



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE:	MARCH 10 TH , 2026
TITLE:	ORDINANCE ADOPTING A NEIGHBORHOOD VEHICLE REGISTRATION CODE AND PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION OF NEIGHBORHOOD VEHICLES, GOLF CARTS, AND CERTAIN RECREATIONAL OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES IN THE CITY OF COLLINSVILLE
DEPARTMENT:	POLICE DEPARTMENT
PROJECT MANAGER:	BRETT BOERM; CHIEF OF POLICE
STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S):	#6: KEEP COLLINSVILLE SAFE
ATTACHMENTS:	ORDINANCE

OVERVIEW

The subject ordinance establishes regulatory and registration guidelines for neighborhood vehicles, golf carts, and other similar recreational off-highway vehicles within certain areas of the city. The registration program and enforcement would be administered by the Collinsville Police Department.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The subject ordinance as presented establishes a framework under which golf carts, mopeds, and side-by-side utility vehicles would be classified as neighborhood vehicles and allowed to operate on City streets under certain conditions. These vehicles would require a valid driver's license, liability insurance, and an annual permit issued by the City following an inspection. Vehicles would be required to meet equipment standards, including functioning headlights, brake and turn lights, mirrors, a horn, seat belts, a windshield, and appropriate safety emblems and reflectors.

Operation would be limited to streets with a posted speed limit of 30 miles per hour or less, effectively prohibiting these vehicles from traveling on state highways, arterial roadways, and major collector streets. Drivers would be limited to speeds of 25 miles per hour. Use would be permitted only between sunrise and 11:00 p.m., and prohibited during inclement weather, periods of poor visibility, or on State and County roads except at designated crossings. Enforcement provisions include fines ranging from \$250 to \$750, with higher penalties for operating without insurance or driving on prohibited roadways. Repeated violations could result in suspension of the permit.

BACKGROUND

At the direction of the City Manager and City Council, I was tasked with researching the potential use of golf carts and other "neighborhood vehicles" on City streets. The goal of this request was to determine whether permitting neighborhood vehicles on City streets was feasible, safe, and in the best interest of Collinsville residents. My research was subsequently presented in 2x2 sessions with Council members in September 2025 and in a "Council Discussion" item presented at the February 10th, 2026 City Council meeting.

Research leading up to this ordinance presentation included peer feedback from area police chiefs, which included feedback from both municipalities that have and have not passed similar ordinances, opinions from the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, peer-reviewed studies conducted by academic institutions, as well as crash data and statistics from across the country. Also taken into consideration the unknown burdens an ordinance such as this would create for the police department. For staff, time and resources must be dedicated to reviewing applications, conducting inspections, processing renewals, and managing enforcement. These steps would be necessary to ensure safety and compliance.

REGULATORY HIGHLIGHTS

The draft ordinance establishes the following:

- Creates a new City Code chapter establishing a local registration program for neighborhood vehicles, including golf carts and certain recreational off-highway vehicles.
- Authorizes the operation of these vehicles on certain City streets where the City determines it can be done safely.
- Implements local operational regulations governing how and where these vehicles may be used within Collinsville.
- Extends regulation to multiple vehicle types, including:
 - o Neighborhood vehicles
 - o Golf carts
 - o Certain recreational off-highway vehicles (ROVs)
- Establishes a municipal registration/permit system for these vehicles to operate within City limits.
- Allows the City to post traffic control signage where these vehicles are permitted or restricted.
- Implements the authority granted to municipalities under the Illinois Vehicle Code to regulate these vehicles locally.

DEPARTMENT REVIEW

Administration, Corporate Counsel, Police Department