

ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE TO AMEND CHAPTER 16, ARTICLE XVI OF THE KNOXVILLE CITY CODE TO PROHIBIT PERSONAL DELIVERY DEVICES ON CITY STREETS, SIDEWALKS, AND RIGHT-OF WAY.

ORDINANCE NO: O-51-2024

REQUESTED BY: Administration
PREPARED BY: Law

APPROVED ON 1ST
READING: 4-16-2024

APPROVED ON 2ND
READING: 4-30-2024

APPROVED AS AN EMERGENCY MEASURE: _____

MINUTE BOOK: 88 **PAGE** _____

WHEREAS, Personal Delivery Devices (“PDD”) are typically electric autonomous robots designed to pick up a package or food from a vendor and deliver it to a customer; and

WHEREAS, in October of 2023, Council adopted a six-month City-wide moratorium of PDDs to allow time for City staff to research operating models and to assess its possible fit with existing City infrastructure.; and

WHEREAS, after consultation with affected communities such as businesses, the University of Tennessee, and the Mayor’s Council on Disability Issues (“CODI”), City staff has concluded that the existing infrastructure in areas most likely to be used for PDD operations is not appropriate for PDDs to be safely and conveniently operated; and

WHEREAS, City staff has recommended that Council adopt an ordinance to prohibit the use of PDDs on City streets, sidewalks, and right-of-way in the interest of public safety; and

WHEREAS, the proposed ordinance would not prevent operation of PDDs on non-City streets, sidewalks, and right-of way, such as streets owned by the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Knoxville desires to enact changes to Chapter 16, Article XVI of the Knoxville City Code to codify a prohibition of PDDs on City streets, sidewalks, and right-of-way.

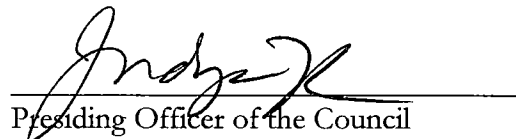
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE:

SECTION 1: Chapter 16, Article XVI of the Knoxville City Code is hereby amended as shown on the attached Exhibit A so as to prohibit the operation of PDDs on City streets, sidewalks, and right-of-way.

SECTION 2: This Ordinance shall take effect seventeen (17) days from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.



Recorder



Presiding Officer of the Council

ARTICLE XVI. SHAREABLE POWERED MICROMOBILITY VEHICLES, PERSONAL DELIVERY DEVICES, AND SYSTEMS

DIVISION 1. GENERALLY

Sec. 16-701. Purpose.

The city has determined that the regulation of shareable powered micromobility vehicles, personal delivery devices, and systems is necessary in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public, as well as to promote the public interest by regulating the areas and methods of operation. To meet these ends, the city has determined that all persons or entities that desire to operate shareable PMVs and systems within the city must be issued a permit pursuant to the requirements of this article. The city has determined further that the prohibition of personal delivery devices and systems is necessary for the public health, safety, and welfare.

(Ord. No. O-160-2021 , § 1, 12-14-21)

Sec. 16-702. Definitions.

Unless specifically stated otherwise, the following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section. The word "shall" is always mandatory and not merely advisory.

[...]

Personal delivery device (PDD) means a device that is (1) solely powered by an electric motor, (2) operated primarily on sidewalks and crosswalks, (3) intended primarily for the transport of property on public rights-of-way, and (4) capable of navigating with or without the active control or monitoring of a natural person.

[...]

DIVISION 2. PERMITS, APPLICATION, AND ISSUANCE

[No changes to Division 2]

DIVISION 3. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS, COMPLAINTS, REMEDIES, AND PERMIT REVOCATION

[No changes to Division 3]

DIVISION 4. OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

[No changes to Division 4]

DIVISION 5. PROHIBITION OF OPERATION OF PERSONAL DELIVERY DEVICES AND SYSTEMS

Sec. 16-734. - Prohibition of operation of personal delivery devices or systems.

In the interest of the public health, safety, and welfare, it shall be unlawful for any personal delivery device or system to be operated on City streets, sidewalks, or right-of-way.