RE: Code Amendment Regarding School Speed Limit Zones.

Background:

It has come to the attention of the Law Department that the description of the distance a school speed zone can extend away from school property as described in the Code does not reflect the current distance some of our current signs denoting a school speed zone are from school property.

We have also noted that the current Code sets a limit of no more than 20 miles per hour in a school speed zone while the current posted limits are 25 miles per hour on Cheyenne Road near High Pointe and Summit schools, 25 miles per hour on North Street near Century Elementary, and 35 miles per hour on Nicholas Road near the High School, reflecting the nature of those roads.

Analysis:

Staff has consulted with the Nixa School District and both parties believe the current location of the flashing light school zone signs and the current posted limits near High Pointe/Summit, Century, and the High School are working well and are the best way to provide for the safety of our schoolchildren at the beginning and end of each school day. Therefore, we are proposing this amendment to the Nixa City Code to conform the code to the distance the existing flashing light school zone signs are from school property and posted limits, which were in existence before the last amendment to this section in 2021.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends passage of the ordinance amending the Nixa City Code regarding school speed limit zones to conform to the current location of school speed limit zone signs and the currently posted limits near High Pointe/Summit, Century, and the High School.

MEMO SUBMITTED BY:

Michael D. Mayes | Asst. City Attorney

mmayes@nixa.com | 417-725-3785

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-25 **ORDINANCE NO. _____**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NIXA AMENDING CHAPTER 20, ARTICLE V, DIVISION 2, SECTION 20-256 OF THE NIXA CITY CODE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CHANGING THE DISTANCE AND ALLOWED SPEED IN SCHOOL SPEED LIMIT ZONES.

WHEREAS the City understands the danger posed to our children at schools at the beginning and end of the school day from speeding and sets a lower limit during those times in coordination with the Nixa Public School District; and

WHEREAS a review of the Nixa City Code found that the description of the distance away from school property in the Code did not match the distance some signs extend away from school property; and

WHEREAS the same review of the Nixa City Code found that it contains a maximum speed in a school zone that is inadequate for two of our current school zones; and

WHEREAS the City Council finds that amending the Code regarding the distance a school speed zone is from school property and the maximum school zone speed limit in the code to reflect the current location of the school speed limit signs and the current speed limits is appropriate; and

WHEREAS the City Council desires to modify the City Code as set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NIXA, AS FOLLOWS, THAT:

SECTION 1: Chapter 20, Article V, Division 2, Section 20-256 of the Nixa City Code shall be repealed and adopting in lieu thereof a new Section 20-256, which said section shall read as follows (Explanation: Language in bold-face type (e.g., **thus**) is language to be added. Language in bold-faced brackets (e.g., **[**~~thus~~**]**) is not enacted and is intended to be omitted or deleted.):

20-256. Speed limits for construction and school zones. [Prior Code, § 12-34; Ord. No. 1090, 6-1999; Ord. No. 2227, 10-25-2021]

(a) Construction speed zones. The traffic engineer may establish construction speed zones. Construction speed zones shall be effective in lieu of the regular established speed limit during the effective periods established by the traffic engineer, for streets where construction or maintenance operations are in progress. Construction speed zones shall be established by the traffic engineer posting signs along the construction speed zone providing notice of the temporary speed limit. Upon expiration of the temporary speed limit and the removal of signs evidencing the temporary construction speed limit, the speed limit shall return to the regular established limit.

(b) School speed zones. The traffic engineer may establish school speed zones for streets contiguous to and not more than **[**~~200~~**] 750** feet in either direction from any school property. School speed zones shall be effective in lieu of the regular established speed limit during the effective periods established by the traffic engineer. School speed zones shall be established in the manner set forth herein and subject to the following conditions:

(1) The traffic engineer may establish school speed zones by filing documentation with the city clerk providing for the establishment of the school speed zone and by placing signs giving notice of the established speed limit for the school speed zone. The speed limit for school speed zones shall be not more than 20 miles per hour **except that the speed limit shall not be more than 25 miles per hour on Cheyenne Road near High Pointe Elementary and Summit Intermediate, 25 miles per hour on North Street near Century Elementary, and 35 miles per hour on Nicholas Road near Nixa High School**.

(2) The speed limit established for school speed zones shall be effective, in lieu of the regular established speed limit, during the periods specified on signs giving notice of such effective periods, or during the time that active warning flashing beacons are displayed during the periods to which the speed limit pertains. The traffic engineer shall specify the effective times of school speed zones in the documentation on file with the city clerk.

SECTION 2: The City Attorney, when codifying the provisions of this Ordinance, is authorized to provide for different section numbers, subsection numbers, and different internal citation references than those provided herein when such section numbers, subsection numbers, or internal citation references are in error or are contrary to the intent of this Ordinance.

SECTION 3: Savings Clause. Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to affect any suit or proceeding now pending in any court or any rights acquired, or liability incurred nor any cause or causes of action occurred or existing, under any act or ordinance repealed hereby.

SECTION 4: Severability Clause. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance. The Council hereby declares that it would have adopted the Ordinance and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, or phrases be declared invalid.

SECTION 5: This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its final passage by the City Council and after its approval by the Mayor, subject to the provisions of section 3.11(g) of the City Charter.

ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL THIS 26th DAY OF October 2026.

ATTEST:

_____ _____

PRESIDING OFFICER CITY CLERK

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 2026.

ATTEST:

_____ _____

MAYOR CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____

CITY ATTORNEY