

TOWN OF BOWLING GREEN, VIRGINIA

COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Town Council

FROM: India Adams-Jacobs, MPA, ICMA-CM, Town Manager; Jeff Gore, Town Attorney

DATE: September 3, 2026

RE: Repeal and Replacement of Article 4.10, "Motor Vehicles and Traffic," Chapter 4 of the Town Code

Purpose

This memorandum requests Town Council's consideration and adoption of an ordinance repealing Article 4.10, "Motor Vehicles and Traffic," of Chapter 4 of the Town Code in its entirety and replacing it with the revised article attached to this memorandum.

Background

Staff undertook a comprehensive review of Article 4.10 and determined that the existing provisions require updating to provide clearer standards, improve administration and enforcement, and better align with current Virginia Code Title 46.2 (Motor Vehicles) and related provisions of Title 18.2. The Town Council is authorized under state law to enact and amend ordinances governing motor vehicles and traffic to promote the public health, safety, and welfare of the community, and finds that the repeal and replacement of Article 4.10 is in the best interests of Town residents.

The proposed ordinance repeals the current Article 4.10 in its entirety and replaces it with a reorganized article structured in four parts: Article I (General Provisions; Traffic Regulations; Use of Streets), Article II (Stopping, Standing and Parking), Article III (Citations and Fines; Issuance of Summons), and Article IV (General Violations and Penalties).

Discussion

Key provisions and updates in the revised article include:

- **Adoption of State Law.** Continuing the Town's adoption by reference of Title 46.2 and Article 2, Chapter 7 of Title 18.2 of the Code of Virginia (DUI provisions), consistent with current statutory authority under § 46.2-1313.
- **General Traffic Provisions.** Retains and clarifies standing rules on backing vehicles, blocking intersections, funeral processions, display of license plates, pedestrian use of roadways, and compliance with traffic control devices.
- **Golf Cart and Utility Vehicle Use.** Establishes a defined list of streets on which golf carts and utility vehicles may operate, along with operating limitations (25 mph posted speed limit, valid driver's license, slow-moving-vehicle emblem, daylight operation) consistent with § 46.2-916.3 of the Code of Virginia.
- **Speed Limit.** Establishes a default speed limit of 25 mph on Town streets absent posted signage.

TOWN OF BOWLING GREEN, VIRGINIA

- Vehicle Removal and Impoundment. Updates procedures for removal of unattended, accident-involved, and abandoned vehicles, and for removal or immobilization of vehicles with three or more unsettled parking violations.
- Parking Regulations (Article II). Consolidates prohibited parking locations (sidewalks, crosswalks, intersections, fire hydrants, fire lanes, yellow curbs), disabled-parking space requirements, curb parking standards, loading zone rules, restrictions on overnight parking of trucks/trailers/buses, and restrictions on commercial vehicle parking in residential zones. Confirms the Town Manager's authority to promulgate and enforce parking rules and regulations, including designation of public parking areas, business parking zones, bus stops, taxi stands, and loading zones.
- Citations and Fines (Article III). Retains the existing citation process — issuance, notice, escalation to summons, and right to contest — and the associated fine schedule for parking violations, along with a three-year enforcement period for collection of unpaid penalties.
- General Penalty (Article IV). Establishes that violations without a specified penalty are punishable by a fine of up to \$2,500, imprisonment of up to twelve months, or both, consistent with § 15.2-1429 of the Code of Virginia.

Fiscal Impact

Adoption of the revised article is not expected to have a direct fiscal impact on the Town's operating budget. Enforcement will be carried out using existing police and administrative personnel. Fine revenue from parking violations, disabled-parking violations, and general penalties will continue to be collected pursuant to the schedule in Article III, as summarized below.

Violation	Fine (Before Notice)
Parking on a sidewalk	\$50
Parking in front of a public/private driveway	\$50
Parking within an intersection	\$50
Parking on a crosswalk	\$50
Parking where official signs prohibit parking	\$50
Parking against oncoming traffic	\$100
Parking within 15 feet of a fire hydrant	\$100
Parking within a designated fire lane	\$100
Parking against a yellow curb	\$100
Parking in a designated disabled-parking space	\$250

Should signage, striping, or golf-cart route markers require installation or updating as a result of the revised article, the associated costs would be covered by the Town's existing public works or capital budget, as applicable.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that Town Council adopt the attached ordinance repealing and replacing Article 4.10, “Motor Vehicles and Traffic,” of Chapter 4 of the Town Code, subject to resolution of the section-numbering and fine-schedule items noted above prior to final codification.

TOWN OF BOWLING GREEN, VIRGINIA

Draft Motion

“I move that the Town Council adopt the ordinance to repeal and replace Article 4.10, ‘Motor Vehicles and Traffic,’ of Chapter 4 of the Town Code, as presented, to take effect upon adoption.”