law for a state-licensed or state-registered vehicle.

(H) Required liability coverage shall remain in force throughout operation. If required coverage lapses or is canceled, the vehicle shall not be operated until coverage is restored or, for a City-registered vehicle only, insurance unavailability is documented under division (G). The operator shall exhibit proof of applicable registration and

required insurance to a peace officer upon lawful request. Proof may be maintained in paper or electronic form.

Section 3. The new subchapter shall further provide as follows:

OPERATION AND ENFORCEMENT.

(A) Every person operating an electric vehicle upon a public way within the city shall be subject to all applicable Nebraska Rules of the Road, traffic laws, traffic-control devices, and provisions of the Bridgeport City Code. Persons operating electric bicycles shall have the rights and duties applicable to bicycles under Nebraska law. State-law exceptions applicable to the particular vehicle remain applicable.

(B) City registration, a registration sticker, or liability insurance does not authorize operation of a vehicle upon any street, highway, sidewalk, path, trail, park, or other location where its operation is prohibited by Nebraska law or another applicable provision of the Bridgeport City Code. State-law restrictions applicable to minibikes, golf car vehicles, and other off-road vehicles remain in effect. No vehicle shall be issued a City registration for an intended use prohibited by law.

(C) No owner shall knowingly permit operation of an electric vehicle in violation of this subchapter.

PENALTY.

Pursuant to Bridgeport City Code § 70.99(A), the general penalty in § 10.99(A) applies to violations of this subchapter. A person convicted of violating this subchapter shall be guilty of an offense and subject to a fine not exceeding \$500. Each 24-hour period of continuing failure to comply constitutes a new violation.

Section 4. Any ordinance or part of any ordinance in conflict with this ordinance is hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict. Should any part or section of this ordinance be declared void, invalid, and unenforceable, such declaration shall not affect any other part of this ordinance.

Section 5. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval and publication in pamphlet form according to law.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 8th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2026.

ATTEST:

GAIL BEYER
MAYOR

DORETTA J. HUCK
CITY CLERK/TREASURER