

RECORD OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 2025-O-14

August 25, 2025

City of Bellbrook State of Ohio

Ordinance No. 2025-O-14

ESTABLISHING CHAPTER 441 OF PART FOUR, TITLE SIX OF THE BELLBROOK MUNICIPAL CODE TO SET FORTH OPERATION OF UNDER-SPEED, LOW SPEED OR UTILITY VEHICLES OR MINI TRUCKS ON CERTAIN CITY STREETS

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio has statutes allowing municipalities to establish under-speed, low-speed or utility vehicle, or a mini truck operation and inspection procedures in the interest of protecting public health, safety and welfare for under-speed (most commonly known as “golf carts”), low-speed, or utility vehicles, or mini trucks upon certain roadways; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined by City Council that residents of the City have interest in the ability to operate under-speed, low speed or utility vehicles, or mini trucks on City streets where permitted by law upon inspection of such vehicles.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF BELLBROOK HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. Chapter 441 of Title Six of Part Four, Traffic Code of the Bellbrook Code of Ordinances shall be titled “Operation of low-speed, under-speed, or utility vehicle, or a mini truck” and shall read as set forth in Exhibit A which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2. It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that any and all deliberations of this Council that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including, but not limited to Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

PASSED BY City Council this ____ day of ____ 2025.

____ Yeas; ____ Nays.

AUTHENTICATION:

Michael W. Schweller, Mayor

Robert Schommer, Clerk of Council

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Stephen McHugh, Municipal Attorney

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2025-O-14 Exhibit A

PART FOUR – TRAFFIC CODE, TITLE SIX – VEHICLES AND OPERATION TO CREATE A NEW SECTION 441 – OPERATION OF UNDER-SPEED, LOW-SPEED OR UTILITY VEHICLE, OR A MINI TRUCK

Chapter 441 – Operation of under-speed, low-speed or utility vehicle, or a mini-truck

441.01 Definitions: As used in this chapter, “low-speed vehicle”, "under-speed vehicle", “utility vehicle”, and “mini truck” have the same meaning as in section 4501.01 of the Ohio Revised Code, as amended from time to time.

441.02 Local Authorization: Subject to the provisions of this chapter, the operation of low-speed, under-speed or utility vehicles, or mini trucks is authorized in the City.

441.03 Vehicle Inspection:

- (a) The owner of a low-speed, under-speed or utility vehicle, or mini truck who wishes to operate the vehicle on any street or highway right of way, or public area is required to submit the vehicle to an inspection by the Chief of Police or designee that complies with inspection requirements established by the Ohio department of public safety under section 4513.02 of the Ohio Revised Code and with the requirements of this chapter
- (b) No person shall operate a low-speed, under-speed or utility vehicle, or mini truck on any street or highway, right of way, or public area unless the vehicle has successfully passed the required vehicle inspection. The Chief of Police or designee may waive such inspection upon proof the vehicle successfully passed a substantially equivalent vehicle inspection conducted by another local law enforcement agency.
- (c) The Chief of Police or designee may conduct the aforementioned vehicle inspection for any low-speed, under-speed or utility vehicle, or mini truck which is reasonably expected to be operated in the City.

441.04 Vehicle Insurance:

- (a) Every owner of a low-speed, under-speed or utility vehicle, or mini truck to be operated on any street or highway, right of way, or public area shall maintain automobile insurance which provides automobile bodily injury or property damage liability, or related coverage, or any combination thereof. Proof of such insurance shall be required at the time of inspection required by this chapter.
- (b) No person shall operate, or permit the operation of, a low-speed, under-speed or utility vehicle, or mini truck on any street or highway, right of way, or public area unless proof of financial responsibility is maintained continuously throughout the registration period with respect to that vehicle, or, in the case of a driver who is not the owner, with respect to that driver's operation of that vehicle

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441.05 Equipment

- (a) Every low-speed, under-speed or utility vehicle, or mini truck to be operated on any street or highway right of way, or public area is required to be equipped with at least the following:
- (1) Headlights - Two working headlights, with at least one near each side of the front of the vehicle.
 - (2) Taillight - At least one working taillight, mounted on the rear.
 - (3) Red Reflectors - Two red reflectors mounted on the rear, either as a part of the tail lamps or separately.
 - (4) Stop Light – One or more working stop lights mounted on the rear. either as a part of the other rear lights or separately, actuated upon application of the service brake.
 - (5) Turn Signals - Signal lights that clearly indicate to both approaching and following traffic intention to turn or move right or left.
 - (6) Rearview Mirror - An intact rearview mirror.
 - (7) Horn - A horn in good working order.
 - (8) Windshield - An intact windshield made of clear safety-rated material.
 - (9) License Plate - A license plate displayed as required by O.R.C. 4503.21.
 - (10) Occupant restraining devices - One occupant restraining devices per seating position.

441.06 Licensing Requirements:

- (a) No person shall operate a low-speed, under-speed or utility vehicle, or mini truck on any street or highway, right of way, or public area unless the person has a valid driver's license issued under Chapter 4506. or Chapter 4507. of the Ohio Revised Code.
- (b) Only those vehicles registered in accordance with Chapter 4503. of the Ohio Revised Code and titled in accordance with Chapter 4505. of the Ohio Revised Code are permitted under this chapter.
- (c) No person who is the owner or operator of a low-speed, under-speed or utility vehicle, or mini truck shall fail to display, in plain view on the rear of the vehicle, a license plate that displays the distinctive number and registration mark assigned by the director of public safety, including any county identification sticker and any validation sticker.

441.07 Usage and Restrictions; Waiver:

- (a) No person shall operate a low-speed, under-speed or utility vehicle, or mini truck on any street or highway where the speed limit is greater than 35 mph. Low-speed, under-speed or utility vehicles, or mini trucks will be permitted to cross intersections of roadways which have higher speed limits, so long as they remain on a street that has a posted speed limit of 35 mph or less.
- (b) No person shall operate a low-speed, under-speed or utility vehicle, or mini truck on Wilmington-Dayton Road south of Liecester Road in the City.

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- (c) No person shall operate a low-speed, under-speed or utility vehicle, or mini truck on any street or highway, right of way, or public area unless that person and each passenger is wearing a properly adjusted occupant restraining device when the vehicle is on and in motion. No person shall stand on any portion of the vehicle while it is in motion.
- (d) No person shall operate a low-speed, under-speed or utility vehicle, or mini truck on any street or highway, right of way, or public area with any passenger required by O.R.C. 4511.81 to be secured in a child restraint system or a booster seat.
- (e) No person shall operate a low-speed, under-speed or utility vehicle, or mini truck on any sidewalk or shared-use path.
- (f) No person shall fail to operate a low-speed, under-speed or utility vehicle, or mini truck in accordance with all State of Ohio traffic laws in addition to all applicable City of Bellbrook Codified Ordinances.
- (g) The provisions of this chapter, in whole or in part, may be waived during a limited period of special events for which the operators of low-speed, under-speed or utility vehicles, or mini trucks have received prior approval from the Chief of Police or designee.
- (h) The requirements and restrictions of this chapter are waived for an employee or volunteer of the City, or other local government, operating a low-speed, under-speed or utility vehicle, or mini truck within the scope of their employment or volunteer function.

441.99 Penalty: Whoever violates the provisions of this Chapter is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense. On a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; and for subsequent offenses within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.