

**CITY OF ST. JOHNS
ORDINANCE NO. 699**

**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 18 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.

- (D) 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
- (E) 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) 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) The operator of a golf cart shall obey all sections pertaining to traffic in the Michigan Vehicle Code and the Uniform Traffic Code.
- (H) 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) 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) 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) 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) A golf cart shall be operated at a speed not to exceed 15 miles per hour.
- (M) 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. Any roadway with a speed limit greater than 30 miles per hour, except to cross that roadway or street. MCL 257.657(a)
- (N) 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) 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) A golf cart shall not be operated during inclement weather or with snow and/or ice on the ground.
- (Q) 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) 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) 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 every three years 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.

CERTIFICATION

As the City Clerk of the City of St. Johns, Clinton County, Michigan, I certify that this is a true and complete copy of an ordinance adopted by the St. Johns City Commission at a regular meeting held on August 25, 2025.

Scott Dzurka, Mayor _____

Mindy J. Seavey, Clerk _____