

***AMENDED MOTORIZED GOLF CART ORDINANCE***

**ADOPTED:**

**The county board of Murray County ordains that the Murray County Golf Cart Ordinance adopted September 9, 2021 be amended to read as follows:**

**§ 1.01 AUTHORIZATION.**

Motorized golf carts may be operated within the county only on designated roadways pursuant to a permit issued under this ordinance. This ordinance does not authorize the operation of golf carts on state or federal highways within the county or on any roadways within incorporated cities without a city permit and in accordance with applicable city ordinances.

**§ 1.02 DEFINITIONS.**

For the purpose of this ordinance, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

***DESIGNATED ROADWAYS.*** The roadways, designated by resolution of the County Board, on which motorized golf carts may be operated by permit.

***MOTORIZED GOLF CART.*** A self-propelled vehicle of the type and style designed for and commonly used by patrons of golf courses and that is not capable of exceeding speeds of 20 miles per hour, but excluding vehicles commonly known as all-terrain vehicles or ATVs, golf carts with increased power, wheelbase, or tire modifications, speed-modified golf carts or “hybrid” golf carts.

***PERMIT.*** A permit issued by the county under this ordinance, allowing for operation of a motorized golf cart on designated roadways in the County.

***PERSON.*** A natural person.

**§ 1.03 PERMIT REQUIRED.**

- (A) Motorized golf carts shall not be operated on roadways in the county except by a person holding a valid driver’s license.
- (B) When operating a motorized golf cart, a person must display a valid permit on the rear left-hand side of the golf cart.

**§ 1.04 PERMIT APPLICATIONS.**

- (A) Application forms for permits shall be obtained from the Murray County Sheriff’s Office.
- (B) Each application shall include at least the following information and documentation:
  - (1) Date of application;
  - (2) Full name and address of applicant;
  - (3) Full name and address of the owner of the motorized golf cart, if other than the applicant;

- (4) Make, model and identification or serial number of the motorized golf cart to be operated under the permit;
  - (5) A satisfactory certificate of insurance complying with Minnesota Statutes section 65B.48, subd. 5, and with any other insurance required by Minnesota Statutes section 169.045;
  - (6) Telephone numbers;
  - (7) Driver's license number;
  - (8) Date of birth;
  - (9) Such additional and further information as the County may deem necessary or appropriate to process the application.
- (C) The application must be accompanied by payment of a permit fee as set by the County Board.

**§ 1.05 GRANTING OR DENYING PERMITS.**

- (A) The Murray County Sheriff's Office may grant a permit to applicants satisfactorily providing all information required by this ordinance.
- (B) The Murray County Sheriff's Office may deny an application, in whole or in part, for public safety reasons, including, but not limited to, the following:
- (1) The application or documentation submitted in support of the application is incomplete or contains false, fraudulent or deceptive statements;
  - (2) The applicant does not have a valid driver's license;
  - (3) The applicant cannot safely operate a motorized golf cart on roadways in the county;
  - (4) Information or documentation required by any other applicable law has not been filed with the Murray County Sheriff's Office;
  - (5) The applicant does not qualify for a permit.
- (C) The Murray County Sheriff's Office may issue a permit subject to special conditions, if it determines that the applicant does not otherwise qualify for a permit, or that such conditions are necessary to ensure public safety.
- (D) For public safety considerations, a permit issued under this ordinance also may:
- (1) Limit operation of the motorized golf cart to use on only specific roads within the group of designated roadways;
  - (2) Prohibit operation on certain designated streets during specified times, dates, or occasions.

**§ 1.06 DISPLAY OF PERMIT REQUIRED.**

A person operating a motorized golf cart by permit must display the permit at all times when operating the motorized golf cart and shall produce a valid driver's license upon demand of a peace officer.

**§ 1.07 OPERATION REGULATIONS.**

Motorized golf carts operated pursuant to permit on designated streets must also comply with the following:

- (A) The operator must have and possess a current, valid, driver's license.
- (B) The motorized golf cart may be operated only between sunrise and sunset.
- (C) The motorized golf cart shall not be operated during inclement weather; nor when visibility is impaired by weather, smoke, fog, or other conditions; nor at any time when there is insufficient light to clearly see persons in vehicles on the roadway at a distance of 500 feet.
- (D) The motorized golf cart must display the slow moving vehicle emblem provided for in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 169.
- (E) All rights and duties applicable to the driver of any other vehicle shall apply to the driver of a motorized golf cart. Every person operating a motorized golf cart in Murray County shall comply with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 169 and local traffic ordinances and laws, except those provisions that cannot reasonably be applied to the motorized golf cart or which relate to vehicle equipment.
- (F) The motorized golf cart shall be equipped with a mirror so located as to reflect to the driver a view of the highway for a distance of at least 200 feet to the rear of the vehicle.
- (G) Motorized golf carts shall not be operated on public sidewalks.

**§ 1.08 REVOCATION, SUSPENSION OR MODIFICATION OF PERMITS.**

- (A) Permits may be revoked or temporarily suspended by the Murray County Sheriff's Office if there is evidence that:
  - (1) The application for permit contained false or misleading information or documentation;
  - (2) A violation has occurred as provided in section 1.08(B) below, regardless of whether the violation resulted in a conviction;
  - (3) The insurance required by law for a permit is no longer in effect.

- (B) The Murray County Sheriff's Office may administratively revoke, modify or temporarily suspend a permit if there is evidence satisfactory to the County that a permit holder has committed, permitted or otherwise allowed:
- (1) A violation of any provision of this ordinance;
  - (2) Conduct constituting a misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor, or felony offense involving the operation of a vehicle;
  - (3) A violation of any special conditions of the permit.
- (C) A revocation, modification or suspension shall be effective when notice of the same is personally delivered to the permit holder or mailed by first class mail to the permit holder at the address stated in the permit application.

#### § 1.09 APPEAL.

- (A) **APPEAL FROM DENIAL.** If an application for a permit is denied the applicant has a right to appeal the denial to the County Board by filing a written notice of appeal with the County Administrator within 5 days after the applicant is notified of the denial.
- (B) **APPEAL FROM REVOCATION, MODIFICATION, OR SUSPENSION.** Any permit holder may appeal a revocation, modification or suspension to the County Board, by a written notice of appeal submitted to the County Administrator within 15 days of the effective date of the revocation, modification or suspension.
- (C) **HEARING.** The County Board will hold a hearing in the County Commissioner's Room within 30 days after the written notice of appeal was filed. The County Board shall provide appellant with notice of the date and time of the hearing at least 7 days prior to the hearing.
- (D) **DECISION.** The County Board shall decide the appeal by majority vote. The decision shall be made immediately following the hearing and shall be final.

#### § 1.10 PERMIT TERM.

- (A) Permits shall be issued for a period not to exceed one year and may be annually renewed.
- (B) Valid, unexpired permits issued under the previous ordinance shall remain valid for the remainder of the period for which they were originally issued. Persons holding such valid, non-expired permits shall present them to the Murray County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office shall confirm that the permit remains valid and shall issue a new permit to be affixed to the golf cart as required by this ordinance at no additional cost.
- (C) Permit holders who are members of the same household and who obtained individual permits for operation of the same golf cart in 2022 may present and surrender those permits to the Murray County Sheriff's Office no later than December 31, 2022 to obtain a new permit to be affixed to the golf cart as required by this amended ordinance at no additional cost. The Auditor's Office shall issue and mail a refund of the permit fees previously paid that exceed the current permit fee established by the county board per golf cart for the surrendered permits.

**§ 1.11 PENALTY.**

(A) Except as provided in § 1.11(B) below, violations of this ordinance are petty misdemeanors and subject to the maximum penalty for petty misdemeanors as provided by Minnesota law.

(B) Violations of this ordinance that are:

(1) Committed under circumstances that endanger, or that are likely to endanger, persons or property are misdemeanors; or


(2) Committed within 12 months of a conviction for a prior violation

are misdemeanors and subject to the maximum penalty for misdemeanors as provided by Minnesota law.

**Adopted**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Molly Malone, Chair**  
**Murray County Board of Commissioners**

**Attest:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Carolyn McDonald**  
**Murray County Administrator**

