

01-16-2019 Town Council Meeting
Responses to Council Questions

ITEM #12: Electric Scooter Update

Council Question: Have staff seen anything elsewhere on DOCKED scooters rather than the kind you can just leave anywhere? I'd be very interested in hearing more about this if possible.

Staff Response: *The companies that have approached the Town are all dockless systems. Staff can do more research on docked systems.*

Council Question: Could we be provided with copies of the agreements and ordinances pertaining to electric scooters that Greensboro and at least one other similarly sized town like Chapel Hill have executed?

Staff Response: *Greensboro passed a standup electric scooter share permit ordinance in November, 2018, which is attached. Asheville has prohibited electric scooters as of November, 2018, which is attached.*

Council Question: How are electric scooters handled after the user finishes using the scooter?

Staff Response: *When a user finishes their ride, they indicate this on the scooter phone application which ends their time and processes payment.*

Council Question: What was the nature of these 22 incidents that Wake County EMS reported between July 7 and Oct. 12th?

Staff Response: *Per email from Wake EMS: Between July 7 and October 12, Wake County EMS responded to 22 incidents involving electric rented scooters. There were another 7 that may have involved them, but the reports were not clear enough to differentiate between the type of scooters (i.e. motorized or kid's toy type). Some of the incidents included serious injury and there are likely quite a few injuries that happened that did not rise to the level of an EMS response.*

Council Question: When were electric scooters initially introduced in Raleigh, Charlotte, Durham, Greensboro and Asheville?

Staff Response: *Electric scooters have not been dropped in Durham. They were dropped in Raleigh in the summer; Charlotte in May, 2018; Greensboro in late August, 2018; Asheville on October 25, 2018.*

Council Question: Have any other municipalities in NC, besides the ones listed on p. 241 of the packet, executed agreements or passed ordinances pertaining to electric scooters? Are any

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other municipalities in NC, besides the ones on p. 241 of the packet, considering action on electric scooters, particularly municipalities with colleges? If so, which ones?

Staff Response: *In addition to the municipalities listed in the packet, Greensboro has passed an ordinance (see attached) and Winston-Salem has banned electric scooters. Staff is not aware of other municipalities considering this but could reach out to other peers at Council's request.*

Council Question: I am not sure if the goal is to know what questions we have on this prior to the presentation or if the purpose of the presentation is to identify Council's questions? In either case, here is my initial list:

- Have we asked the transportation board for input on this topic yet?
- Given that e-scooters seem to fall under the moped classification by the state, does NC law allow us to allow scooters on sidewalks and greenways? Could staff provide an analysis of pros/cons of each approach? If we don't allow them on sidewalks/greenways, how can we make street use safer?
- Additional questions/analysis I would like to hear:
 - Rationale for age 18 vs. age 16
 - Recommendations for any code/regulation changes that would be needed
 - What would we base a fee structure on? How could we approach calculating the cost of an e-scooter program to the Town to ensure any fees cover it?
 - If we were to approach this as a pilot program, what data would we want to collect to evaluate its success?
 - What locations would staff recommend for dedicated parking areas, if we wanted to use that approach?
 - What steps would need to be taken to protect the Town from liability?
 - What are the pros/cons of working with one or a very limited number of companies vs. an open market?

Staff Response: *The purpose of the electric scooter memorandum and presentation is to provide the Council with information about electric scooters including local and state considerations and the actions taken by other municipalities who have also had electric scooters distributed in their jurisdiction without prior authorization. We ask that the Council receive this information and provide feedback or direction to the Town Manager about what further steps or information the Council would like staff to pursue. These questions are the type of feedback we are requesting. We will follow up on these questions and return to the Council with more information.*