

**CITY OF CLAREMONT  
NORTH CAROLINA  
ORDINANCE 03-25  
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES  
OF THE CITY OF CLAREMONT  
TITLE 7, MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC  
CHAPTER 1, GENERAL TRAFFIC REGULATIONS  
ARTICLE Q, REGULATE OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS**

**WHEREAS,** the City Council of the City of Claremont wishes to extend both the locations and times in which the use of golf carts registered and inspected by the City are permitted by citizens within the corporate limits of the City of Claremont; and

**WHEREAS,** the City Council of the City of Claremont proposes to amend Title 7, Motor Vehicles And Traffic, Chapter 1, General Traffic Regulations, Article Q, Regulate Operation Of Golf Carts of the Claremont City Code to accomplish that goal,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLAREMONT,**

That Title Seven (7), Chapter 1 General Traffic Regulations, Article Q Regulate Operation of Golf Carts, are hereby amended by changing the following (new language appears as highlighted; deleted language and/or deleted sections appear as "strike-throughs"):

**ARTICLE Q  
Regulate Operation of Golf Carts**

**Sec. 7-1-175 Purpose, disclaimer, and assumption of risk.**

(a) The purpose of this article is to provide a means of travel that is convenient, cost-effective, and energy efficient. In order to promote the safety of drivers, passengers, and the general public in the City of Claremont, the operation of golf carts must comply with applicable state laws and City of Claremont regulations pertaining to the operation of traditional motor vehicles and must also comply with the specific provisions included in this article.

(b) ~~Golf carts are not designed for nor manufactured to be used on public streets and the City of Claremont neither advocates nor endorses the golf cart as a safe means of travel on public streets.~~ The City of Claremont shall in no way be liable for accidents, injuries, or deaths involving or resulting for the operation of a golf cart.

(c) Any person who owns, operates, or rides on a golf cart on a public street within the City of Claremont does so at his or her own risk and peril and assumes all liability resulting from the operation of the golf cart. (Ord. of 3-6-17, No. 04-17, Sec. 2)

**Sec. 7-1-176 Definitions of words and phrases.**

The following words and phrases when used in this chapter shall, for the purpose of this chapter, have the meanings respectively ascribed to them in this section, except in any instance where otherwise specifically provided or where the context clearly indicates a different meaning.

(a) *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 twenty (20) mph.

(b) *Golf Cart Operator*. The individual in physical control of a golf cart that is moving or has its key inserted and in the on position.

(Ord. of 3-6-17, No. 04-17, Sec. 2)

**Sec. 7-1-177 Operation of golf carts permitted.**

(a) Golf carts may be operated on the public streets and property owned or leased by the City of Claremont only in accordance with the provisions of this article. However, it shall be unlawful to operate any golf cart that is not properly registered with and permitted by the City of Claremont or to operate any golf cart at any place or in any manner not authorized herein.

(b) ~~Except for North Oxford Street and Main Street (US Highway 70). A~~ a golf cart may be operated between the hours of 7 a.m. and 11 p.m. on all public streets in the City of Claremont that are posted at a speed limit of 35 mph or lower. Golf carts are not permitted to be operated on North Oxford Street except the operation of golf cars is permitted to allow golf carts to cross directly in a straight line from one side of North Oxford Street to the other side of North Oxford Street. ~~The operation of golf carts on Main Street (US Highway 70) permitted only between Dogwood Street and Cloninger Drive and is further limited to being permitted only between the hours 7 a.m. and 11 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, and the hours of 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. Monday through Friday. Operation of golf carts on Main Street (US Highway 70) outside of these time and space limitations is prohibited.~~

(c) The operation of golf carts in the following circumstances is exempt, and is not subject to the provisions of this article:

- (1) The operation of golf carts on private property, with the consent of the owner
- (2) The operation of golf carts on private streets,
- (3) The use of a golf cart in connection with a parade, a festival, or other special event provided the consent of the sponsor is obtained, the police department is notified, and provided the golf cart is only used during such event; and

(4) The use of golf carts by City of Claremont personnel, other governmental agencies, and/or public services agencies on official business.

(Ord. of 3-6-17, No. 04-17, Sec. 2)

**Sec. 7-1-178 Golf carts do not qualify as electric personal mobility devices.**

Golf carts do not qualify as electric personal mobility devices to assist handicapped or elderly individuals. All golf carts operated in the City of Claremont on public streets must be properly registered with and permitted by the City of Claremont.

**Sec. 7-1-179 Registration and permit requirements.**

(a) An initial registration and annual renewal fee will be charged by the City of Claremont as referenced in the City of Claremont's Schedule of Fees to cover the costs of implementing and maintaining this article.

(b) No golf cart may be operated on any public street within the City of Claremont or on any property owned or leased by the City of Claremont unless the golf cart has first been registered with the City of Claremont and permitted as required herein. The registration and permit shall be renewed annually thereafter in accordance with the provisions of this article.

(c) The owner shall complete an application provided by the City of Claremont and the golf cart shall be inspected by the City of Claremont Police Department for compliance with the provisions of this article prior to the issuance of an annual permit for the golf cart. To evidence that registration, the owner shall be issued an annual registration decal with shall be displayed on the ~~driver~~ driver's side of the golf cart.

(d) In order to registered register a golf cart and secure an annual permit, the owner and golf cart must meet the following basic requirements:

(1) The owner must be at least sixteen eighteen (18) years old and possess a valid driver's license;

(2) The owner must possess and maintain liability insurance in an amount not less than minimum limits required by North Carolina state law for motor vehicles operated on public streets in the state (currently § 20-279.221 of G.S. Ch. 20, Article 9A);

(3) The golf cart must not have been modified to exceed a speed of twenty (20) mph; and

(e) In order to register a golf cart and secure an annual permit, a golf cart must have the following safety features installed:

(1) Two (2) operating front headlights, visible from a distance of at least two hundred fifty (250) feet;

(2) Two (2) operating taillights, with brake lights and turn signals, visible from a distance of at least two hundred fifty (250) feet;

(3) A rear vision mirror;

(4) At least one (1) reflector per side;

(5) A parking brake;

(6) A windshield; and

(7) Must be limited to a maximum of three (3) rows of seats.

(f) Prior to the issuance of an initial permit or annual renewal, the City of Claremont Police Department shall inspect the golf cart for compliance with the requirements of this article. No golf

cart shall be registered and permitted unless it is in compliance with all requirements of this section.

(g) Prior to the issuance of an initial permit or annual renewal, the owner shall sign an acknowledgment as part of the application for permit that he/she has read and understands the provisions of this article.

(h) All-terrain vehicles, 4-wheel utility vehicles, go-karts, and other similar utility vehicles which are not manufactured for operation on a golf course, and/or a golf cart which has been modified so that it no longer meets the definition of a golf cart may not be registered as a golf cart under this article nor shall such vehicles be operated on public streets within the City of Claremont, unless such vehicles are registered and permitted under the motor vehicle laws of the state.

(Ord. of 3-6-17, No. 04-17, Sec. 2)

### **Sec. 7-1-180 Standards of operation.**

(a) It is unlawful to operate a golf cart on a public street within the City of Claremont unless the following requirements are met:

(1) A golf cart must display a valid City of Claremont issued annual registration decal.

(2) No person may operate a golf cart unless that person is at least eighteen (18) years of age and is licensed to drive upon the streets, roads, and highways of the state and then, only in accordance with such driver's license. An operator of a golf cart must be a licensed driver as required by the laws of their home state. The operator must have ~~the~~ a valid driver license in his/her possession while operating the golf cart.

(3) The driver and each passenger must be properly seated while the golf cart is in motion. The seating capacity as designed for the golf cart shall not be exceeded. The operator of the golf cart shall be responsible for compliance by each passenger with this provision.

(4) No golf cart may be operated at a speed greater than reasonable and prudent for the existing conditions, and in no instance at a speed greater than twenty (20) miles per hour.

(5) Golf carts must be operated at the extreme right of roadway and must yield to all vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

(6) No golf cart may be operated in a negligent, careless or reckless manner.

(7) Golf carts must be operated in accordance with all applicable state and local traffic laws and ordinances, including all laws, regulations and ordinances pertaining to the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages.

(8) Golf carts are subject to the same parking regulations as traditional motor vehicles and may only be parked in the same manner and in the same places designated for the parking of traditional motor vehicles.

(9) Golf carts may only park in handicapped parking spaces if the driver has a valid handicapped placard or sticker and the same is clearly posted or displayed in the golf cart.

(10) Golf carts may not be operated on any sidewalk or bicycle path, except for golf carts operated by governmental for official purposes.

(11) Golf carts may not be used for the purpose of towing another cart, trailer, or vehicle of any kind, including a person on roller skates, skateboard, or bicycle.

(12) The possession of open containers of alcohol and/or consumption of alcohol by the driver and/or passengers of a golf cart is prohibited and subjects the operator and offending passenger(s) to enforcement of local and/or state law pertaining to such activity.  
(Ord. of 3-6-17, No. 04-17, Sec. 2)

**Sec. 7-1-181 Penalties and remedies.**

(a) Any person violating the motor vehicle laws of the state, which shall also apply to golf carts registered under this article, shall be subject to the penalties prescribed in state law for said violation.

(b) Any person who knowingly allows an underage driver to operate a golf cart shall be charged and subject to the penalties prescribed in state law for contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

(c) Pursuant to the provisions of G.S. 160-175 and G.S. 14-4, any person violating the provisions of this article or failing to comply with any of its requirements shall be guilty of an infraction and required to pay a penalty of not more than fifty dollars (\$50.00) plus the costs of court. Operating a golf cart under the influence of an impairing substance on a public street is a violation of state law and is punishable as ~~provide~~ **provided** therein.

(d) The City of Claremont may refuse to register and issue a permit for the operation of a golf cart, or may immediately revoke a previously issued permit, if the registered golf cart and/or the owner of the golf cart is involved in three (3) or more violations of this article and/or violations of state law within a three-year time period. Said revocation and/or denial of a permit shall be effective for one (1) year.

(e) The City of Claremont may refuse to register and issue a permit for the operation of a golf cart, or may immediately revoke a previously issued permit, if the registered golf cart and/or the owner of the golf cart is charged with operating a golf cart under the influence of an impairing substance, aiding and abetting the operation of the golf cart under the influence of an impairing substance, or operating a golf cart in a careless and reckless manner. Said revocation and/or denial of a permit shall be effective for one (1) year, unless the charge is dismissed or the owner and/or operator is acquitted, in which event the permit shall be immediately reinstated or the application for the permit shall be approved if the conditions of the ordinance have been met.

(f) All revocation periods shall be effective from the date of the notification of revocation letter, provide that the revoked registration plate is surrendered to the police department within fourteen (14) days of the date of notification. If the revoked registration is not surrendered within fourteen (14) days, then the revocations shall be effective, however, the one (1) year period shall not begin until the date the plate is surrendered to, or seized by, the police department.

(g) In addition to or in lieu of any other penalty herein provided, violation of any other provisions of this article shall subject the offender to a civil penalty in the amount of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per violation to be recovered by the City pursuant to the provisions of Section 1-1-6 of the Code of Ordinances.

(h) In addition to or in lieu of any other remedy herein provided, the City may utilize any remedy provided for in G.S. 160A-175, including the ordering of appropriate equitable relief, including injunctions, or a combination of remedies provided by G.S. 160A-175 to enforce the provisions of this Article.

(Ord. of 3-6-17, No. 04-17, Sec. 2

Adopted this the 5th day of August 2024.

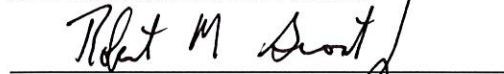


Shawn R. Brown, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Wendy L. Helms, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
Robert M. Grant Jr., City Attorney