

CITY OF MATTOON, ILLINOIS

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-5497

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE VII: TRAFFIC CODE ESTABLISHING THE
REGULATION OF OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS ON STREETS AND ALLEYS UNDER THE
JURISDICTION OF THE CITY OF MATTOON, COLES COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

WHEREAS, the City of Mattoon, Illinois, is authorized pursuant to 625 ILCS 5/11- 1426.1 to designate one or more specific streets under the jurisdiction of the City of Mattoon, Illinois, as egress and ingress routes for the use of non-highway vehicles; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council for the City of Mattoon, Illinois, has considered the volume, speed and character of traffic on the streets and alleys of the City of Mattoon, Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council for the City of Mattoon, Illinois, has determined that certain types of golf carts, as defined below, may safely operate on the streets and alleys within the corporate limits of the City of Mattoon, Illinois, if properly regulated as provided herein; and,

WHEREAS, such use of all golf carts shall be subject to all requirements of 625 ILCS 5/11-1426.1, et seq., and subject to the limitations set forth in this Chapter, and shall only be allowed for the purpose of transporting persons.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE CITY
COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF MATTOON, ILLINOIS**, as follows:

Section 1. Recitals. The facts and statements contained in the preamble to this Ordinance are found to be true and correct and are hereby adopted as part of this Ordinance.

Section 2. Adoption of Code. Title VII: TRAFFIC CODE, CHAPTER 76 GOLF CARTS shall be enacted as follows:

TITLE VII: TRAFFIC CODE

CHAPTER 76. GOLF CARTS

§76.01 OPERATON OF GOLF CARTS – STREETS AND ALLEYS.

- (A) Definition: For purposes of this Ordinance, the term "Golf Cart" shall have the same meaning as that term is defined in Section 1-123.9 of the Illinois Vehicle Code.
- (B) Policy statement: the City of Mattoon, in passing this section is not advocating or endorsing the use of golf carts on city streets. Other means of transportation may be safer than a golf cart. All persons who operate golf carts within the city do so at their own risk and peril. In passing this section, the city does not accept any level of liability for accidents, collisions, injuries or death, or destruction of property. In passing this section, the city is merely regulating the use of golf carts on city streets, as invited by the law of the State of Illinois, in an attempt to increase safety on city streets.
- (C) Subject to the requirements and regulations of this Ordinance, Golf Carts may be operated on all city roads, streets, and alleys not marked as RED as depicted on the map attached hereto as Exhibit A, which are under the jurisdiction and control of the City of Mattoon, Illinois, and where the posted speed limit is 30 miles per hour or less. No person shall operate a Golf Cart on streets and alleys where the posted speed limit is higher than 30 miles per hour, on bike trails or sidewalks, or on streets and alleys marked as not allowed on the map attached hereto as Exhibit A. Operators are permitted to make a direct crossing in a perpendicular manner on those intersections depicted as BLUE circled crossing locations on the map attached hereto as Exhibit A, and listed as follows:

Approved Crossing Locations

- Intersection of Marshall Avenue & 26th Street
- Lake Land Boulevard (Also Known As: South Route 45 / US Route 121) & Rudy Avenue
- South 9th Street & Oklahoma Avenue
- South 9th Street & Marshall Avenue
- IL-16 (Also Known As: Charleston Avenue) & 15th Street
- 19th Street (Also Known As: US Route 121 / US 45) & Richmond Avenue

- Richmond Avenue & Logan Street
- Dewitt Avenue & 10th Street

(D) Golf Carts shall be operated in the same direction as traffic.

(E) It shall be unlawful to operate or park a Golf Cart on any sidewalks, bike paths, multi-use paths, or other locations within the corporate limits of the City of Mattoon, Illinois, except as permitted by this Ordinance or on private property.

(F) It shall be unlawful to operate a Golf Cart on unimproved alleys when wet or muddy when damage to the alleyway could occur.

§76.02 REQUIRED EQUIPMENT ON GOLF CARTS.

(A) No Golf Cart shall be operated on any street or roadway under the jurisdiction and control of the City of Mattoon, Illinois, unless the Golf Cart is equipped with the following equipment that must be kept in good working condition at all times:

- Brakes;
- Steering apparatus;
- Tires;
- A rear view mirror;
- A red reflectorized warning device (e.g., red reflective tape or emblem) on the front and rear of the Golf Cart;
- A triangular slow-moving emblem as required by 625 ILCS 5/12 709 attached to the rear of the Golf Cart;
- A headlight that emits white light visible from at least 500 feet to the front of the Golf Cart;
- A tail lamp that emits red light visible from at least 100 feet from the rear of the Golf Cart;
- Brake lights on the rear of the Golf Cart;
- Turn signals on the front and rear of the Golf Cart; and,
- Seat Belts for all occupants

(B) Lights. No Golf Cart shall be operated on the streets and alleys under the jurisdiction and control of the City of Mattoon, Illinois, unless such Golf Cart has its head lights and taillights illuminated at all times.

(C) Required seating / passengers. A Golf Cart may transport only the number of

passengers for which the specific Golf Cart was designed, every passenger shall sit in a seat that was installed by the manufacturer of the Golf Cart. It shall be unlawful for the operator/driver of the Golf Cart to transport passengers unless each passenger is in a seat. It shall also be unlawful for a passenger who would require a car seat or other similar additive safety restraint in a traditional motor vehicle to be a passenger of a Golf Cart. The operator/driver of the Golf Cart shall not transport anyone who is sitting on the lap of a passenger or in any other location except in a seat. No part of the body of the operator or an occupant shall extend outside the perimeter of the Golf Cart while in operation. Furthermore, all occupants in a Golf Cart shall remain seated at all times that the Golf Cart is in operation.

- (D) Trailers. It shall be unlawful, while operating a Golf Cart on the streets and alleys under the jurisdiction and control of the City of Mattoon, Illinois, to pull a trailer, equipment, or device.
- (E) Age of Operator/License. No person shall operate a Golf Cart on the streets and alleys under the jurisdiction and control of the City of Mattoon, Illinois, unless such operator is at least eighteen (18) years of age and holds a valid motor vehicle driver's license bearing a photograph verifying the identity and age of the operator.
- (F) Speed Limit. No person shall operate a Golf Cart on the streets and alleys under the jurisdiction and control of the City of Mattoon, Illinois, in excess of 30 miles per hour.
- (G) Ordinance and Vehicle Code Obedience. During the operation of a Golf Cart on any street or alley under the jurisdiction and control of the City of Mattoon, Illinois, the operator of such Golf Cart shall obey all applicable rules, regulations, and ordinances of the City of Mattoon, Illinois, and the provisions of the Illinois Vehicle Code, 625 ILCS 5/11-100, et. seq., as amended from time to time. A person operating or who is in actual physical control of a Golf Cart or as described herein on any City Street or other roadway while under the influence is subject to Section 11-500 through 11-502 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes (625 ILCS 5/11-500-11-502).

§76.03 CITY PERMIT; ANNUAL FEE.

- (A) No Golf Cart shall be operated on the streets and alleys under the jurisdiction and control of the City of Mattoon, unless said Golf Cart is first permitted by the City of Mattoon, Illinois.
- (B) A person desiring to operate a Golf Cart on the streets and alleys under the jurisdiction and control of the City of Mattoon, Illinois, shall make application for a Golf Cart permit with the Police Chief of the City of Mattoon, Illinois, or his/her designee, on forms provided by the City, and shall contain the following information:
 - i. Name and address of applicant;
 - ii. Name of liability insurance carrier;
 - iii. The serial number, make, model, and description of the Golf Cart;
 - iv. Signed Unconditional and Full General Release of Liability, Waiver,

Discharge, and Covenant Not to Sue by applicant and any other person who will operate the Golf Cart. This shall include releasing the city and agreeing to defend, indemnify and hold the city harmless from any and all future claims resulting from the operation of their golf carts on city streets relating to the golf cart owned or operated by the applicant;

v. Photocopy of applicable liability insurance coverage card specifically for the vehicle to be operated pursuant to the permit; and,

vi. Such other information as the City may require.

- (C) No permit shall be granted unless the applicant's place of domicile is located within the corporate limits of the City of Mattoon, Illinois.
- (D) Prior to the issuance and/or renewal of a Golf Cart permit pursuant to this Ordinance, any person applying for a Golf Cart permit pursuant to this Ordinance shall pay an annual fee of \$150.00 to the City of Mattoon, Illinois based on a calendar year from January 1st to December 31st. If the Golf Cart permit is obtained or renewed after July 1st, the fee shall be \$75.00 through December 31st. Furthermore, prior to the issuance and/or renewal of a Golf Cart Permit, an applicant shall also present the Golf Cart to the Police Department of the City of Mattoon, Illinois, or his/her designee, for an inspection to determine whether the Golf Cart complies with the provisions of this Ordinance and may be operated on the streets and alleys under the jurisdiction and control of the City of Mattoon, Illinois. If an officer with the Police Department of the City of Mattoon, Illinois, or his/her designee determines that the applicant and the Golf Cart comply with the provisions of this Ordinance, then the Police Chief, or his/her designee shall issue a permit to the applicant.
- (E) The permit shall be in that form as attached hereto as Exhibit B. The permit, if issued, shall be valid until the 31st day of December following issuance.
- (F) A copy of the permit, as well as proof of required insurance, shall always be maintained in the Golf Cart during operation. The permit sticker shall be displayed on the triangular slow-moving emblem attached to the golf cart.

§76.04 MANDATORY INSURANCE.

- (A) No person shall operate a Golf Cart on the streets and alleys under the jurisdiction and control of the City of Mattoon, Illinois, unless:
- (B) The Golf Cart is covered by a liability insurance policy as required under 625 ILCS 5/7-601.
- (C) Every operator of a Golf Cart shall carry with the Golf Cart evidence of insurance as required by 625 ILCS 5/7-602.

§76.05 RELEASE OF LIABILITY.

- (A) No person shall operate a Golf Cart on the streets and alleys under the

jurisdiction and control of the City of Mattoon, Illinois, unless that person has executed an Unconditional and Full General Release of Liability, Waiver, Discharge, and Covenant Not to Sue and filed the same with the Police Department of the City of Mattoon, Illinois. The Unconditional and Full General Release of Liability, Waiver, Discharge, and Covenant Not to Sue shall be in that form as attached hereto as Exhibit C,

§76.06 PERMIT REVOCATION.

- (A) The Permit issued pursuant to 76.03 of this Ordinance may be revoked by the Police Chief of the City of Mattoon, Illinois, or his/her designee, if:
 - 1. There is any material misrepresentation made by the applicant on the application;
 - 2. The liability insurance required by 76.04 of this Ordinance is no longer in full force and effect; or,
 - 3. There is evidence, as determined in the sole discretion of the Chief of Police of the City of Mattoon, Illinois, or his/her designee, that the permit holder can no longer safely operate the Golf Cart.
- (B) The Chief of Police of the City of Mattoon, Illinois, or his/her designee, shall issue a notice of revocation of a Permit in writing and either hand deliver the notice to the permit holder, or send the notice by certified mail, return receipt required, to the Permit holder at the address on the application. The revocation of the Permit shall be effective immediately after personal service, or on the third day after the postmark of the certified mail. In the event of revocation of a Permit, the Permit holder shall not be entitled to the return of any portion of the annual fee.

§76.06 VIOLATIONS; PUNISHMENT.

- (A) Any person who violates any provision of this Ordinance or who aids or abets the violation of any provision of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a petty offense punishable by a fine of not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$750.00. In addition to any fine, the City may seek injunctive and declaratory relief directing-the violator(s) to cure the violation, and the City may revoke any Permit authorized and issued pursuant to this Ordinance.
- (B) A separate offense shall be deemed to be committed on each day during or on which a violation of any provision of this Ordinance occurs or continues,
- (C) Any second or subsequent offense of any provision of this Ordinance shall result in the revocation of the Golf Cart Permit for a period of not less than three (3) years nor more than five (5) years.

Section 3. Invalidity. In the event a court of competent jurisdiction declares any particular provision of this Ordinance to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions of this Ordinance shall be construed to be valid and enforceable, The invalidity of any part of this Ordinance shall not affect any other parts thereof.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be in full effect on August 1, 2025 and approval as provided by law.

Section 5. Repeal of Conflicting Provisions. All prior ordinances or resolutions of the City of Mattoon, Illinois, contrary to the terms and conditions of this Ordinance shall be deemed to be repealed as of the effective date of this Ordinance.

Section 6. Publication. The Clerk is directed by the corporate authorities to publish this Ordinance in pamphlet form. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect after its passage and publication in accordance with 65 ILCS 5/1-2-4.

Upon motion by Commissioner Butler seconded by Commissioner Cox,
adopted this 17th day of June 2025, by a roll call vote, as follows:

AYES (Names): ~~Commissioner Butler, Commissioner Closson,~~
~~Commissioner Cox, Commissioner Phipps,~~
~~Mayor Hall~~
NAYS (Names): None
ABSENT (Names): None

Approved this 17th day of June 2025.



Rick Hall, Mayor
City of Mattoon, Illinois

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Susan J. O'Brien, City Clerk



Daniel C. Jones, City Attorney

Recorded in the Municipality's Records on 06-17, 2025.

EXHIBIT B

Application for a Golf Cart Permit
City of Mattoon, IL
208 N. 19th St.
Mattoon, IL 61938

PURPOSE: This application is for a permit to operate a Golf Cart on the streets of the City of Mattoon in accordance with the City of Mattoon, IL Traffic Code Authorizing the Operation of Golf Carts on Streets and Alleys under the Jurisdiction of the City of Mattoon Ordinance #2025-5497.

Unlicensed golf carts must be trailered to the Mattoon Police Department for registration.

APPLICATION INFORMATION:

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Name: | Date of Birth: |
| Address: | Phone: |
| IL Driver's License #: | Expires: |
| Liability Ins. Carrier: | Policy #: |

GOLF CART INFORMATION:

| | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------|
| Make: | Model: | Color: |
| Serial #: | # of Seats: | |
| Description of Golf Cart: | | |

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & COMMITMENT:

I, _____, hereby acknowledge receipt of a copy of the City of Mattoon's Ordinance #2025-5497 and affirm that I will adhere to all the policies and procedures as set forth in the Ordinance and all applicable State statutes regarding the operation of golf carts. Moreover, I affirm that the information provided above is true and factual.

Applicant Name: _____
(Print)

Signature: _____

Date: _____

EXHIBIT B

GOLF CART INSPECTION REPORT

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| PURPOSE: This Golf Car Inspection Report is required to ensure that Golf Carts that are operated on streets and alleys in the City of Mattoon are in strict compliance with the City of Mattoon's Ordinance #2025-5497. | |
| Date of Inspection: | Golf Cart Make & Model: |
| Applicant Name: | Serial #: |
| Address: | Phone: |

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION: Please note an x for all items in compliance. Attach copies of all required documentation to the end of the inspection report.

| Compliance | Required Documentation | | |
|------------|------------------------------|---|------------------|
| | Proof of Liability Insurance | | |
| | Signed Waiver of Liability | | |
| | Valid IL Driver's License | # | Expiration Date: |

EVALUATION OF EQUIPEMNET: Please note an x for all items in compliance.

| Status | Equipment | Status | Equipment |
|--------|---|--------|--|
| | Breaks | | Steering Apparatus |
| | Tires | | A Rearview Mirror |
| | Red Reflectorized Warning Device on the front and read of the Golf Cart | | Triangular slow-moving emblem attached to the rear of the Golf Cart |
| | Headlight that emits white light visible from at least 500 feet to the front of the Golf Cart | | Tail lamp that emits red light visible from at least 100 feet from the rear of the Golf Cart |
| | Break lights on the rear of the Golf Cart | | Turn signals on the front & rear of the Golf Cart |
| | Seat Belts for all occupants | | |

FINDINGS: Please note an x for statement which best reflects compliance with the Golf Cart.

| Conclusions | |
|-------------|---|
| | The Golf Cart evaluated above is in compliance with Ordinance #2025-5497 requirements and is therefore granted a permit for operation within the City of Mattoon. |
| | The Golf Cart evaluated above is not in compliance with Ordinance #2025-5497 requirements and is therefore not granted a permit for operation within the City of Mattoon. |

PERMITTING (as applicable):

Permit #: _____

Date: _____

Inspected by: _____

(Print)

Signature: _____

EXHIBIT B

UNCONDITIONAL AND FULL GENERAL RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER, DISCHARGE AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE

This is a legally binding UNCONDITIONAL AND FULL GENERAL RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER, DISCHARGE, AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE made by me, _____ (hereinafter referred to as Operator) to the City of Mattoon, IL, and its Council (hereinafter referred to as the City).

I FULLY RECONGIZE THAT THERE ARE DANGERS AND RISKS TO WHICH I MAY BE EXPOSED BY OPERATING A GOLF CART ON CITY STREETS. THE FOLLOWING IS A DESCRIPTION AND/OR EXAMPLES OF SIGNIFICANT DANGERS AND RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS ACTIVITY: INJURY TO MYSELF OR OTHERS, DAMAGE TO MY PROPERTY OR THAT OF OTHERS, DEATH OF MYSELF OR OTHERS.

IN NO EVENT SHALL THE CITY BE LIABLE FOR DIRECT, INDIRECT, SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL, PUNITIVE, EXEMPLARY, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, WHETHER ARISING IN TORT, CONTRACT OR ANY OTHER LEGAL THEORY, IN CONNECTION WITH OR ARISING OUT OF OPERATOR'S USE OF A GOLF CART ON CITY STREETS.

"I understand that the City has an ordinance governing the use of Golf Carts on City streets, and the State of Illinois also has applicable statutes relating to the operation of Golf Carts, and hereby agree to conform with ALL requirements of the City ordinance and applicable State statutes at all times

I, THEREFORE, AGREE TO ASSUME AND TAKE ON MYSELF ALL OF THE RISKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN ANY WAY ASSOCIATED WITH THIS ACTIVITY. IN CONSIDERATION OF AND RETURN FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO OPERATE A GOLF CART ON CITY STREETS. I RELEASE THE CITY (AND THE CITY COUNCIL, EMPLOYEES, AND AGENTS) FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY, CLAIMS AND ACTIONS THAT MAY ARISE FROM INJURY OR HARM TO ME OR OTHERS, INCLUDING DEATH, OR FROM DAMAGE TO MY PROPERTY OR PROPERTY OF ANY OTHER IN CONNECTION WITH THE ACTIVITY. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS RELEASE COVERS ALL LIABILITY, CLAIMS, AND CAUSES OF ACTION ENTIRELY OR IN PART BY ANY ACTS OR FAILURE TO ACT ON MY PART, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, NEGLIGENCE, MISTAKES, WILLFUL CONDUCT, AND/OR FAILURE TO ENFORCE, SUPERVISE, OR MAINTAIN ANY APPLICABLE ORDINANCE OR STATUTE

I assure the City that there are no health-related reasons or problems which preclude or restrict my participation in this activity. I further assure the City that I have adequate health and liability insurance necessary to provide for and pay any medical cost or property damage that may directly or indirectly result from my participation in this activity, and I will indemnify and hold the City harmless for any such medical cost or property damage.

I understand that this Release means I am giving up, among other things, rights to sue the City,

EXHIBIT B

the City Council, its employees, and/or agents for injuries (including death), damages, or losses I may incur or cause. I also understand that this Release binds my heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, as well myself.

I HAVE READ THIS ENTIRE RELEASE, I FULLY UNDERSTAND IT, AND I AGREE TO BE LEGALLY BOUND BY IT.

Operator's Signature

Date

Witness to Signature

Date