

Chapter 6

GOLF CARTS AND UTILITY TRAIL VEHICLES (UTVs)

6-6-1: PURPOSE:

The purpose of this chapter is to permit the operation of golf carts, as authorized by section 321.247 of the Code of Iowa, as amended, and "UTVs" (utility vehicles), on certain streets in the City. This chapter applies whenever a golf cart or UTV is operated on any City street or alley, subject to those exceptions stated herein.

6-6-2: DEFINITIONS:

1. **GOLF CART:** Means a four (4) wheeled recreational vehicle generally used for the transportation of person(s) in the sport of golf, that is limited in engine displacement to less than eight hundred (800) cubic centimeters (or the electric equivalent) and total dry weight of less than eight hundred (800) pounds. Note that a vehicle with appearance of a "golf cart" but satisfying the requirements of 49 CFR 572.500 (i.e., is a "low speed vehicle") is not subject to this chapter but rather to the Code of Iowa 321.381A.

2. **UTV:** Means a motorized vehicle, with not less than four (4) nonhighway tires that is limited in engine displacement to less than one thousand five hundred (1,500) cubic centimeters and in total - highway dry weight to not more than two thousand (2,000) pounds and that has a seat that is of bucket or bench design not intended to be straddled by the operator, a steering wheel or control levers for control, and is equipped with a bed or cargo box for hauling materials. Vehicles designed for the primary purpose of recreation, such as dune buggies and recreational side by sides, shall not fit this definition and are not allowed under this section. The Chief of Police shall have the final say on whether a vehicle meets this definition.

6-6-3: OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS AND UTVs PERMITTED:

Golf carts and UTVs may be operated upon the streets of the City by persons possessing a valid operator's license and at least eighteen (18) years of age, as long as the golf cart/UTV possesses a valid City of Knoxville permit and all other requirements of this chapter are met.

6-6-4: REQUIRED EQUIPMENT: Golf carts and UTVs operated upon City streets shall be equipped with at least the following:

1. An unobstructed retro-reflective slow moving vehicle sign that meets ASAE standard S276.5 or newer.
2. An orange safety flag, the top of which shall be a minimum of five feet (5') above the ground level.
3. Valid liability insurance covering the golf cart and/or UTV in the same limits as required of automobiles by the financial responsibility provisions of chapter 321A of the Code of Iowa.
4. A valid City of Knoxville permit.

6-6-5: HOURS OF OPERATION:

Golf carts and UTVs may be operated on City streets only between sunrise and sunset. Golf carts and UTVs owned and operated by any governmental entity or school district are exempt from these time restrictions when used in the performance of their duties.

6-6-6: SPEED:

Golf carts and UTVs shall be subject to posted speed limits.

6-6-7: PASSENGERS:

No person may ride on a golf cart or UTV on any portion not designed to carry passengers. No person may stand on or ride in the cargo area of a golf cart or UTV while it is in motion. Each person riding must be in their own seat. No more than three (3) people may ride on a bench seat. If seatbelts are available, they must be used by all occupants. No person may ride on the lap of another.)

6-6-8: OPERATION:

A. Operation:

1. Except as noted otherwise, therein, any person operating a golf cart or UTV on City streets or alleys shall adhere to all traffic signs and signals, all other City of Knoxville and State of Iowa traffic rules and regulations, and shall obey the orders and direction of any law enforcement officer authorized to direct or regulate traffic or the direction of a Fire Department officer during a fire.

2. This chapter forbids the operation of golf carts and UTVs on:

a. Any recreational, bike or walking trail unless the trail is specifically designed to allow the use of motor vehicles.

b. Sidewalks.

c. City parks or any other land owned by the City, unless permission is granted by the City Council.

d. Private property without the consent of the property owner.

e. Primary road extensions through the City limits, however, golf carts and UTVs may cross these roads at approximately a ninety degree (90°) angle after yielding the right-of-way to cross traffic. The primary road extension for the City of Knoxville is Lincoln St. (Highway 14). Golf carts and UTVs owned and operated by any governmental entity or school district are exempt from this restriction when used in the performance of their duties.

3. Street etiquette:

a. Except when executing a left turn, golf carts and UTVs shall be driven as close as practical to the right-hand edge of any street or alley.

b. When necessary to prevent congestion of traffic, golf carts and UTVs shall be pulled to the right-hand edge of streets and be stopped to allow other motor vehicles traveling in the same direction to pass.

c. When two (2) or more golf carts or UTVs are being operated in the same direction and general vicinity on a City street or alley, they shall proceed in single file.

6-6-9: PERMITS:

Golf carts and UTVs must be registered with the City of Knoxville before operating on any public street or alley.

A. Permits:

1. A permit shall be issued once the owner has provided the following:

a. Proof that the owner has liability insurance covering operation of a golf cart or UTV on City streets with limits of liability at least as great as those required by the Code of Iowa chapter 321A.1(11) as amended.

b. Inspection and approval by the Police Department of the City of Knoxville.

2. Any golf cart or UTV operated on the City streets shall display the City of Knoxville permit sticker prominently on the left rear of the vehicle.

3. The application for a golf cart and/or UTV permit shall be made upon an application form made available by the Knoxville Police Department. All applications shall uniquely identify the name(s) and address(es) of the owner, or the owner's agent, the owner's address, or bona fide place of business, and phone number. The application shall also include a description of the golf cart or UTV and shall be for a specific golf cart or UTV, as evidenced by its serial number.

4. The fee for such permits shall be twenty five dollars (\$25.00) per year. The fee will not be prorated for permits purchased during the year. The fee will not be refunded if the golf cart or UTV is sold, or the permit is suspended or revoked.

5. All permits will expire on December 31 of each year. Permits may be purchased at any time during the Knoxville Police Department business hours.

6. The permit may be suspended or revoked by the Chief of Police if more than three (3) violations occur in any twelve (12) month period.

7. Businesses selling golf carts or UTVs are exempt from having to obtain permits, unless the vehicle is being used for general transportation and not as a test vehicle.

8. UTVs must comply with all applicable State regulations. (Ord. 18-03, 2-19-2018)

6-6-10: VIOLATION AND PENALTY:

A. A violation of this chapter shall be considered a simple misdemeanor.

B. Any person who is found to have violated this chapter shall be subject to a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00) plus surcharge and costs. A court appearance shall not be required if the fine is paid in full prior to the date set for the person's court appearance. (Ord. 18-03, 2-19-2018)