

CHAPTER 77

12/23/20

GOLF CARTS

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77.01 PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to permit the operation of golf carts on streets in the City as authorized by Section 321.247 of the Code of Iowa. This chapter applies whenever a golf cart is operated on any street or alley.

77.02 DEFINITIONS. “*Golf cart*” means a four wheeled recreational vehicle generally used for transportation of person(s) in the sport of golf that is either electric powered or gas powered with an engine displacement of less than 300 cubic centimeters, and a total dry weight of less than 800 pounds.

77.03 OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS PERMITTED. Golf carts may be operated upon the streets of the City by persons possessing a valid driver’s license, except as prohibited in Section 77.05 of this chapter.

77.04 PROHIBITED STREETS, SIDEWALKS, PARKING, AND PARKS. Golf carts shall not be operated upon any City street which is a primary road extension through the City. However, golf carts may cross such a primary road extension. Golf carts shall not be allowed on 9th Street, 13th Street, Locust Street, or any portion of Abbott Drive. Golf carts shall not be operated upon the public sidewalk, trail, or that portion of the street located between the curb line and the sidewalk or property line commonly referred to as the “parking.” Golf carts shall not be operated in or on any park, playground, trail, or upon any publicly owned property. Golf carts may park in designated public parking areas.

77.05 UNLAWFUL OPERATION.

1. No golf carts shall be operated or parked upon City sidewalks or trails.
2. All state motor vehicle laws apply.
3. No person shall operate a golf cart in a careless, reckless, or negligent manner endangering the person or property of another or causing injury or damage to same.
4. No golf cart shall carry more passengers than golf cart was designed for by manufacturer.

77.06 EQUIPMENT. Golf carts operated upon City streets shall be equipped with a minimum of the following safety features:

1. A regulation (16”) slow moving vehicle sign displayed on the rear of the vehicle.
2. A regulation visible bicycle safety flag (a flag with an area of not less than six (6) by nine (9) inches of fluorescent orange color on a staff holder to put such flag at least five (5) feet above the surface of the street) at all times during operation.

3. Shall be equipped with adequate brakes.
4. Rear view mirror – driver’s side.

77.07 HOURS OF OPERATION. Golf carts may be operated on City streets only between sunrise and sunset.

77.08 SPEED. No golf cart shall be operated on any City street at a speed in excess of fifteen (15) miles per hour. Posted speed limits must be followed in accordance with the Code of Iowa.

77.09 PARKING PROHIBITED. Golf carts shall not be parked on City streets or alleys at any time.

77.10 PERMITS. No person shall operate a golf cart on any public street or alley, for any purpose, unless the owner possesses a City of Carter Lake permit to operate a golf cart on City streets, issued by the Police Department.

1. Golf cart owners may apply for a permit from the Carter Lake Police Department on forms provided by the City.
2. The Police Department shall not issue a permit until the owner has provided the following:
 - a. Evidence that the owner/operator is at least 16 years of age and possesses a valid Iowa driver’s license.
 - b. Proof that owner and operator have liability insurance covering operation of golf carts on City streets in the amount required by Iowa Code.
3. All permits shall be issued for a specific golf cart. Permit holders will be issued a number and sticker to affix to the left side rear fender or similar component and said sticker must be visible at all times.
4. The fee for such permits shall be Twenty dollars (\$20.00). Permits will be granted for one (1) year valid from May 1 through April 30 each year. Permits may be purchased at any time during the year but will be valid only through April 30.
5. The permit may be suspended or revoked upon finding evidence that the permit holder has violated the conditions of the permit or has abused the privilege of being a permit holder. There will be no refund of the permit fee.
6. If an under-age unlicensed person is operating a golf cart, the Police Department shall issue one warning citation to the parent or guardian of the under-age unlicensed person. The warning shall be signed by the parent or guardian and returned to the Police Department within seven (7) days of issuance. Upon the second occurrence, the operator and/or parent or guardian will be cited under Section 77.05 with penalties set forth in Section 77.11 and shall be required to appear in court. The permit for the golf cart shall be automatically revoked.

77.11 PENALTY. In addition to the suspension or revocation of the permit, any person who violates this chapter shall be fined \$300.00.