

**Scott Dzurka**  
*Mayor*

**Brad Gurski**  
*Vice Mayor*

**Eric Hufnagel**  
*Commissioner*

**Chris Hyzer**  
*Commissioner*

**Chris DeLiso**  
*Commissioner*



**Chad A. Gamble, P.E.**  
*City Manager*

**Mindy J. Seavey**  
*City Clerk*

**Kristina Kinde**  
*City Treasurer*

**Michael Homier**  
*City Attorney*

**Justin Smith**  
*Director of Public Services*

**CITY OF ST. JOHNS  
CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
PROPOSED AGENDA**

**Wednesday, August 6, 2025, 8:00 a.m.  
Room 2200 – Clinton County Courthouse**

**\*Listen to Meeting Via Telephonic Conference  
Dial 1 929 205 6099**

**<https://zoom.us/j/2050014286>**

**Meeting ID: 205 001 4286**

**\*Please note, you will not be able to make public comments through Zoom;  
only in-person attendees will be able to participate in public comments.**

**(Times for agenda items are estimated times)**

- 1. Call to Order (8:00 am – 8:02 am)**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance (8:02 am – 8:03 am)**
- 3. Approval of Agenda (8:03 am – 8:04 am)**
- 4. Public Comments (8:04 am – 8:07 am)**
- 5. Wilson Community Center & City Offices Bid Results Discussion (8:07 am – 8:30 am)**  
*(Presenter: Chad Gamble, City Manager & Ken Jones, Studio Intrigue)*
- 6. Wilson Center and City Offices Project Summary and Funding Presentation (8:30 am – 8:50 am)**  
*(Presenter: Chad Gamble, City Manager)*
- 7. Wilson Community Center & City Offices Funding Discussion and Recommendation (8:50 am – 9:30 am) Action Item**  
*(Presenter: Chad Gamble, City Manager and Kristina Kinde, Deputy City Manager|Finance Director)*
- 8. Resolution #31-2025 – Resolution to Introduce Golf Cart Ordinance (9:30 am – 9:40 am) Action Item**  
*(Presenter: Chad Gamble, City Manager)*
- 9. Adjournment (9:40 am)**

NOTICE: People with disabilities needing accommodation for effective participation in this meeting should contact the city clerk 989-224-8944 at least two working days in advance of the meeting. An attempt will be made to make reasonable accommodation.

**CITY OF ST. JOHNS, MICHIGAN**  
**REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION**  
**July 28, 2025**

<b>Department: Administration</b>	<b>Attachments:</b>	<b>Submitted to CA for Review</b>
<b>Subject: Wilson Community Center &amp; City Offices Bid Results and Award</b>	<b>[X] Wilson Center Budget Tracker</b> <b>[X] City Offices Budget Tracker</b> <b>[X] <i>Optional</i> Notice of Intent to Issue Bonds</b>	<b>[n/a]</b>  <b>[n/a]</b> <b>[X]</b>
<b>Prepared by: Chad A. Gamble, P.E., City Manager</b>	<b>Approved by: Chad A. Gamble, P.E., City Manager</b>	

**SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHT:** Pursuant to regular briefings and updates provided to the Commission, the Wilson Center and City office Improvement Bid (Bid) was issued for pricing in June of 2025. On July 17, 2025 bids were received after a very active and busy bidding period. The bid was broken down into three separate divisions: Division 1 – Unit #1 improvements (all city costs), Division 2 – Condominium Unit improvements required to be bid by the development agreement by the City (oversaw by the condominium association), and Division 3 - improvements to the City Offices). Noting this contract was bid together to obtain the benefits of scale and amount of work, the RCA will encompass considerations/recommendation and options for the overall award of each of the three divisions comprehensively but separately as required to do so noting the different authorizations that are required.

This special Commission meeting is called to review the results of the aforementioned bids, the other costs required to complete the buildout of the WCC, and the costs necessary to complete the security and upgrades of the City Offices, relative to the available funds and options to close the funding gap to complete these projects.

**BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:**

At a special Commission meeting on October 10, 2023, the City Commission approved the Wilson Center Development and Master Deed agreements between the City and 101 W. Cass St., LLC. On April 22, 2024 the City Commission authorized the sale of bonds for funding the acquisition of and construction improvements to a portion of the former Rodney B. Wilson High School. Since then, the Administration has been working with its consultants and partner developer of the overall condominium common space to complete detailed construction plans. All construction activity within the building must await formal approval to proceed from the Federal Historic Preservation Office via the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) office.

A series of bids and related quotes were acquired to try to “right-time” the commencement of construction with the approval from the SHPO so improvements to the Wilson Center and City offices may begin together to leverage cost savings as planned.

The Wilson Center Project aims to revitalize the historic Rodney B. Wilson High School by transforming it into a hub for community engagement and activities as well as creating

approximately 45 new apartment units. The project involves preserving the building's historic features while upgrading/replacing its infrastructure to create spaces for living, education, recreation, and events. With a focus on community collaboration, the renovated Wilson Center will provide resources and activities for all ages, enhancing St. Johns' cultural and social environment while also placing additional residents near the downtown business core.

The City office renovation and security improvements have been planned for several years pending the resolution of the final location of said offices in 2023 and the design work necessary to provide a good, safe and pleasant work environment for the staff to work in. This design was complete and presented to the City commission for comments. None were received and we then finalized the design, selected the necessary low-scope furniture for the office space and now have a recommendation for the commission.

The overall funding for the Wilson Center and City Offices construction, as summarized on the attached spreadsheet, totals \$2,902,443.71. All bids and projected spending for both projects totals \$3,332,663.00. This leaves a funding gap of approximately \$530,000. The power point presentation delivered at the August 6, 2025 meeting will present funding options for the consideration of the Commission and options for possible cost reductions in scope of the projects.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE:**

#### Master Plan - Parks and Recreation

Goal #1 (Acquire, develop, maintain, and preserve sufficient open space and recreation facilities)  
e. Promote, use and increase quality of City parks and other recreational facilities in both jurisdictions.

Goal #2 (Continue to provide all residents of the City of St. Johns with high quality recreation programs and opportunities.)

- a. Update and develop recreational programs that serve the needs of persons of all ages.
- c. Provide safe, high-quality recreational experiences.

#### Master Plan – Public Facilities

GOAL #1: CONTINUE TO OFFER HIGH QUALITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES FOR RESIDENTS.

- c. Update facilities to accommodate improvements and changes in technology.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

#### Wilson Center

The City received proceeds from the sale of approximately \$3.0 million worth of bonds on June 25, 2024. These bonds have been used to date to fund the property acquisition and design pursuant to the purchase and development agreements, respectively. Noting the additional time lag to permit the Federal Tax Credit process to run and the commencement of construction activity, the bond proceeds were invested and have earned approximately \$112,000.30 in interest. These funds will be used as proposed in the attached spreadsheet. The costs of fully outfitting the Wilson center for programming will be partially incorporated with the requests as part of this action. The remaining small operational costs will be included in a future supplemental budget appropriation request along with related rental costs and pro-forma.

As noted, the Wilson Center funding will require the use of the residual \$589,812.14 ARPA supplanted funds that have been in reserve and earning interest for this purpose. Once these costs

are accumulated, along with the additional reserve contingency, an additional appropriation of \$450,000 will be required to proceed, as noted, with Divisions #1 and #2 of the project.

#### City Office Renovation

The office has been a planned project for several years. The improvements address many security and operational needs of the City and permits the office to be right sized and upgraded for the first time in 25 years. The City received \$205,024 from the County from the sale of office space back to them. This money was used to support design and planned office upgrades and purchase of new office cubicles. The total costs of the planned improvements is \$281,000. To complete this project an additional appropriation of \$75,000 would be required.

**RECOMMENDATION:** This recommendation will be broken up as noted into the three separate divisions. The contract award, if supported, will be awarded under one comprehensive contract. There will be 3 separate PO's to ensure appropriate financial controls amongst the three separate divisions and related funds to support the individual projects. Therefore, if the commission decides to move forward with the construction improvements of the Wilson Center and the office space then the following motions would be in order.

- Move for a supplemental budget appropriations made in the amount necessary to complete the scopes supported by the Commission for the Wilson Center and City Office construction projects.  
(alternatively)
- Move for passage of the Notice of intent for sale of bonds in the amount necessary to support the scope of the Wilson Center and Office projects supported by the commission.
- Move for the award of the Bid for Wilson Center/City Office Improvements in accordance with the 101 W. Cass St. Development Agreement to CopperRock Construction for the amounts as summarized below and to authorize the Mayor to sign the related contract pending approval from the City attorney (If bonds are selected then the option could be to award the project via division and award Division #3 and then #1&#2 when funding becomes available):
  - Division #1: \$2,058,006 (See Division #1 Breakdown in Wilson Center Detailed Cost Tracker – attached)
  - Division #2: \$1,070,357 of which Dymaxion will provide 50% of the funding of this division costs pursuant to the Development and Condominium Association Agreements/documents (See Division #2 Breakdown in Wilson Center Detailed Cost Tracker – attached)
  - Division #3 \$203,572 (See City Offices Budget Tracker – Attached)
- Move to support recommendation of award of 101 W. Cass St. Condominium Association Roof Project to Michigan Roofing Group and to appropriate Funds as supported by the Commission

Wilson Center Project Budget Tracker

	=separate contract to be issued for work
	=Wilson Center/City Office Bid Line Items
	=Division Sub-totals

		Optional Costs	Est. Costs	
Division #1 - Unit #1	\$	2,058,006		
Optional contract Add/Deducts				
Replace Gym Lighting	\$	10,600	\$	10,600
deduct cost of refinishing gym Floor	\$	(35,000)	\$	(35,000)
Deduct Costs of restriping gym floor	\$	(5,000)	\$	(5,000)
Deduct cost of refinishing Aud. Floor	\$	-	\$	(3,500)
Pro rated Window Repair	\$	15,000		
Contingency	\$	45,000		
Glass Block Repair Estimate	\$	7,000		50 blocks \$140/block
Sub Total City Costs (100% of Division #1)	\$	2,095,606		
Owner Direct Purchase Items				LOCATION
Refinishing and stripping of Gym			\$ 30,000	Gymnasium
Other Direct Purchase Items			\$ 36,700	
Wilson Center IT			\$ 10,000.00	
Camera Installation			\$ 20,000.00	
ODP Subtotal			\$ 96,700	
Grand Total Division #1 (100% of Costs)	\$	2,192,306		

Division #2 - Common Space	\$	1,708,464		
Common Space				
Pro-rates Window Repair	\$	10,000		
Plaster Repair Estimate	\$	10,000		2000 sft of estimated repair (\$5/sft)
4" Concrete Removal and Replacement	\$	8,800		\$8/sft X 1100 sft
6" Concrete Removal and Replacement	\$	7,700		\$11/sft X 700 sft
Contingency	\$	30,000		
Separate Roof Bid Estimate				
Roof Reconstruction - Michigan Roofing Group			\$ 335,750	Bid
replace damage metal roof substrate (\$8/sft)			\$ 20,000	
Replace damaged wood roof deck substrate (48/sft)			\$ 20,000	
Total Budget for Roofing Project			\$ 375,750	
*Roof estimated total square footage 37,000 sft				
Division #2 Contract Totals plus Roof Repair	\$	2,140,714		
City Costs for Unit #2 Plus Roof (50%)	\$	1,070,357		

<b>City Offices Budget Tracker</b>	
<b>County Funds Received from Sale of Office Space</b>	<b>\$ 205,024</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Studio Intrigue Contract	\$ 20,500
Contract Bid	<b>\$ 203,572</b>
Office Furniture - DBI quote	\$ 65,912
Office Furniture - DBI Installation	\$ 7,724
Kitchen Equipment and Misc. Office	\$ 2,000
Contingency	\$ 3,000
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 302,708</b>
<b>Requested Supplemental Appropriation</b>	<b>\$ 97,684</b>

### Funding Summary For Wilson Center & City Office Construction Projects

Bond Proceeds Remaining	\$ 2,058,529.24	Includes additional est. \$15,000 interest
Interest Earnings	\$ 129,102.33	
Total Wilson Center Bonds	\$ 2,187,631.57	
Naming Rights Donations Estimate	\$ 125,000.00	
Residual ARPA Funding Remaining	\$ 589,812.14	
<b>Total Current Funds Available</b>	<b>\$ 2,902,443.71</b>	
Wilson Center Costs		
Division #1	<b>\$ 2,192,306.00</b>	
Division #2	<b>\$ 1,070,357.00</b>	
Additional Contingencies	\$ 70,000.00	Current pro-rated contingency funds are at 2.3%. This would raise it to approximately 5%.
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$ 3,332,663.00</b>	
<b>Additional Funding Required</b>	<b>\$ 430,219.29</b>	
<b>Office Additional Funding</b>	<b>\$ 97,683.85</b>	
<b>Total Additional Funding Required</b>	<b>\$ 527,903.14</b>	

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF INTENT  
TO ISSUE LIMITED TAX GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

At a special meeting of the City Commission of the City of St. Johns, Clinton County, Michigan, held on August 6, 2025.

PRESENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

The following resolution was offered by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by  
\_\_\_\_\_:

WHEREAS, the City of St. Johns (the “City”) proposes to issue its tax-exempt bonds (the “Bonds”) in one or more series to finance the cost of capital improvements to City facilities, including without limitation acquiring, restoring, renovating, furnishing and equipping existing City office facilities and facilities for municipal and community use located in the Wilson Center, 101 West Cass Street, St. Johns, Michigan, which facilities may include without limitation City office space, a gymnasium, an auditorium, HVAC, electrical, and plumbing improvements, all work and fixtures, furnishings, equipment, and site work necessary or incidental to these improvements, such other capital improvements as the City shall determine to make and to pay the costs of issuance of bonds (the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the City may advance all or a portion of the costs of the Project prior to the issuance of the Bonds, such advance to be repaid from proceeds of the Bonds upon the issuance thereof; and

WHEREAS, Section 1.150-2 of the Treasury Regulations on Income Tax (the “Reimbursement Regulations”) specifies conditions under which a reimbursement allocation may be treated as an expenditure of bond proceeds, and the City intends by this resolution to qualify



amounts advanced by the City to the Project for reimbursement from proceeds of the Bonds in accordance with the requirements of the Reimbursement Regulations.

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Commission of the City of St. Johns, Clinton County, Michigan, as follows:

1. The City hereby declares its official intent to issue its limited tax general obligation bonds in one or more series in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$1,000,000 to finance the costs of the Project. The City hereby declares that it reasonably expects to seek reimbursement for its advances to the Project as anticipated by this resolution. The bonds shall be authorized by proper proceedings subsequent to this resolution.

2. The City Clerk is hereby instructed to publish the notice attached hereto once in a newspaper of general circulation in the City, which notice shall not be less than ¼ page in size in such newspaper.

3. The firm of Dickinson Wright PLLC is hereby appointed as bond counsel to the City, and Bendzinski & Company Municipal Finance Advisors is hereby appointed as the City's registered municipal advisor in connection with the issuance of the Bonds.

4. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they may be in conflict herewith are hereby rescinded.

YEAS: \_\_\_\_\_

NAYS: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF MICHIGAN     )  
                                      )ss  
COUNTY OF CLINTON     )

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted at a special meeting of the City Commission of the City of St. Johns, Clinton County, Michigan, held on August 6, 2025, the original of which is on file in my office. I further certify that notice of said meeting was given in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, as amended.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my official signature this \_\_\_\_ day of August, 2025.

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Mindy J. Seavey, Clerk  
City of St. Johns

**Note: This notice must be not less than ¼ page in size in the newspaper.**

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE BONDS  
BY THE CITY OF ST. JOHNS, MICHIGAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE ELECTORS of the City of St. Johns, Michigan, (the “City”) that the City intends to issue limited tax general obligation bonds in one or more series in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$1,000,000 for the purpose of defraying all or part of the cost of capital improvements to City facilities, including without limitation acquiring, restoring, renovating, furnishing and equipping existing City office facilities and facilities for municipal and community use located in the Wilson Center, 101 West Cass Street, St. Johns, Michigan, which facilities may include without limitation City office space, a gymnasium, an auditorium, HVAC, electrical, and plumbing improvements, all work and fixtures, furnishings, equipment, and site work necessary or incidental to these improvements, such other capital improvements as the City shall determine to make and to pay the costs of issuance of the bonds (the “Project”).

The bonds will bear interest from their date at a rate or rates to be determined upon the sale thereof but in no event to exceed such rates as may be permitted by law.

The bonds will be issued under and pursuant to the provisions of Act No. 34, Public Acts of Michigan, 2001, as amended, and the full faith and credit of the City will be pledged to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds as the same shall become due. The City will be obligated, as a first budget obligation, to advance moneys from its general funds or to levy ad valorem taxes on all taxable property within its corporate boundaries to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds as the same shall become due; provided, however, that the amount of taxes necessary to pay the principal and interest on the bonds, together with the taxes levied for the same year, shall not exceed the limit authorized by law.

**RIGHT TO PETITION FOR REFERENDUM**

This notice is given, by order of the City Commission of the City of St. Johns, to and for the benefit of the electors of the City in order to inform them of their right to petition for a referendum

upon the question of the issuance of the aforesaid bonds. The bonds will be issued, without submitting such a question to a vote of the electors, unless within 45 days after the date of publication of this notice a petition requesting a referendum upon such question, signed by not less than 10% or 15,000 of the registered electors residing within the City, whichever is the lesser, shall have been filed with the undersigned City Clerk. In the event that such a petition is filed, the bonds will not be issued unless and until the issuance thereof shall have been approved by the vote of a majority of the electors of the City qualified to vote and voting thereon at a general or special election.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information relative to the issuance of said bonds, the purpose of the bonds and the subject matter of this notice may be secured at the office of the City Clerk of the City of St. Johns, 100 East State Street, St. Johns, Michigan 48879.

This notice is given pursuant to the provisions of Act 34, Public Acts of Michigan, 2001, as amended.

Mindy J. Seavey, Clerk  
City of St. Johns

**CITY OF ST. JOHNS, MICHIGAN**  
**REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION**  
**June 5, 2025**

<b>Department: City Commission</b>	<b>Attachments:</b>	<b>Submitted to CA for Review</b>
<b>Subject: <i>Golf Cart Use – Proposed Ordinance</i></b>	<b>[ X ] Revised Draft Golf Cart Ordinance</b> <b>[ X ] Draft Golf Cart Ordinance (with tracked changes)</b> <b>[ X ] Resolution 31-2025 – Introduction of Golf Cart Ordinance</b>	<b>[ X ]</b>
<b>Prepared by: Christopher Khorey, AICP, Community Development Director – McKenna, Vice President</b>	<b>Approved by: Chad A. Gamble, P.E., City Manager</b>	

**SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHT:** The topic of permitting golf cart use inside the City has recently come up again before the City Commission. It was suggested that certain revisions in a version presented to the Commission at their May 2024 be made and presented at the July 2025 meeting.

The Planning Commission discussed this at their July 9, 2025 meeting. A few changes were made to the previous version and are incorporated into the version presented under this RCA for the Commissions consideration. Two issues are still outstanding. Those are what insurance can we require and or mandate, if any, as part of the possible registration of golf carts in the City, and should there be any additional restrictions on certain roads in the City other than streets with a speed limit greater than 30 mph and/or streets near the high schools.

The City Commission discussed the revised ordinance at the July 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Commission directed staff to make additional changes to be reviewed at the Commission’s Special Meeting on August 6<sup>th</sup>. The St. Johns Police Department is currently developing the sticker that will be displayed on inspection-approved golf carts. The Police Department is also determining the proposed fee associated with the inspections.

**BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:** While some community members have advocated for the legalization of golf carts, the City’s Police Department and Clinton County Ambulance have both advocated against. Points made in favor of golf carts include efficiency during busy events, reduced carbon emissions, providing a healthy recreational outlet for families, and enhancing the City’s character and reputation.

Based on the public comment, the Planning Commission developed the following policies, which are reflected in the draft Ordinance:

- Rely on the Michigan Vehicle Code for most safety rules and regulations (i.e. do not reinvent the wheel).
- Require safety related upgrades in order for a golf cart to be legally operable on St. Johns City streets. The list in the draft Ordinance is the full list of allowable requirements under the Michigan Vehicle Code.

- Prohibit golf carts on roads with speed limits over 30 MPH.
- Establish a City-wide 15 MPH speed limit for golf carts.
- Prohibit children under 3 years old from being passengers on golf carts.
- Prohibit animals from being passengers on golf carts.

Based on the review at the July 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, the City Commission directed the staff to make the following policy revisions, which are reflected in the draft Ordinance:

- Remove the sunset date in Section 6.
- Remove the seasonal operation timeframe of April 1 and November 15.
- Investigate the legality of increasing the age requirement to operate a golf cart from 16 to 18.
- Alter the draft text to allow for alternative insurance policies.

**STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE:** Master Plan Transportation Goal #1 States: “Preserve and enhance the level of service circulation and safety of the road network to support all users in the community.” However, “all users” does not necessarily mean all modes of transportation. While automobiles, pedestrians, trucks, emergency vehicles, and bicycles should clearly be accommodated in the transportation system, other types of vehicles are subject to the review and regulation of the City Commission.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Legalizing golf carts would create new public safety costs, but could also produce revenue if the City decides to charge for registration. There could also be indirect economic development benefits of allowing their use.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Commission consider the newly revised golf cart ordinance and use this discussion to discern whether or not to introduce the first reading of the proposed golf cart ordinance.

**CITY OF ST. JOHNS  
ORDINANCE NO. \_\_**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE VII: TRAFFIC CODE  
BY ADDING CHAPTER 75: GOLF CARTS**

An ordinance pursuant to Public Act 279 of 1909, as amended, and Public Act 300 of 1949, as amended, to permit and regulate the use and operation of golf carts in the City of St. Johns; to insure the public health, safety, and welfare; and to provide penalties for violations thereof.

**THE CITY OF ST. JOHNS ORDAINS:**

**Section 1. Purpose**

The purpose of this Ordinance is to adopt for the purpose of authorizing and regulating the operation of golf carts within the City to promote the health, safety, and welfare of persons operating golf carts within the City and to protect the safety of their passengers and other users of the road.

**Section 2. Amendment to Title VII: Traffic Code**

Title VII (entitled *Traffic Code*) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of St. Johns is amended to add Chapter 75 (entitled *Golf Carts*) as follows:

**§. 75.01        Definitions**

*Decal* means the sticker displayed on every registered golf cart within the City, which are obtained by completing and submitting the proper registration form to the City Police Department.

*Driver license* means an operator's or chauffeur's license or permit issued to an individual by the Secretary of State under Chapter III of the Michigan Vehicle Code, 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.301 to MCL 257.329, as amended, for that individual to operate a vehicle, whether or not conditions are attached to the license or permit.

*Golf cart* means a vehicle designed for transportation while playing the game of golf.

*Maintained portion* means that portion of a road improved, designated, or ordinarily used for vehicular traffic.

*Operate* means to ride in or on, or be in actual physical control of the operation of the golf cart.

*Operator* means a person who operates or is in actual physical control of the operation of a golf cart.

*Registration* means the process through which every person intending to operate a motorized golf cart on roads or streets within the City must follow.

*Street* means a road, roadway, street, or right-of-way within the City of St. Johns' street system, but does not include a private road. The terms road, roadway, street, and right-of-way are interchangeable.

*Sunset* and *sunrise* mean that time determined by the National Weather Service on any given day.

*City* means City of St. Johns, County of Clinton, State of Michigan.

## **§75.02            Operation of golf carts on City streets.**

A person may operate a golf cart on City streets subject to the following regulations:

.

(A) A person shall not operate a golf cart on any street unless he or she is at least 16 years old and is licensed to operate a motor vehicle.

(B) The operator of a golf cart shall comply with the signal requirements of MCL 257.648, as amended, that apply to the operation of a vehicle.

(C) All golf carts operating on City streets must be equipped with the following functioning safety equipment:

1. At least 2 headlamps that comply with MCL 257.685.
2. At least 1 tail lamp that complies with MCL 257.686.
3. At least 1 stop lamp and 1 lamp or mechanical signal device that comply with MCL 257.697 and MCL 257.697b.
4. One exterior mirror on the driver's side of the golf cart and either 1 exterior mirror mounted on the passenger side of the golf cart or 1 interior mirror as required for low-speed vehicle-s by 49 CFR 571.500.
5. Brakes and a parking brake that comply with MCL 257.704.
6. A horn that complies with MCL 257.706.
7. A windshield that complies with MCL 257.708a.
8. A manufacturer's identification number permanently affixed to the frame of the golf cart.



9. Safety belts that comply with MCL 257.710a and that are used as required by MCL 257.710e.

(E) Proof of a current insurance rider, via homeowners insurance policy, or other insurance policy that covers damage to the golf cart, as well as personal injury and liability, to the satisfaction of section 3101 of the insurance code of 1956, 1956 PA 218, M.C.L.A. § 500.3101

(F) All Golf carts are required to be inspected to ensure compliance with requirements in paragraph 75.02 and pay related Golf Cart Inspection Fee.

(G) All golf carts are required to have at least 1 red reflector on each side of the golf cart as far to the rear as practicable and 1 red reflector on the rear of the golf cart as required for low-speed vehicles by 49 CFR 571.500.

(H) The operator of a golf cart shall obey all sections pertaining to traffic in the Michigan Vehicle Code and the Uniform Traffic Code.

(I) A person operating a golf cart upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction.

(J) A person shall not operate a golf cart on a state trunk line highway. This subsection does not prohibit a person from crossing a state trunk line highway when operating a golf cart on a street of the City, using the most direct line of crossing.

(K) Where a usable and designated path for golf carts is provided adjacent to a road or street, a person operating a golf cart shall be required to use that path. A golf cart shall not be operated on a sidewalk constructed for the use of pedestrians.

(L) A person operating a golf cart shall not pass between lines of traffic but may pass on the left of traffic moving in his or her direction in the case of a two-way street, or on the left or right of traffic, in an unoccupied lane, in the case of a one-way street.

(M) A golf cart shall be operated at a speed not to exceed 15 miles per hour.

(N) Golf carts shall not be operated on any of the following roadways, except to cross that roadway at an intersection:

a. State Highways (e.g., M-21 and Business Route 127)

b. .

c. Any roadway with a speed limit greater than 30 miles per hour, except to cross that roadway or street. MCL 257.657(a)

(O) A golf cart shall not be operated on the streets of the City during the time period from one-half hour before sunset to one-half hour after sunrise. MCL 257.657(a)

- (P) A golf cart shall not be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped.
- (Q) A golf cart shall not be operated during inclement weather or with snow and/or ice on the ground.
- (R) Golf carts shall not be operated on a road or street in a negligent manner, endangering any person or property, or obstructing, hindering, or impeding the lawful course of travel of any motor vehicle. At no time shall a golf cart be operated on a public pathway or sidewalk. Golf carts, when operating in the public right of way, must remain on the street.
- (S) Off-road vehicles, such as Gators, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), a multitrack or multi-wheel drive vehicle, dune buggy, or like-vehicles are not considered golf carts.
- (T) This section does not apply to a police officer or City officials, employees, contractors, or volunteers in the performance of City duties.

#### **§75.03            Parking Regulations.**

The parking, stopping, and standing regulations provided in the City Code shall also apply to golf carts operated in the City as if they are motor vehicles under those provisions.

#### **§75.04            Registration and decals.**

- (A) Golf cart owners shall register each golf cart on a biannual basis by making application to the City's Police Department. The City's Police Department may refuse to issue a registration decal if the applicant or the applicant's golf cart is in violation of this chapter, any portion of the City's Code, the Michigan Vehicle Code, or the Uniform Traffic Code. A list of registered golf carts shall be maintained by the City's Police Department and a copy provided to the City Manager.

There shall be no charge for the registration of a golf cart, and each approved golf cart shall be issued a registration decal. The golf cart owner shall affix each decal provided by the City's Police Department on the front of the golf cart directly under the driver's side of the windshield. The decal shall be valid for two years.

- (B) Failure to register a golf cart or renew an existing registration shall constitute a violation of this article.
- (C) The City's Police Department retains the right to refuse to issue and/or revoke any registration decal from any golf cart for any reason that is felt appropriate to ensure the safety and well-being of the citizens of City.
- (D) Any police officer may temporarily suspend any registration decal and ban further access on any public street or public property by any golf cart, when in the opinion of

that officer, the golf cart is being used in a manner to cause damage to public property or members of the public.

- (E) The City Council reserves the right to waive the registration requirements of this ordinance for special events that utilize golf carts.

**§75.05           Violations and penalties.**

- (A) Any person violating any provisions of this ordinance shall be responsible for a civil infraction. The penalty for the first offense shall be \$50.00, and \$100.00 for the first repeat offense. For any second or subsequent repeat offense, the fine shall be no more than \$250.00. The City has the right to revoke a golf cart permit for a period of 2 years after the third offense of violating this ordinance.

- (B) A court may order a person who causes damage to the environment, a road, or other public property as a result of the operation of a golf cart to pay full restitution for that damage above and beyond the penalties paid for civil infractions.

**Section 3. Validity and Severability.**

If any portion of this Ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance shall be found to be invalid by a court, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining portions or applications of the Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid portion or applications, provided the remaining portions are not determined by the court to be inoperable, and to this end Ordinances are declared to be severable.

**Section 4. Repealer.**

All other ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

**Section 5. Effective Date.**

This Ordinance shall become effective twenty (20) days after notice of adoption is published in a newspaper of general circulation within the City.

**CITY OF ST. JOHNS  
ORDINANCE NO. \_\_**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE VII: TRAFFIC CODE  
BY ADDING CHAPTER 75: GOLF CARTS**

An ordinance pursuant to Public Act 279 of 1909, as amended, and Public Act 300 of 1949, as amended, to permit and regulate the use and operation of golf carts in the City of St. Johns; to insure the public health, safety, and welfare; and to provide penalties for violations thereof.

**THE CITY OF ST. JOHNS ORDAINS:**

**Section 1. Purpose**

The purpose of this Ordinance is to adopt for the purpose of authorizing and regulating the operation of golf carts within the City to promote the health, safety, and welfare of persons operating golf carts within the City and to protect the safety of their passengers and other users of the road.

**Section 2. Amendment to Title VII: Traffic Code**

Title VII (entitled *Traffic Code*) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of St. Johns is amended to add Chapter 75 (entitled *Golf Carts*) as follows:

**§. 75.01      Definitions**

*Decal* means the sticker displayed on every registered golf cart within the City, which are obtained by completing and submitting the proper registration form to the City Police Department.

*Driver license* means an operator's or chauffeur's license or permit issued to an individual by the Secretary of State under Chapter III of the Michigan Vehicle Code, 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.301 to MCL 257.329, as amended, for that individual to operate a vehicle, whether or not conditions are attached to the license or permit.

*Golf cart* means a vehicle designed for transportation while playing the game of golf.

*Maintained portion* means that portion of a road improved, designated, or ordinarily used for vehicular traffic.

*Operate* means to ride in or on, or be in actual physical control of the operation of the golf cart.

*Operator* means a person who operates or is in actual physical control of the operation of a golf cart.

*Registration* means the process through which every person intending to operate a motorized golf cart on roads or streets within the City must follow.

*Street* means a road, roadway, street, or right-of-way within the City of St. Johns' street system, but does not include a private road. The terms road, roadway, street, and right-of-way are interchangeable.

*Sunset* and *sunrise* mean that time determined by the National Weather Service on any given day.

*City* means City of St. Johns, County of Clinton, State of Michigan.

## **§75.02        Operation of golf carts on City streets.**

A person may operate a golf cart on City streets subject to the following regulations:

~~(A) Golf carts may only be operated on City streets from April 1 to November 15 of each year.~~

~~(B)~~(A) A person shall not operate a golf cart on any street unless he or she is at least 16 years old and is licensed to operate a motor vehicle.

~~(C)~~(B) The operator of a golf cart shall comply with the signal requirements of MCL 257.648, as amended, that apply to the operation of a vehicle.

~~(D)~~(C) All golf carts operating on City streets must be equipped with the following functioning safety equipment:

1. At least 2 headlamps that comply with MCL 257.~~645~~685.
2. At least 1 tail lamp that complies with MCL 257.686.
3. At least 1 stop lamp and 1 lamp or mechanical signal device that comply with MCL 257.697 and MCL 257.697b.
4. One exterior mirror on the driver's side of the golf cart and either 1 exterior mirror mounted on the passenger side of the golf cart or 1 interior mirror as required for low-speed vehicle-s by 49 CFR 571.500.
5. Brakes and a parking brake that comply with MCL 257.704.
6. A horn that complies with MCL 257.706.
7. A windshield that complies with MCL 257.708a.

8. A manufacturer's identification number permanently affixed to the frame of the golf cart.
9. Safety belts that comply with MCL 257.710a and that are used as required by MCL 257.710e.

(E) Proof of a current insurance rider, via homeowners insurance policy, ~~covering the golf cart must be presented.~~ or other insurance policy that covers damage to the golf cart, as well as personal injury and liability, to the satisfaction of section 3101 of the insurance code of 1956, 1956 PA 218, M.C.L.A. § 500.3101

(F) All Golf carts are required to be inspected to ensure compliance with requirements in paragraph 75.02 and pay related Golf Cart Inspection Fee.

~~(F)(G)~~ All golf carts are required to have at least 1 red reflector on each side of the golf cart as far to the rear as practicable and 1 red reflector on the rear of the golf cart as required for low-speed vehicles by 49 CFR 571.500.

~~(G)(H)~~ The operator of a golf cart shall obey all sections pertaining to traffic in the Michigan Vehicle Code and the Uniform Traffic Code.

~~(H)(I)~~ A person operating a golf cart upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction.

~~(I)(J)~~ A person shall not operate a golf cart on a state trunk line highway. This subsection does not prohibit a person from crossing a state trunk line highway when operating a golf cart on a street of the City, using the most direct line of crossing.

~~(J)(K)~~ Where a usable and designated path for golf carts is provided adjacent to a road or street, a person operating a golf cart shall be required to use that path. A golf cart shall not be operated on a sidewalk constructed for the use of pedestrians.

~~(K)(L)~~ A person operating a golf cart shall not pass between lines of traffic but may pass on the left of traffic moving in his or her direction in the case of a two-way street, or on the left or right of traffic, in an unoccupied lane, in the case of a one-way street.

~~(L)(M)~~ A golf cart shall be operated at a speed not to exceed 15 miles per hour.

~~(M)(N)~~ Golf carts shall not be operated on any of the following roadways, except to cross that roadway at an intersection:

- a. State Highways (e.g., M-21 and Business Route 127)
- ~~b. Clinton Avenue between State Street/M-21 and Walker Street.~~
- ~~c. Sickles Street West of Lansing Street~~
- ~~b. . .~~

**Commented [CK1]:** The Planning Commission requested that this be investigated further by staff and Foster Swift. They indicated that the City needs further understanding of available insurance options.

**Commented [CA2R1]:** Per MCL 257.657a(20), golf carts operated on public streets do not have to be registered under MCL 500.3101 of the Insurance Code as it is not considered a motor vehicle. As such, Michigan does not require owners purchase liability insurance for them. However, MCL 257.657a(21) notes that cities may require golf-carts register within its jurisdiction to meet certain necessary vehicle safety requirements of a low-speed vehicle. Low-speed vehicles operating on a roadway share the same rights and are subject to the same duties applicable to drivers of a traditional vehicle under the Michigan Vehicle Code, except certain exceptions. MCL 257.657. In this case, if a golf cart were to meet all the standards to be fully considered a low-speed vehicle under Michigan law, an owner could arguably secure low-speed vehicle insurance. If a golf cart does not meet that specific criteria, then other coverage would apply in instances of accident (e.g., if injury occurs involving another motor vehicle or damage is simply sustained to the golf cart and not the driver or passenger). For homeowners insurance to apply, they would have to secure an endorsement and this is usually only going to apply if something happens involving the golf cart while operated on the owner's property (not while own on public roads). Some insurers have specific insurance for golf carts, but this is insurer specific. Owners really would need to check with their insurer to see what their policies cover or what policies are available.

~~d.c.~~ Any roadway with a speed limit greater than 30 miles per hour, except to cross that roadway or street. [MCL 257.657\(a\)](#)

~~(N)(O)~~ A golf cart shall not be operated on the streets of the City during the time period from one-half hour before sunset to one-half hour after sunrise. [MCL 257.657\(a\)](#)

~~(O)(P)~~ A golf cart shall not be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped.

~~(P)(Q)~~ A golf cart shall not be operated during inclement weather or with snow and/or ice on the ground.

~~(Q)(R)~~ Golf carts shall not be operated on a road or street in a negligent manner, endangering any person or property, or obstructing, hindering, or impeding the lawful course of travel of any motor vehicle. At no time shall a golf cart be operated on a public pathway or sidewalk. Golf carts, when operating in the public right of way, must remain on the street.

~~(R)(S)~~ Off-road vehicles, such as Gators, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), a multitrack or multi-wheel drive vehicle, dune buggy, or like-vehicles are not considered golf carts.

~~(S)(T)~~ This section does not apply to a police officer or City officials, employees, contractors, or volunteers in the performance of City duties.

#### **§75.03      Parking Regulations.**

The parking, stopping, and standing regulations provided in the City Code shall also apply to golf carts operated in the City as if they are motor vehicles under those provisions.

#### **§75.04      Registration and decals.**

(A) Golf cart owners shall register each golf cart on a biannual basis by making application to the City's Police Department. The City's Police Department may refuse to issue a registration decal if the applicant or the applicant's golf cart is in violation of this chapter, any portion of the City's Code, the Michigan Vehicle Code, or the Uniform Traffic Code. A list of registered golf carts shall be maintained by the City's Police Department and a copy provided to the City Manager.

There shall be no charge for the registration of a golf cart, and each approved golf cart shall be issued a registration decal. The golf cart owner shall affix each decal provided by the City's Police Department on the front of the golf cart directly under the driver's side of the windshield. The decal shall be valid for two years.

(B) Failure to register a golf cart or renew an existing registration shall constitute a violation of this article.

- (C) The City's Police Department retains the right to refuse to issue and/or revoke any registration decal from any golf cart for any reason that is felt appropriate to ensure the safety and well-being of the citizens of City.
- (D) Any police officer may temporarily suspend any registration decal and ban further access on any public street or public property by any golf cart, when in the opinion of that officer, the golf cart is being used in a manner to cause damage to public property or members of the public.
- (E) The City Council reserves the right to waive the registration requirements of this ordinance for special events that utilize golf carts.

**§75.05        Violations and penalties.**

- (A) Any person violating any provisions of this ordinance shall be responsible for a civil infraction. The penalty for the first offense shall be \$50.00, and \$100.00 for the first repeat offense. For any second or subsequent repeat offense, the fine shall be no more than \$250.00. The City has the right to revoke a golf cart permit for a period of 2 years after the third offense of violating this ordinance.
- (B) A court may order a person who causes damage to the environment, a road, or other public property as a result of the operation of a golf cart to pay full restitution for that damage above and beyond the penalties paid for civil infractions.

**Section 3. Validity and Severability.**

If any portion of this Ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance shall be found to be invalid by a court, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining portions or applications of the Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid portion or applications, provided the remaining portions are not determined by the court to be inoperable, and to this end Ordinances are declared to be severable.

**Section 4. Repealer.**

All other ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

**Section 5. Effective Date.**

This Ordinance shall become effective twenty (20) days after notice of adoption is published in a newspaper of general circulation within the City.

**~~Section 6. Sunset Date.~~**



~~This Ordinance shall become void on January 1, 2027, unless extended prior to that date by the City Commission. The City further reserves the right to rescind this approval if in the future it is determined that the limited and regulated use of golf carts on the City's streets and highways has become a safety hazard or is deemed to be a nuisance.~~

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**CITY OF ST. JOHNS**

**RESOLUTION #31-2025 TO INTRODUCE AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF ST. JOHNS CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING GOLF CARTS**

At a special meeting of the City Commission of the City of St. Johns, Clinton County, Michigan, held at the City Hall, in said City on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025 at 8:00 a.m., Local Time.

Present: \_\_\_\_\_

Absent: \_\_\_\_\_

The following resolution was offered by \_\_\_\_\_ and supported by \_\_\_\_\_.

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Public Act 279 of 1909, as amended, and Public Act 300 of 1949, as amended, the City is authorized by statute to adopt ordinances regulating the public health, safety, and general welfare of persons and property, including, but not limited to, ordinances concerning, use or registration of golf carts; and

**WHEREAS**, the City wishes to amend Title VII (entitled *Traffic Code*), Chapter 75 (entitled *Golf Carts*) of the Code of Ordinances to amend Section 75.02 to clarify vehicle safety requirements and the equipment necessary to operate golf carts on City streets, to amend Section 75.04 to specify the location registration decals should be placed on golf carts, and to amend Section 75.05 to reserve the City's right to revoke golf cart permits as needed; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the "Ordinance" chapter of the City of St. Johns' Charter ("Charter"), the City has the authority to amend the Code of Ordinances; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 5 of the "Ordinance" chapter of the Charter, the City desires to introduce Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_, An Ordinance Amending The City Of St. Johns Zoning Code Regarding Traffic Codes by Amending Chapter 75: Golf Carts.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Commission of the City of St. Johns as follows:

1. The City introduces Ordinance No.-\_\_\_\_\_, An Ordinance Amending The City Of St. Johns Zoning Code Regarding Traffic Codes by Amending Chapter 75: Golf Carts.
2. To the extent that any resolution or portion of resolution is inconsistent with this Resolution, such resolutions or portions of resolutions are hereby rescinded.

ADOPTED:

YEAS: \_\_\_\_\_

NAYS: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF MICHIGAN     )  
                                      )  
COUNTY OF CLINTON    )

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the City of St. Johns, Clinton County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of certain proceedings taken by the City Commission of said City at a regular meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025.

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Mindy J. Seavey, City Clerk

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