CHAPTER 77
GOLF CARTS

77.01 PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to permit the operation of golf carts on streets in the City as authorized by Section 321.247 of the Code of Iowa. This chapter applies whenever a golf cart is operated on any street or alley.

77.02 OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS PERMITTED. Subject to the prohibitions and restrictions set forth in this chapter, golf carts may be operated upon the streets and alleys of the City by persons possessing a valid driver's license. No person shall operate a golf cart upon the streets and alleys of the City unless said person possesses a valid driver's license.

77.03 PROHIBITED STREETS. Golf carts shall not be operated upon any City street which is a primary road extension through the City. However, golf carts may cross such a primary road extension.

77.04 EQUIPMENT. Golf carts operated upon City streets shall be equipped with a slow moving vehicle sign and a bicycle safety flag at all times during operation and shall be equipped with adequate brakes.

77.05 HOURS. Golf carts may be operated on and parked on City streets and alleys and other public rights-of-way only between sunrise and sunset.

77.06 TRAFFIC LAWS APPLICABLE. While being operated on City streets, golf carts are deemed to be motor vehicles subject to all provisions of this Code of Ordinances relating to the operation of motor vehicles, except as may be modified by this chapter.

77.07 LIABILITY INSURANCE. No person shall operate a golf cart on City streets and alleys unless there is in effect for the golf cart an owner's policy of liability insurance which is issued by an insurance carrier authorized to do business in Iowa to or for the benefit of the person named in the policy as insured and insuring the person named as insured and any person using the golf cart with the express or implied permission of the named insured against loss from liability imposed by law for damages arising out of the ownership, maintenance or use of an insured golf cart in amounts not less than the minimum limits specified for motor vehicles in Section 321A.21 of the Code of Iowa.

77.08 REGISTRATION. Except as provided in Section 77.10, no person shall operate a golf cart on any public street or alley unless the golf cart is currently registered with the City and displays current registration stickers as provided in this section:

1. The owner of a golf cart intended for use on any public street or alley shall complete and submit to the City Clerk a registration application on a form provided by

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the City. The application shall include identifying information regarding the owner and the golf cart.

2. At the time of initial registration application, the owner shall submit proof of compliance with the liability insurance requirement of Section 77.07.

3. Upon approval of the registration application by the City Clerk and payment of the registration fee, the Clerk shall issue two adhesive registration stickers that the owner shall affix in prominent places on both the left and right sides of the golf cart.

4. The registration shall be annual, with a registration year extending from May 15 to the following May 14, at which time all current registrations shall expire. After initial registration, the Clerk shall issue annual renewal stickers to be affixed to the golf cart upon payment of the annual renewal fee.

5. The initial registration fee for each golf cart shall be $25.00, regardless of the date of registration, and the annual renewal fee shall be $15.00, provided that an additional $5.00 fee shall be charged in the event of any delinquent renewals.

6. If a golf cart is sold, the registered owner shall inform the City Clerk and request cancellation of the registration for the golf cart. Any existing registration for a golf cart shall be deemed cancelled upon its sale. If the new owner intends to operate the golf cart on any City street or alley, the new owner shall register the golf cart and pay the initial registration fee as provided in this section.

77.09 VIOLATIONS. The operation of a golf cart in violation of any of the provisions of this chapter may be charged either against the operator of the golf cart or against the owner if the golf cart is operated with the consent of the owner. In the case of violations by the operator of a golf cart operating with the consent of the owner, the violation shall be charged against the owner only as a municipal infraction and the following civil penalties shall be applicable:

1. In the case of a first violation - $100.00.

2. For a second violation within one calendar year - $200.00.

3. In the event of a third violation within one calendar year - $300.00, and in addition, the Mayor shall revoke the registration of the golf cart and it shall not thereafter be registered in the City pursuant to this chapter.

Three violations committed by the registered owner within one calendar year shall also result in the revocation of any registration and prohibition of future registration, regardless of whether any of the violations were charged as municipal infractions.

77.10 GOLF CART DEALERS. Golf carts held as part of the inventory of a retail dealer in golf carts are exempt from the registration requirement set forth in Section 77.08 provided that all of the following requirements are satisfied:

1. The golf cart dealer has applied for and secured a dealer permit which shall be issued by the City Clerk upon written application and the payment of a $25.00 permit fee. Permits are valid for one year and may be renewed for additional years upon the payment of an annual fee of $25.00.

2. In order to secure a dealer permit the dealer must furnish proof of liability insurance covering all golf carts in the dealer’s inventory as provided in Section 77.07 of this chapter.

3. The dealer must also show proof of the acquisition of a State sales tax permit.
4. Golf carts in the dealer’s inventory may be operated without registration stickers as required in Section 77.08 for test drive purposes only and may be operated on all City streets. A copy of the dealer’s permit must be maintained on or in each golf cart during test drives.
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