
CITY OF PORT LAVACA

MEETING: August 25, 2025 **AGENDA ITEM** _____

DATE: 08.25.2025

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: DERRICK SMITH, DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Discuss allowing the limited operation of golf carts and neighborhood vehicles on public streets.

There has been a request regarding the City of Port Lavaca allowing golf carts, recreational off-highway vehicles and utility vehicles to operate on public streets. The thought is that it would give our coastal city a more relaxing and laid back coastal feel. This feel would help intise tourist to visit our city.

After reviewing other coastal municipal ordinances, these cities permit golf carts and neighborhood electric vehicles as long as they comply with the following:

- (1) headlamps;
- (2) taillamps;
- (3) reflectors;
- (4) parking brake; and
- (5) mirrors.

These requirements are the minimum standards set by state statutes. Some cities further require the following:

- (1) Front and rear reflectors;
- (2) Rearview mirrors;
- (3) Turn signal lights;
- (4) "slow moving vehicle" reflective triangle affixed to the rear;
- (5) Seat belts; and
- (6) A flag on a six-foot pole affixed to the rear.

A few cities permit recreational off-highway vehicles and utility vehicles to be operated on public streets as long as they are also be equipped with:

- (1) A brake system maintained in good operating condition;
- (2) An adequate muffler system in good working condition; and
- (3) A United States Forest Service qualified spark arrester.

Golf Carts, neighborhood electric vehicles, off-highway vehicles, and utility vehicles are commonly restricted to public streets where the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less. Some municipalities do allow such vehicles to be driven across intersections of streets and highways that have a posted speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour.

Any person operating such vehicles shall have a valid driver's license and may require the operator to maintain financial responsibility. Operators must abide by all state and local traffic regulations applicable to vehicular traffic. And, vehicles shall operate or park on a sidewalk, bike trails, or in parks where motor vehicles are prohibited.