AN ORDINANCE TO ENACT THE CITY OF BAKER CODE OF ORDINANCES, TO BE ENTITLED "ELECTRIC LOW-SPEED SCOOTERS," TO REGULATE THE OPERATION, EQUIPMENT, AND PARKING OF ELECTRIC LOW-SPEED SCOOTERS WITHIN THE CITY OF BAKER, AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER MATTERS RELATIVE THERETO.

WHEREAS, R.S. 32:300.1.1 provides that electric low-speed scooters may operate on sidewalks, bicycle paths, and highways, but authorizes any municipal governing authority to limit or prohibit their operation on any sidewalk, bicycle path, or highway under its jurisdiction in the interest of safety, and to reasonably regulate and assess penalties for moving or parking violations applicable to their operators; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 32:41 authorizes municipal authorities to adopt ordinances regulating traffic on highways within their corporate limits, other than state-maintained highways, and the City of Baker, as a home rule municipality, possesses the police power to regulate matters affecting the health, safety, and welfare of its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council find that the use of electric low-speed scooters is increasing and that reasonable regulation is necessary to protect the safety of operators, pedestrians, and motorists and to preserve the free flow of pedestrian and vehicular traffic;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL of the City of Baker, Parish of East Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in regular session assembled, a proper quorum being there and then present, that Chapter ____, Article ____ of the Baker Code of Ordinances is hereby enacted to read as follows:

SECTION 1: ELECTRIC LOW-SPEED SCOOTERS

1. Definitions.

(a) "Electric low-speed scooter" means a scooter weighing less than one hundred (100) pounds that has handlebars and an electric motor, is solely powered by an electric motor or human power, and has a maximum speed of not more than fifteen (15) miles per hour on a paved level surface when powered solely by an electric motor. The term includes privately owned, rental, and commercial scooters. An electric low-speed scooter shall not be considered a motor-driven cycle, a vehicle, or a motor vehicle.

(b) "Approved helmet" means a helmet meeting the standards set forth in R.S. 32:199(A)(1).

(c) "Roadway" and "highway" have the meanings assigned in R.S. 32:1.

2. Passengers.

No electric low-speed scooter shall be used to carry more than one (1) person at one time.

3. Clinging to vehicles.

No person operating an electric low-speed scooter shall attach himself or the scooter to any other vehicle being operated upon a highway.

4. Carrying articles.

No person operating an electric low-speed scooter on a roadway shall carry any package, bundle, or article that prevents the operator from keeping both hands on the handlebars.

5. Riding on roadways; exceptions.

(a) Every person operating an electric low-speed scooter upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, using bicycle lanes when possible, and exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or a vehicle proceeding in the same direction, except:

(1) When overtaking and passing another electric low-speed scooter, bicycle, or vehicle proceeding in the same direction;

(2) When preparing to turn or turning left at an intersection or into a private road or driveway; or

(3) When reasonably necessary to avoid fixed or moving objects, vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, animals, surface hazards, substandard width lanes, or any other condition that makes it unsafe to continue along the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway. A "substandard width lane" is a lane too narrow for an electric low-speed scooter and another electric low-speed scooter, bicycle, or vehicle to travel side by side safely within the lane.

(b) The operator of a motor vehicle overtaking and passing an electric low-speed scooter proceeding in the same direction shall exercise due care, shall leave a safe distance of not less than three (3) feet, and shall maintain that distance until safely past the scooter. The operator of a motor vehicle may pass an electric low-speed scooter in a no-passing zone only when it is safe to do so.

6. Sidewalks and pedestrians.

(a) A person operating an electric low-speed scooter on a sidewalk shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians, shall give an audible signal before overtaking a pedestrian, and shall operate at a speed that is reasonable and prudent under the conditions and does not endanger pedestrians.

(b) The Mayor, by written order approved by the Council by resolution, may designate sidewalks, bicycle paths, streets, or other areas under the City's jurisdiction on which the operation of electric low-speed scooters is limited or prohibited in the interest of safety. Such areas shall be identified by appropriate signage.

7. Equipment.

(a) An electric low-speed scooter shall be equipped with a brake that enables the operator to make its braked wheels skid on dry, level, and clean pavement.

(b) An electric low-speed scooter, when in use during the times specified in R.S. 32:301, shall be equipped with appropriate lights, reflectors, or reflective markings visible from all distances from fifty (50) feet to five hundred (500) feet to the rear when directly in front of the lawful upper beams of the headlamps of a motor vehicle.

(c) Any operator of an electric low-speed scooter under the age of seventeen (17) years shall wear an approved helmet fastened securely upon the head.

8. Parking.

No person shall park or leave an electric low-speed scooter upon a street, sidewalk, or other public right-of-way in a manner that obstructs pedestrian or vehicular traffic, blocks access to a building entrance, driveway, or accessible ramp, or otherwise creates a hazard.

9. Speed.

No person shall operate an electric low-speed scooter at a speed greater than fifteen (15) miles per hour on a paved level surface when powered solely by an electric motor. The City may further limit the speed of electric low-speed scooters, including through geofencing or other means, to preserve user safety, maintain existing traffic conditions, or otherwise maintain quality of life in areas that may be disrupted by devices traveling at greater speeds.

10. Penalties.

(a) Every person seventeen (17) years of age or older convicted of a violation of any provision of this Article shall be punished by a fine of not more than [fifty dollars ($50.00)] or by imprisonment for not more than [five (5) days].

(b) A person under the age of seventeen (17) years who violates any provision of this Article may be charged before the juvenile court of competent jurisdiction.

SECTION 2: SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Ordinance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions that can be given effect without the invalid provision, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are declared severable.

SECTION 3: REPEALER.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict.

SECTION 4: EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Ordinance shall become effective upon adoption and any publication required by law.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, in regular session convened on this day of October 2026.

This ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

And the Ordinance was presented October 13, 2026, at the regular meeting of the Baker City Council held at the City Hall Building in Baker, Louisiana.

And the Ordinance was declared adopted on this, the 27th day of October, 2026 at the regular meeting of the Baker City Council held at the Baker City Hall Building in Baker, Louisiana.

ATTEST:

/s/Angela Canady Wall, LCMC, Clerk of Council

/s/Darnell Waites, Mayor