



**OELWEIN POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF OELWEIN, IOWA  
MEMORANDUM**

**FROM:** Jeremy P. Logan, Chief of Police

**DATE:** August 24, 2022

**TO:** City Administrator Dylan Mulfinger – Mayor Brett DeVore – Oelwein City Council

**SUBJECT: Golf Cart Ordinance Proposal**

I would like to again take this opportunity to provide some guidance and a recommendation in reference to the consideration of a golf cart ordinance, for road use, in the city of Oelwein. Please note that when I provide an opinion or recommendation that is contrary to the considered direction of the council, that opinion or recommendation is based upon experience and research on the issue, and not out of a desire to be an obstacle.

I have previously expressed concerns about golf carts not being designed or intended for road use. I stand by that position.

In addition to the details provided in my memo to council on June 2, 2022 (which is attached for review and consideration), I have concerns that the proposed ordinance does not require any forward or rear lighting (headlamps, brake lamps, etc...). I recognize that the golf carts are limited to sunrise to sunset operation, however, daytime running lights are a safety measure that would assist all of our motoring public. Additionally, brake lamps and tail lamps are imperative for safe operation. While I stand opposed to legalizing the use of golf carts in our community, should the council move forward, these lighting issues should be addressed.

Also in my June 2, 2022, memo, I direct council's attention to Iowa Code 321.247 that restricts golf carts from being utilized on any roadway that is a primary extension through a city. Because of that restriction, we would be required to prohibit use on a number of roadways. The current ordinance proposal does not provide those restrictions. Cities are allowed to make an Iowa law more restrictive, but they cannot make them less restrictive.

I again respectfully request that the Oelwein City Council table consideration of a golf cart ordinance to allow our community to implement and practice the UTV ordinance, while considering if the lack of safety devices on a golf cart is worth the risk of allowing them on the roadway.

Thank you for your consideration.



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MEMORANDUM**

**FROM:** Jeremy P. Logan, Chief of Police

**DATE:** June 2, 2022

**TO:** City Administrator Dylan Mulfinger – Mayor Brett DeVore – Oelwein City Council

**SUBJECT: Golf Cart Ordinance Proposal**

I would like to take this opportunity to provide some guidance and a recommendation the consideration of a golf cart ordinance, for road use, in the city of Oelwein. Please note that when I provide an opinion or recommendation that is contrary to the considered direction of the council, that opinion or recommendation is based upon experience and research on the issue, and not out of a desire to be an obstacle.

Golf carts are not designed nor are they intended for road use. I recognize the convenience of use, the reduction of gas usage, and the entertainment that can be created driving a golf cart from place to place. However, golf carts, in general, are not designed with the safety features that a motor vehicle or a UTV are. These devices are considered a slower moving vehicle and lack the general speed, safety belts, lighting, and roll over protections that a car, truck, or UTV provide.

As important is Iowa Code 321.247 that restricts golf carts from being utilized on any roadway that is a primary extension through a city. Because of that restriction, we would be required to prohibit use on a number of roadways. I point this out because of the confusion that will be created for our community members by restricting golf carts on certain roadways, but not UTV's (other than state highways). The UTV ordinance will be in effect on July 1, 2022, and there will be a learning curve with this ordinance. By potentially implementing another alternative apparatus on the roadway at the same time as the UTV implementation, we will be tasking our officers with addressing an additional issue that will frustrate citizens as they are approached and warned/cited for violations that they are confused about.

I respectfully request that the Oelwein City Council table consideration of a golf cart ordinance to allow our community to implement and practice the UTV ordinance, while considering if the lack of safety devices on a golf cart is worth the risk of allowing them on the roadway.

Thank you for your consideration.