

State of Minnesota  
County of Watonwan

ORDINANCE 039, 4<sup>TH</sup> SERIES

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 72 OF THE ST. JAMES CITY CODE BY  
REPEALING AND REPLACING §72.35 THROUGH §72.37 RELATING TO THE  
OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS

The City of St. James does ordain:

**Section 1.** Title VII of the City Code is amended by repealing and replacing Chapter §72.35 through §72.37 to read as follows:

**§ 72.35 OPERATION AUTHORIZED.** ~~Operation of motorized golf carts is hereby authorized on the roadways of all streets, except such as are prohibited by resolution of the Council, and only in strict compliance with this subchapter.~~

(A) Motorized golf carts are authorized for operation on city streets and alleys except those streets prohibited by resolution of the City Council and only in compliance with this chapter and applicable state law.

(B) No person shall operate a golf cart on a city street or alley without first obtaining a permit issued under this section.

**§ 72.36 PERMITS.** ~~Permits shall be issued only to handicapped persons, as defined by statute. Application for a permit to operate a motorized golf cart on the roadways of streets shall include the name, and address, of the applicant, and other information as may, from time to time, be required by the Council. Applications for initial, or renewal, permits shall be accompanied by a certificate signed by a physician stating that the applicant is capable of safely operating a motorized golf cart on the roadway of streets. All permits shall expire on December 31, unless renewed. The fee for a permit shall be fixed by resolution of the Council.~~

(A) Permit Required. The owner and operator of a motorized golf cart shall obtain a permit prior to operating the golf cart on any city street or alley.

(B) Application. Applications shall be submitted on a form approved by the City and shall include:

- a. Date of application;
- b. Applicant's name and address;
- c. Description of the golf cart;
- d. Proof of current liability insurance;
- e. Applicant's signature; and
- f. Any additional information required by the City.

(C) Issuing Authority. The City Clerk-Treasurer or designee shall administer this section and may issue a permit upon determining the applicant has complied with the requirements of the chapter. A city-issued permit decal (placard) shall be issued for each approved golf cart.

(D) Permit Term. Permits shall be valid for a period not to exceed one (1) year and shall expire as established by the city. Permits must be renewed annually.

The permit decal (placard) shall be displayed in an unobstructed location on the front of the golf cart and shall remain clearly whenever operated on a city street and alley.

The permit fee shall be established by resolution of the city council in the city's adopted fee schedule.

(E) Medical Exemption. Notwithstanding subsection (G), an applicant who is unable to operate a motor vehicle due to medical condition may be issued a gold cart if the applicant:

- a. Provides a written statement from a licensed physician certifying that the applicant is medically capable of safely operating a golf cart;
- b. Meets all other requirements of this chapter, including proof of liability insurance; and
- c. Complies with all operational restrictions contained in this chapter.

Issuance of a permit under this subsection shall be at the discretion of the City Clerk-Treasurer or designee.

(F) Permit Revocation. A permit may be suspended or revoked at any time where there is evidence that:

- a. The permit holder is unable to safely operate the golf cart;
- b. The permit holder no longer qualifies under the provisions of this chapter;
- c. The permit holder has been convicted of two (2) or more violations of this section within a 365-day period; or
- d. The permit holder otherwise violates the provisions of this chapter.

(G) Appeal. Any person whose permit has been suspended or revoked may appeal by filing a written notice with the City Clerk-Treasurer within five (5) business days after receiving notice of revocation.

The city council shall hear the appeal at its next regularly scheduled meeting. The decision of the city council shall be final.

**§72.37 UNLAWFUL ACTS OPERATING REQUIREMENTS.** It is unlawful for any person to operate a motorized golf cart on the roadway of a street unless:

- (A) ~~The operator has, in possession, a valid, current, and unrevoked permit from the city;~~
- (B) ~~The operation is on a roadway which has not been designated as prohibited for the operation, except crossing at an intersection;~~
- (C) ~~The operation is during daylight hours between sunrise and sunset;~~
- (D) ~~The operation is not during inclement weather, or when visibility is impaired by weather, smoke, fog, or other conditions, or when there is insufficient light to clearly see persons, or vehicles, thereon at a distance of 500 feet;~~

- (E) ~~The motorized golf cart displays a slow moving vehicle emblem, as described by statute, on the rear thereof;~~
- (F) ~~The operator has insurance coverage, as provided by statute (presently M.S. § 65B.48, subd. 5, as it may be amended from time to time) for motorcycles; and~~
- (G) ~~The operator observes all traffic laws, except such as cannot reasonably be applied to motorized golf carts.~~

No person shall operate a motorized golf cart upon a city street or alley unless all of the following requirements are met:

- (A) The operator possesses a valid city-issued golf cart permit.
- (B) Except as provided under §72.36(E), the operator possesses a valid driver's license.
- (C) The golf cart displays the city-issued permit decal (placard).
- (D) The golf cart displays a slow-moving vehicle emblem meeting requirements of Minnesota Statutes §169.522.
- (E) The golf cart is equipped with:
  - a. Rearview mirror;
  - b. Front running lights; and
  - c. Rear running lights.
- (F) The operator maintains personal injury and liability insurance for operation of the golf cart and shall provide proof of insurance upon request by a law enforcement officer.
- (G) Operation is limited to daylight hours between sunrise and sunset.
- (H) Golf carts shall not be operated during inclement weather, except during emergency conditions, or whenever visibility is impaired by weather, smoke, fog, or other conditions, or when visibility is less than five hundred (500) feet.
- (I) Golf carts shall not be operated at a speed greater than fifteen (15) miles per hour, or greater than ten (10) miles per hour while transporting a child under ten (10) years of age.
- (J) All passengers shall occupy a designated seat while the golf cart is in motion. Lap seating is prohibited.
- (K) Children under five (5) years of age shall be properly restrained in an approved child restraint system or safety belt as required by Minnesota law.
- (L) Golf carts may only operate on city streets and alleys located within the corporate limits of the City of St. James.
- (M) Golf carts may cross county roads or state highways only for the purpose of crossing to another city street or alley where such crossing can be made safely.

(N) Operation of a golf cart on Minnesota Trunk Highway 4 is prohibited except for crossing the highway at an authorized intersection.

(O) Golf carts shall not be operated on sidewalks, trails, or within city parks unless specifically authorized by the city.

(P) Operators shall obey all applicable traffic laws except those provisions that by their nature cannot reasonably apply to motorized golf carts.

**§72.38 PENALTIES.** Any person who violates any provision of this chapter shall be subject to the penalties provided in §10.99 of the St. James City Code.

**Section 2. Effective Date.** The effective date of this ordinance shall be effective upon passage, approval, and publication according to law.

First Reading: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Reading: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Publication: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Ordinance Takes Effect: \_\_\_\_\_

Adopted by the City Council this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Christopher Whitehead, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kristin K. Hurley, City Clerk