

TOWN OF NEWPORT  
Carteret County  
North Carolina

AN ORDINANCE DEALING WITH THE OPERATION AND REGULATION  
OF GOLF CARTS

Whereas: This Ordinance dealing with the regulation of golf carts on public streets, roads, and highways and property owned or leased by the Town is created under the authority of and not in conflict with North Carolina General Statutes 160A-300.6 as may be amended; and

Whereas: The Town of Newport recognizes the interest and need for our citizens that are disabled, elderly or for other reasons need the mobility to get around to visit friends, go shopping in the neighborhood stores and/or make medical visits and for other reasons to have the convenience and mobility to use a golf cart on the town streets; and

Whereas: The Town's concern in this matter is in the interest of public safety. It is further determined that the safe, proper operation of golf carts on public streets and roads is in the public interest and if properly regulated, will promote the public health, safety and welfare; and

Whereas: This ordinance does not deal with Low Speed Vehicles licensed by DMV as such to operate on public streets and operated by appropriately licensed drivers under NC GS 20-121.1 and compliant with safety standards in 49 CFR 571.500.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED by the Town Council of Newport, Carteret County, North Carolina, as follows:

**Section 1. Purpose and Definitions**

- a. Purpose. There is a public interest in having a means of travel that is cost effective, energy efficient and an alternate means of travel for short distances within the town instead of using motor vehicles. This article establishes the minimum standards for the operator to use when traveling upon public streets, roads and highways and property owned or leased by the Town.
- b. Definitions. A "golf cart" is defined as a vehicle designed and manufactured for the operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and that is not capable of exceeding 20 mph. The definition is repeated here for convenience only and the definition set out in N.C.G.S. 20-4.01 (12b), as amended from time to time, is controlling for this purpose.

## **Section 2. Allowed**

The operation of golf carts on the public streets, roads and highways within the corporate limits of the Town of Newport and on property owned or leased by the Town in compliance with the rules and regulations of this ordinance shall be permitted; however, it shall be unlawful to operate any golf cart that is not properly registered with the Town or to operate any golf cart at any place or in any manner not authorized herein.

## **Section 3. Rules and Regulations**

The following rules and regulations are adopted for the operation of golf carts. Low Speed Vehicles shall be operated under the NC DMV regulations for licensed motor vehicles. Golf carts may only be operated on public streets or property owned or leased by the Town within the corporate limits of the Town in accordance with the following rules and regulations:

1. A motor vehicle license issued by a state agency shall be required to operate a golf cart on a public street, road or highway.
2. Golf carts may be driven on public streets, roads and highways within the Town and on property owned or leased by the Town only if equipped with:
  - (1) Headlamps
  - (2) Front and rear turn signal lamps
  - (3) Tail lamps
  - (4) Stop lamps
  - (5) Reflex reflectors: one red on each side as far to the rear as practicable, and one red on the rear
  - (6) An exterior mirror mounted on the driver's side of the vehicle and either an exterior mirror mounted on the passenger's side of the vehicle or an interior mirror
  - (7) A parking brake
  - (8) A windshield
  - (9) A Type 1 or Type 2 seat belt assembly installed at each seating position.
3. Golf carts are permitted to be operated only on streets with a posted speed limit of 35 mph or less.
4. Golf cart operators must adhere to all traffic regulations and requirements applicable to the road or street being traveled and must yield the right-of-way to approaching vehicles.
5. Golf carts are not permitted to travel on sidewalks.
6. All occupants shall be in a seated position on an installed seat while the cart is in motion.
7. All persons operating golf carts must be observant of, and attentive to the safety of themselves and others, including their passengers, other motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians. The Newport Police Department has the authority to revoke the registration of any cart owner or operator for violations of the terms of this ordinance.

8. Golf carts shall be parked in the same manner and place as designated parking for other motor vehicles. Stopping, standing or parking carts in places and in a manner not allowed for vehicle parking or so as to impede the flow of traffic, pedestrian walkways or passageways are prohibited. Parking in reserved handicapped locations requires the appropriate handicap placard or sticker.
9. Golf carts shall not be used for commercial purposes such as, but not limited to, taxicabs, buses, or hauling freight.
10. Golf carts shall not be used for the towing of another cart, wagon, skateboard, or a person on roller skates, bicycle and the like.
11. Before a golf cart can operate on town public streets or property owned or leased by the Town the cart owner must apply for and display a valid registration sticker issued by the Newport Police Department. The sticker must be renewed annually.
12. Before a registration sticker can be issued, the cart must meet the requirements set forth in Section 3 of this ordinance, and the applicant must provide proof of insurance as required by NCGS 20-279.21, and maintain such insurance while the cart is in operation in the Town of Newport and must be registered with the Newport Police Department.
13. No open containers of alcoholic beverages are permitted on a golf cart while on a public street, road or highway or on property owned or leased by the Town.

#### **Section 4. Allowable Uses**

Golf carts operated under the following uses are not required to meet the provisions of section 3:

1. The operation of golf carts at golf courses, private clubs or on private property, with the consent of the owner.
2. The operation of golf carts within gated or limited access communities unless the streets of the community are dedicated for public use or maintained by the Town or State.
3. The use of golf carts in connection with a parade, a festival or other special event, provided the consent of the sponsor is obtained and such vehicle is used only in conjunction with such event.
4. The use of golf carts by Town personnel for official business.

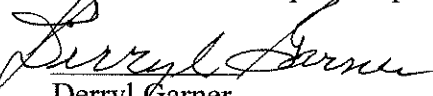
#### **Section 5. Penalties**

Operation of a golf cart in violation of the provisions of this ordinance will subject the offender to a civil penalty of \$50.00 for each offense, which shall be paid to the Town Clerk within forty-eight (48) hours of notice of the violation, failing which the penalty shall increase to \$100.00.

Civil penalties may be collected by civil actions in the courts. No criminal penalties will result from such violations.

Adopted on this the 8 day of Nov., 2012, and to become effective upon adoption

  
Nancy Daffron  
Clerk

  
Derryl Garner  
Mayor