

Village of Coxsackie

Public Hearing Minutes

Local Law #2 of 2026-Prohibition on Utility Scale Battery Energy Storage Systems.

May 11, 2026

The Public Hearing was called to order by Mayor Mark Evans at 7:05 p.m. Present were Trustee Christopher Hanse, Trustee Katlyn Irwin, and Trustee Rodney Levine. Trustee Deidre Meier was absent.

Mayor Evans stated that the purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow for public comment on Local Law #2 of 2026. This local law is to add and amend provisions of Chapter 155 of the Village Code. The proposed additions are to prohibit the siting of Utility Scale Battery Energy Storage Systems within the Village under that section of the Code governing the permitted uses and defined terms in the Code. The proposed amendments prohibit the siting of a Utility Scale Battery Energy Storage System anywhere in the Village and makes clear that such uses are not to be deemed public utility uses.

Brian Pruikisma, of 6 Spencer Boulevard, stated that he is not here for any comment on Local Law #2, but for another issue.

Mayor Evans stated that since no other member of the public has any public comment on this Local Law, Mr. Pruikisma can address the Board with his issue.

Brian Pruikisma stated that he is having an issue with kids riding on e-bikes, and electric motocross bikes. He goes for walks regularly around the village, and he is finding more and more, that the kids that are riding e-bikes, or regular bikes, are not following what he believes to be State law, in regard to who has the right of way. The other day, he was forced to step off of the sidewalk, because he had an e-bike flying towards him, going 30 mph on the sidewalk. This was not the first time. Usually, he stands his ground and stays right where he is, but if he did, he would have gotten hit. As he yelled out to the kid as he went by, the kid yelled out an expletive back at him. Something has to be done about it. The answers that he has received from the kids, is that the Police have told them that they can ride on the sidewalk. However, it is not being clarified correctly as to what they need to do. These kids ride all over the village going 30 mph. As for the electric motocross bikes, they aren't even supposed to be on the sidewalks, parking lots, or roads. There's no signals, and no headlights. He and his wife are concerned about backing out of their driveway. They make sure to pull out forward instead. However, these kids are driving late at night all over the roads.

Trustee Irwin asked if these are always the same kids that Mr. Pruikisma sees.

Brian Pruikisma stated that these kids are the same kids that are often on Sunset Boulevard. They ride all over the school parking lot, and up and down Sunset Boulevard doing wheelies. The sidewalks are probably the biggest concern when it comes to e-bikes. He is worried that these kids are going to get killed.

Trustee Irwin stated that it is just an example of laws not keeping up with technology. This is not the first incident that has occurred with these kids, and she is wondering if perhaps the conversation that took place with the Police Officers, translated to instructing the kids to take it to the sidewalks, rather than in traffic and parking lots.

Mayor Evans stated that this started happening last year, and he went to the Police Chief asking what laws there are that pertain to this situation. The law stated that they could operate on the side of the road. They cannot operate on sidewalks. This is just like a bicycle. However, even that is dangerous, because you are still seeing these kids ride by at 30 mph with no helmet, no lights, etc. Now, it seems like there may be new regulations that pertain to this. The Police Chief stated that it looks like a new law has been passed by the Legislature in 2026. However, we need to find out if the law was signed by the Governor yet, and if it is immediately in effect.

Brian Pruiksma stated that he did see a number assigned to the law. He can forward what he has found to the Mayor. He said that he realizes the problem is not unique to the Village of Coxsackie. It is something that is happening in other villages as well. He has had problems with kids on Spencer Boulevard operating regular motorized motorbikes in the past as well. They were up and down the street constantly all winter, then they were operating a 4-wheel drive vehicle up and down the street for a while, and now they switched to these electric bikes. He hasn't seen them in the last couple of days, but the incident the other day really made him mad.

Trustee Irwin asked Mr. Pruiksma if he could give an estimate of the age group we are talking about.

Brian Pruiksma stated that he is talking about kids probably between the ages of 13-15 years old.

Mayor Evans stated that he thinks it is more like 10–15-year-olds. He said that the other week, he witnessed 2 electric bikes flying down Ely Street. They were right in the middle of the road. They had helmets on at least, and stopped at the stop sign. He confronted them, and told them that they could ride along the edge of the road, not in the middle of the road. He said that the Village will look into the recent law. If it has been passed, then they can enforce it.

Trustee Hanse stated that there may be a way to draft a local law that strengthens it also.

Brian Pruiksma stated that he would just like the Village to consider putting something in place, that maybe even supersedes the State law, just for the safety of the Village residents. He would like to make it known that the Village is not tolerating this anymore.

Trustee Levine stated that he thinks that the problem is also with the parents. He has witnessed these kids with his own eyes riding in the middle of Mansion Street and going in and out of cars.

Brian Pruiskma stated that in the e-bike information he forwarded to the Mayor, it stated something in the last paragraph, something to the effect of holding parents responsible. There may be some type of fine that could be issued to the parents.

No further public comments were offered.

A motion to adjourn the Public Hearing was made by Trustee Levine and seconded by Trustee

Irwin. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nikki Berezna", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned to the right of the typed name and title.

Nikki Berezna
Clerk