



Minutes
Village of Glen Ellyn
Special Village Board Workshop Meeting
Monday, January 12, 2026
6:00 PM
Glen Ellyn Civic Center, Galligan Board Room

A. Call to Order – 6:03 P.M.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll Call

Upon roll call by Clerk Cosby, President Burket and Trustees Bhagwakar, Christiansen, Duncan, Kalinich, Simon, and Thompson answered “Present.”

Also in attendance: Village Manager Franz, Assistant Village Manager Irizarry, Village Attorney Stephanides, Economic Development & Communications Director Hannah, Public Works Director Hubsby, Police Chief Norton, and Fire Chief Clark.

D. Audience Participation

There was no off-agenda audience participation.

E. Presentation

1) Discussion of Electric Mobility E-Bike/E-Scooter Device Regulations

Village Manager Franz introduced the discussion, explaining its purpose. He gave background of the current state of the Village’s efforts.

Police Chief Norton then expanded upon this topic by giving further summary of the current ordinance and its enforcement, as well as public comments received regarding this. He added that many issues have been discussed and gathered for consideration. He emphasized this is a safety discussion for all concerned, and not an “us versus them,” issue.

Trustee Thompson said he had noticed e-bikes being ridden around 9:00 PM and asked whether there was a curfew. Chief Norton replied. Trustee Thompson followed up by asking whether there are any notifications and fines for parents for multiple infractions for minors. Chief Norton replied. Village Attorney Stephanides added a legal perspective. Trustee Thompson asked for a review of legal language, which Village Attorney Stephanides provided.

Trustee Christiansen commented on minors riding at night without lights or reflective clothing. Chief Norton spoke on this as well.

Trustee Bhagwakar asked if there were other municipalities banning riding on all sidewalks. She added that it is dangerous for minors to ride exclusively in the street. Chief Norton replied. Trustee Duncan pointed out the current regulation for regular bicycles being allowed on the sidewalk away from the Central Business District. Discussion ensued.

Carolyn Oesterle, resident, spoke about her extensive research on the subject of riding on the sidewalk. She mentioned that her research shows that Morton Grove is the only town that allows e-bikes on sidewalks. Trustee Bhagwakar replied. Village Attorney Stephanides summarized the differences between the state and Village ordinances. Discussion continued on this issue.

Trustee Kalinich said that the number one concern of Village residents was that e-bikes on sidewalks are dangerous for pedestrians. She asked about an item on page 5 of the draft ordinance under consideration about low speed vehicles. Village Attorney Stephanides said the item should be changed to scooter instead of vehicles.

Trustee Kalinich related an encounter she had with two e-bikes en route to the meeting and felt that lights were critical for their safe operation. Trustee Bhagwakar agreed that this is a critical safety item.

Trustee Thompson asked Chief Norton to talk about the education of middle school students on this topic. Chief Norton replied. Discussion ensued.

Trustee Duncan asked if there are gas powered vehicles allowed on sidewalks. Chief Norton replied. Trustee Duncan followed up; Chief Norton replied again. Trustee Duncan talked about what a person could fairly expect from an encounter with an e-bike on a sidewalk. Discussion continued.

President Burket asked Chief Norton if the Village has experienced any major accidents with e-bikes. Chief Norton replied. President Burket followed up by asking about e-bikes breaking the speed limit and how the Police Department addresses it.

Carolyn Oesterle, resident, spoke again about the danger of e-bikes on the sidewalks, giving her reasons for her stand.

Kevin Lang, resident, expressed his opposition to e-bikes being banned from sidewalks, giving his reasons for his opinion.

Robert Imig, resident, stated he thought the issue was the competition on the sidewalks between traditional pedestrian traffic and e-bikes. He also thought that perhaps the parents should be more responsible and held accountable.

Sally Fairbank, resident, spoke about riding her e-bike and not feeling safe on the street at times. She added that she always yields to pedestrians.

Trustee Kalinich pointed out that the Comprehensive Plan talks about a walkable community and the concern that this is not safe anymore.

Trustee Thompson pointed out that the Village has been positive about being more bicycle friendly, which could help this issue.

Trustee Bhagwakar asked about a casualty in the Village of Arlington Heights and the details of the incident. Ms. Oesterle replied with her knowledge of the incident.

Bruce Chrisman, resident, commented on trying to get the schools to be responsible for this and the difficulties involved. He added that he felt that the parents need to be responsible if

they allow their children to operate e-bikes.

Village Manager Franz wrapped up the workshop stating that another workshop will be scheduled for public comment.

F. Adjourn – 7:08 P.M.

Mover: Trustee Christiansen; Second: Trustee Simon. Unanimous vote to adjourn.