



# MEMO TO TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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**From:** Caleb Hood, Community Development      **Meeting Date:** August 3, 2020  
**Presenter:** Sgt. Brandon Frasier      **Estimated Time:** 25 minutes  
**Topic:** Golf Carts and All-Terrain Vehicles on Public Streets

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## **Recommended Action:**

Discuss existing City Code and whether amendments are recommended to Council for consideration to address the growing trend of golf carts and ATV/UTV's on public streets. Also discuss potential adoption of a city ordinance involving restricted use license plates for off-highway vehicles as well to shore up any confusion.

## **Background:**

Meridian City Code, Title 7, Chapter 5 (below), addresses golf cart operations and regulations (see below). The Police Department is seeing more and more people driving both golf carts and ATV/UTV's on the roadways. The Code is very specific to golf carts and does not address any other type of vehicle.

## **7-5-1: DEFINITION:**

The term "golf cart" shall mean every self-propelled vehicle upon three (3) or more wheels, in, upon or by which, any person or property, particularly golf clubs or golf equipment, may be carried or transported. (Ord. 641, 4-5-1994)

## **7-5-2: DRIVER'S LICENSE REQUIRED:**

It shall be unlawful for any person to drive or operate a golf cart who is not a licensed motor vehicle driver and whose license is not valid at the time of operating or driving a golf cart. (Ord. 641, 4-5-1994)

## **7-5-3: EQUIPMENT; PLACES OF OPERATION:**

- A. Equipment: No golf cart shall be operated in the city unless it is equipped with the following:
1. Brake: At least one brake which may be operated by hand or foot and at least one parking brake. Such brakes may be controlled by one mechanism but if in one mechanism, the brake must be capable of being locked on for parking purposes.
  2. Muffler: If the golf cart is propelled by an internal combustion engine, it must have a muffler in good working order and in constant operation to prevent excessive or unusual noise and annoying smoke; no person shall use a muffler cutout, bypass or similar device. (Ord. 641, 4-5-1994)
- B. Places Of Operation:

1. a. Except as authorized herein, no golf cart shall be driven or operated on the streets, sidewalks, alleys, easements, or land owned by the city, in any area of the city that is outside of the following described approximate square mile, in which the Cherry Lane golf course is located: North of the north street right of way line of Cherry Lane; east of the east street right of way line of Black Cat Road; south of the south street right of way line of Ustick Road; west of the west street right of way line of Ten Mile Road.

b. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the operator of Cherry Lane golf course and its employees, shall be allowed to operate its equipment on city streets while in transit from the storage equipment area to the golf course.

2. Except as allowed in subsection B1b of this section, no golf carts shall be driven or operated on, or in, the right of way of Cherry Lane, Black Cat Road, Ustick Road, or Ten Mile Road.

3. Golf carts may be operated on the streets, alleys, easements within the city, or land owned by the city, within the parcel of land described in subsection B1 of this section, but not on the roads and streets set forth in subsection B2 of this section and not on the sidewalks, except as set forth in subsection [7-5-4A](#) of this chapter. Golf carts may not be operated or be driven in any area that has been posted by the city with a notice that prohibits such operation at the location described in the notice.

4. The residents within Meadow Lake village subdivision shall be allowed to operate golf carts to travel within the subdivision, which is located south of Franklin Road, east of Eagle Road, and north of the I-84.

5. Golf carts may be operated or driven on privately owned land or premises. (Ord. 04-1092, 8-3-2004)

#### **7-5-4: GOLF CART OPERATION REGULATIONS:**

A. Driving On Sidewalks: It shall be unlawful to drive, operate or park a golf cart on any sidewalk in the city, unless traversing the sidewalk for purposes of going to or from the road or street to a home or from the home to the road or street.

B. Speed: It shall be unlawful to operate a golf cart at a speed in excess of fifteen (15) miles per hour.

C. Driving While Under The Influence Of Alcohol Or Drugs: It shall be unlawful to drive or operate a golf cart while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

D. Careless Driving: It shall be unlawful to operate a golf cart carelessly or heedlessly, or without due caution and circumspection or at a speed or in a manner as to endanger or be likely to endanger any person or property.

E. Conformance With Traffic Controls: All golf carts shall conform to all vehicular traffic controls.

F. Abide By Traffic Laws: All golf carts shall abide by all traffic laws, rules and regulations.

G. Liability Insurance Required: All owners of golf carts shall have liability insurance on all their golf carts; it shall be unlawful not to have such liability insurance. (Ord. 641, 4-5-1994)

#### **7-5-5: PENALTY:**

Any person convicted of a violation of this chapter shall be guilty of an infraction, punishable by a fine of twenty five dollars (\$25.00), exclusive of court costs. (Ord. 04-1092, 8-3-2004)