



AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHERRYVILLE

Chapter 28

TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES

ARTICLE II. OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS ON PUBLIC STREETS AND ROADS

Sec. 28-49 Liability Disclaimer.

The establishment of a golf cart ordinance is necessary to address the interests of public safety. Golf carts, are not designed or manufactured to be used on public streets, roads and highways, hereinafter "road(s)," and the City of Cherryville in no way advocates or endorses their operation on roads. The adoption of this Ordinance is not to be relied upon as a determination that operation on roads is safe or advisable if done in accordance with this Ordinance. All persons who operate or ride upon carts on roads do so at their own risk and peril and must be observant of and attentive to the safety of themselves and others, including their passengers, other motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians. The City of Cherryville has no liability under any theory of liability for permitting carts to be operated on roads under special legislation granted by the State Legislature. Any person who operates a cart must procure liability insurance sufficient to cover the risks involved in using a cart on the roads of the City of Cherryville.

Sec. 28-50 Purpose.

The purpose of this ordinance shall be to establish a Golf Cart Ordinance within the City of Cherryville to promote the health, safety and welfare of persons operating cart(s) within the City of Cherryville and to protect the safety of their passengers and other users of roads.

SEC. 28-51 Definitions.

For the purpose of this section, the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings.

1. Golf Cart: A vehicle designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and that is not capable of exceeding speeds of 20 MPH. G.S. 20-4.01(12b).

2. Driver's License: A valid license issued to operate a motor vehicle issued by North Carolina or any other state.
3. Financial Responsibility: Liability insurance coverage on a golf cart in an amount not less than required by North Carolina law for motor vehicles operated on public highways in the State of North Carolina.
4. Operator: Only persons over 16 years of age and holding a valid driver's license may operate a golf cart on roads.

Sec. 28-52: Rules and Regulation.

This ordinance is to establish guidance in the interest of public safety. Golf carts hereinafter:

1. Golf carts shall not be operated on or alongside a public road or street with a posted speed limit greater than 35 miles per hour.
2. Golf carts are prohibited from traveling on Highway 150 (East and West Church Street), Highway 274 (North and South Mountain Street), and Hwy 279 (E. Main Street between Rudisill Street and Dick Beam Road.) However, golf carts are permitted to cross over Highway 150 (East and West Church Street) and Highway 274 (North and South Mountain Street) as long as the crossing occurs at a lighted traffic control device (i.e. stoplight).
3. Golf carts may cross a road with a posted speed limit greater than 35 mph. However, once this segment of road has been transversed, the golf cart is still required to travel only on or alongside a roadway with a speed limit of 35 mph or less. Golf cars must cross in a manner that is the most direct route in order to decrease crossing distance, i.e. no riding along a road or crossing at an angle.
4. Any person who operates a golf cart must be responsible for all liability associated with operation of the golf cart and must have liability insurance coverage which will cover the use of a golf cart in an amount not less than required by North Carolina law for motor vehicles operated on public highways in the State of North Carolina.
5. Any person who operates a golf cart must be at least sixteen (16) years of age or older. No person may operate a golf cart unless that person is licensed to drive upon the public streets, roads and highways of North Carolina and then, only in accordance with such valid driver's license. Golf cart operators must carry their driver's license on their person at all times while operating a golf cart on public roads.

6. Any person who operates a golf cart on public streets and roads must adhere to all applicable State and local laws, regulations and ordinances, including but not limited to those banning the possession and use of alcoholic beverages, and all other illegal drugs. In addition, no golf cart containing any open container of alcohol shall be operated on public roads.
7. The operator of the golf cart shall comply with all traffic rules and regulations adopted by the State of North Carolina and the City of Cherryville which governs the operation of motor vehicles.
8. An operator may not allow the number of people in the golf cart at any one time to exceed the maximum capacity specified by the manufacturer. The operator shall not allow passengers to ride on any part of a golf cart not designed to carry passengers, such as the part of the golf cart designed to carry golf bags.
 - a. In no instance shall a golf cart be operated at a speed greater than 20 miles per hour. No golf cart may be operated at a speed greater than reasonable and prudent for the existing conditions.
9. Golf carts must be operated at the right edge of the roadway and must yield to all vehicular and pedestrian traffic.
10. Golf carts must park in designated spaces or in such a manner that multiple golf carts can utilize the same space. All parking rules and limits apply. No parking on sidewalks is allowed.
11. Golf carts must have basic equipment supplied by the manufacturer, including a vehicle identification or serial number. Such equipment must include all safety devices as installed by said manufacturer, including rear view mirror and a rear triangle reflector of the same type required by North Carolina law.
12. Golf carts without lights may be operated only during daylight hours. Golf carts meeting the requirements set forth below may operate between sunup to 11:00 p.m.
 - a. Golf carts having two (2) operating headlights, one on each side of the front of the golf cart and two (2) operating tail lights, one on

each side of the rear of the cart, all four (4) lights must be visible from a distance of 500 feet; and

b. If a mechanical turn signal indicator is not installed, then hand signals are required for turns.

13. The Chief of Police, or his designee, may prohibit the operation of golf carts on any street, road or highway if it is determined that the prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.

14. During an emergency situation or at a special event, any police officer supervising or controlling traffic may direct that golf carts be operated on or upon other locations.

Sec. 28-53: Registration, Inspection and Fee Prior to Usage.

1. All golf carts must complete a golf cart registration application and submit it to the City of Cherryville for approval. Before driving on public roads, the operator of a golf cart must have a valid issued registration.
2. Each owner must have proof of ownership, and liability insurance, and a completed Waiver of Liability, releasing the City of Cherryville from liability that may arise as a result of operation of a golf cart inside the City of Cherryville. These documents must be in the golf cart at all times while in operation on public roads.
3. All golf carts must meet the requirement or minimum standards of safety equipment as set forth above in this ordinance.
4. All golf cart operators must present a valid driver's license while operating a golf cart on a public road.
5. The registration sticker shall be valid for no more than one (1) year and must be visible on a golf cart operated on a public road. Cherryville Police Department will conduct registration and inspections at an appointed time and date for a fee of \$25, which must be renewed annually.
6. Lost or stolen permit/stickers are the responsibility of the owner and must be replaced before the golf cart is operated on a public road.

Sec. 28-54: Enforcement.

Violation of the provisions of this Ordinance shall constitute an infraction in accordance with Chapter 20 of the North Carolina General Statutes, and are subject to a fine and penalties of up to \$250.00, and the loss of operating privileges for up to six (6) months. However, operating a golf cart under the influence of an impairing substance (i.e. alcohol or drugs) on a public road or highway is not a violation of this article, but a violation of state law, and is punishable as provided therein.

Violation Fines and Penalties:

- 1. First Offense \$50 Fine
- 2. Second Offense \$100 Fine
- 3. Third Offense \$200 Fine and loss of operating privileges for at least 30 days.
- 4. Fourth Offense \$250 Fine and loss of operating privileges for at least 6 months.

In the event that the operator of the golf cart is a juvenile, the owner of the golf cart may be charged for such violation.

In the event that any fines have not been collected prior to an annual registration, the fines may be added to the registration fee.

Golf Carts Prohibited on the Following Streets:

- Any street, road or highway with a speed limit greater than 35 mph.
- Hwy. 279 (E. Main St.) between Rudisill Street and Dick Beam Road.
- Hwy. 274 (North and South Mountain Street) (can cross at a lighted traffic control device)
- Hwy. 150 (East and West Church Street) (can cross at a lighted traffic control device)

Sec. 28-55 Effective Date.

This ordinance shall be effective on February 23, 2021.

Duly adopted this 23 day of February 2021.

H.L. Beam

H.L. Beam, Mayor

Paige H. Green

Paige H. Green, CMC, NCCMC, City Clerk

