

TOWN OF MAURICE ORDINANCE NO.: 26-2
AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE USE OF GOLF CARTS
IN THE TOWN OF MAURICE

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Maurice, Louisiana, acting as the governing authority of said Town do hereby enact the above ordinance regulating the use of golf carts in the town of Maurice as follows:

Article I: Use of golf carts

(a) *Statement of need and purpose.*

(1) The purpose of this article shall be to establish a golf cart ordinance within the municipality to promote the health, safety, and welfare of persons operating carts within the municipality and to protect the safety of their passengers and other users of roads.

(2) The establishment of a golf cart ordinance is necessary to address the interests of public safety. Golf carts are not designed or manufactured to be used on public streets, roads, and highways, hereinafter "roads," and the municipality in no way advocates or endorses their operation on roads. The adoption of this article is not to be relied upon as a determination that operation on roads is safe or advisable if done in accordance with this article. All people who operate or ride upon carts on the roads do so at their own risk and peril and must be observant of and attentive to the safety of themselves and others, including their passengers, other motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians. Any person who operates a cart must procure liability insurance pursuant to La R.S. 32:900B.

(b) *Definitions.* The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this section, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this subsection, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

DOTD means the department of transportation and development.

Driver means every person who drives or physically controls a golf cart as defined herein.

Golf cart means an electric motorized pleasure vehicles capable of traveling a maximum speed of not more than 25 miles per hour on a straight and level surface.

Highway means the entire width between the boundary lines of every way or place of whatever nature publicly maintained and open to the use of the public for the purpose of vehicular travel, including bridges, causeways, tunnels, and ferries; synonymous with the term "street".

Local municipal authority means every council, commission, or other board given authority by the constitution and laws of the state to govern the affairs of the municipality.

Municipality means an incorporated village, town or municipality created under the authority of the constitution or laws of this state.

Operator means every person, who drives or is in actual physical control of a motor vehicle upon a highway or who is exercising control over or steering a vehicle being towed by a motor vehicle.

Owner means a person who holds a legal title to a golf cart or, in the event of such, are the subject of an agreement for the conditional sale, lease, or transfer of possession thereof with the right of purchase upon the performance of the conditions stated in the agreement, with the right of immediate possession in the vendee, lessee, possessor, or in the event such similar transaction is had by means of mortgage and the mortgagor of a vehicle is entitled to possession, then the conditional vendee, lessee, possessor, or mortgagor shall be deemed the owner for the purposes of this article.

Police officer means every officer authorized to direct or regulate traffic or to make arrests for violations of traffic regulations.

Private road or driveway means every way or place in private ownership and used for vehicular travel by the owner and those having express or implied permission from the owner, but not by other persons.

Right-of-way means the privilege of the immediate use of the highway.

Roadway means that portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular traffic, exclusive of the shoulder. A divided highway has two or more roadways.

Shoulder means the portion of the highway contiguous with the roadway for accommodation of stopped vehicles, for emergency use, pedestrian use, mobility aid use or bicyclists when other accommodations are not available, and for lateral support of base and surface.

Sidewalk means that portion of a highway between the curb lines, or the lateral lines of highway, and the adjacent property lines, intended for the use of pedestrians.

State maintained highway means any highway in the state which is contained in the state highway system as defined by law or which is maintained by the department.

Street means the entire width between the boundary lines of every way or place of whatever nature is publicly maintained and open to the use of the public for the purpose of vehicular travel, including bridges, causeways, tunnels, and ferries; synonymous with the term "highway."

Traffic means pedestrians, vehicles, and other conveyances either singly or together while using any highway for purposes of travel.

Traffic control device means all signs, signals, markings, and devices, not inconsistent with this article, placed or erected by authority of a public body or official having jurisdiction, for the purpose of regulating, warning, or guiding traffic.

Traffic control signal means a type of highway traffic signal, manually, electrically, or mechanically operated, by which traffic is alternately directed to stop and permitted to proceed.

Vehicle means every device by which persons or things may be transported upon a public highway or bridge, except devices moved by human power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks. A bicycle or a ridden animal shall be a vehicle, and a trailer or semitrailer shall be a separate vehicle.

(c) *Rules and regulations.*

(1) This article allows for the operation of golf carts, as defined herein, on public streets, roads, and pathways within the jurisdiction of the municipality and on designated future highway crossings, to be determined, as may be authorized by any statute, rule or regulation enacted by the legislature of the state or the DOTD.

(2) This article pertains to golf carts as defined herein. This article does not pertain to the operation of lawn mowers, tractors, four-wheelers, ATVs, or any other conveyance, other than those described herein.

(3) Golf carts are not generally designed to be operated and used on public streets, roads, paths, or highways. The municipality, by adopting this article, does not endorse nor advocate the use of golf carts on the public streets, road, paths, or highways within its jurisdiction.

(4) By adopting this article, the municipality is merely providing for the regulation and permitting of the operation of such vehicles by addressing public safety issues and concerns. All operators and passengers of golf carts which operate within the jurisdiction of the municipality do so at their own risk and peril.

(5) This article does not imply that operation of these vehicles on said streets, roads, paths, and highways, is safe or advisable, even if done so in compliance with this article. All operators of golf carts and their passengers must be observant of and attentive to the safety of themselves, motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, and the personal and real property of others.

(6) The municipality shall bear no liability whatsoever under any theory of liability for permitting the operation of golf carts on streets, roads, paths, or highways, under its jurisdiction as allowed by state statutes and/or special legislation enacted by the state legislature but governed by this article.

(7) Any person or persons, driving, operating or riding in or upon golf carts on the streets, roads, paths, or designated highway crossings under the jurisdiction of the municipality does so at his own risk and peril, and must drive, operate and use said vehicles with due regard for the safety and convenience of other motor vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

(8) The golf cart owner and registrant must sign a release from liability and indemnification agreement for the municipality which is as follows:

“The undersigned owner and registrant hereby agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold the municipality, its officers, agents, servants, employees, assistants, legal representatives and their heirs, executives, executors, administrators, and assigns, completely harmless from and against any and all liabilities, losses, suits, claims, judgments, fines, or demands arising by reason of injury or death of any person or damage to any property, including all reasonable costs of investigation and defense thereof, including, but not limited to, attorney fees, court costs, and expert fees, of any nature whatsoever arising out of an incident to the acts or omissions of the owner and registrant, its officers, agents, employees, contractors, subcontractors, subleases, licensees, invitees, or any third persons in the use of the owner's and registrant's golf cart, regardless of where the injury, death or damage may occur.”

(9) Golf carts may only be operated on streets, roads, paths, and designated highway paths within the municipality in accordance with the following and regulations of this article.

(10) Before golf carts can be operated on the designated streets, roads, pathways, or highways within the jurisdiction of the municipality, the owner thereof must purchase and maintain liability insurance in at least the minimum amount required by the state for a licensed motor vehicle which said vehicles. Proof of insurance must be provided to the municipality at the time of application for a permit to operate vehicles.

(11) Any person who drives, operates, or uses a golf cart in the municipality, including passengers therein or thereon, takes full responsibility for all liability associated with the operation of said vehicles. Any person who rides or sits as a passenger on a golf cart in the municipality takes full responsibility for all liability associated with such activity.

(12) Any person that drives or operates a golf cart on the streets, roads, pathways, or designated highway paths within the municipality jurisdiction shall hold a valid driver's license issued by a state and said operator shall have this driver's license on their person at all times while driving or operating said vehicles.

(13) Golf carts may be operated only on a street with a maximum speed limit of **25** miles per hour.

(14) Golf carts are not allowed to travel on state highways or on their rights-of-way or on the following roads:

- a. Maurice Ave. (US Highway 167)
- b. West Lafayette Street (LA Highway 92)
- c. Milton Ave (LA Highway 92) and
- d. East Vincent Street

(15) Golf carts may not be operated during inclement weather, including weather in which visibility is reduced or impaired by rain, snow, fog, or other conditions, nor at any time when there is insufficient light to clearly see a person or another vehicle upon the roadway at a distance of 500 feet.

(16) Any person who operates a golf cart within the municipality jurisdiction must adhere to all municipal, parish and state traffic laws, and all other laws, governing the use of, or the possession of, alcoholic beverages and controlled substances.

(17) Drivers and operators of golf carts must always yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and overtaking vehicles at all times.

(18) All passengers, including children, must be properly seated while the golf cart is in motion and shall not be transported in a negligent manner. The maximum number of people on a golf cart shall be equal to the number of seatbelts on the golf cart. There shall be no lap-riding. Only one person shall be seated in a seat allocated for one person.

(19) Golf carts shall not be allowed to operate on any municipality sidewalks.

(20) Golf carts shall be permitted to operate upon municipal streets and roadways of the Town between sunrise and 10:00 p.m. Notwithstanding the foregoing, golf carts may be operated upon municipal streets and roadways in connection with an approved event or special event authorized by the Mayor, in which case such operation shall be permitted until thirty (30) minutes following the official conclusion of the event.

(d) *Required equipment.*

(1) Golf carts must be equipped with a rear vision mirror on the exterior of the driver's side, and a mirror on the passenger side or an interior mirror capable of providing the operator with a 100 feet clear rear sight picture and must be equipped with front and rear turn signals, head lights, brake lights and seatbelts.

(2) Slow-moving vehicles must be equipped with the minimum motor vehicle equipment appropriate for vehicle safety as required in 49 CFR 571.500.

(e) *Permit, application, and revocation.*

(1) All golf carts operated within the jurisdiction of the municipality must display, on the driver's side of the front hood (cowl), a valid "permit of operation" sticker issued by the municipality Permit Department. Additionally, pursuant to LA R.S. 32:299.4 Any golf cart operated upon a parish road or municipal street shall be registered with the state of Louisiana through the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor vehicles, as an off-road vehicle and shall display a decal issued by the office of motor vehicles.

(2) The non-refundable fee for said sticker shall not exceed \$200.00 per vehicle annually, and said fee will be used for implementation and maintenance of this privilege. The permit must be renewed annually. The municipality Permit Department and/or Chief of Police or designee shall have the right to refuse to issue and/or revoke any permit sticker and may remove said sticker from any golf cart at any time and for violation of this ordinance to ensure the safety and well-being of

the citizens, and the motoring or pedestrian traffic, of the municipality. The replacement fee for a lost or unreadable permit of operation sticker shall cost **\$50.00**.

(3) Permit application form. The application form shall include the full name, address, and telephone number of the applicant; the applicant's date of birth; the applicant's driver's license information to include state of issuance and the driver's license number (a photocopy of the applicant's driver's license shall be attached to the application form); the name of the applicant's insurance company and the applicant's insurance policy number, along with the date of expiration of said policy; the date of the application; and the applicant's signature attesting to his reading and understanding and complying of the ordinances enacted municipality ordinance regulating and permitting the operation and use of golf carts within the municipality.

(4) Any "permit of operation" may be revoked by the chief of police or their designee if there is any evidence of material misrepresentation made in the permit application, if liability insurance has been revoked, suspended, expired, or is no longer in effect, or if there is any evidence that the permitted cannot safely operate a golf cart.

(5) A permit shall be subject to revocation by the Chief of Police or his designee if it is determined that the operator, or any individual permitted by the operator to operate the golf cart, holds a driver's license that has been suspended, revoked, or expired. A permit may also be revoked for any violation of this ordinance or any applicable traffic law occurring during the operation of a golf cart. The Chief of Police or his designee is authorized to impound the golf cart for any violation of this ordinance or applicable law. A revoked permit may be reissued by the Chief of Police after a period of one (1) year for a first offense, provided all requirements of this ordinance are met. Any permit revoked on two (2) occasions shall not be eligible for reissuance.

(6) The chief of police or his designee shall issue a "notice of revocation" if a permit is revoked and shall hand deliver said revocation notice to the permit holder, or the chief of police may send said notice by certified mail to the address of the applicant. The revocation shall be effective immediately upon hand delivery or three days after mailing by certified mail.

(7) Any person who violates this ordinance or any part thereof shall upon conviction be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not more than \$500.00 or a jail term of not more than thirty (30) days, or both, for each violation.

WHEREUPON, the above Ordinance was read and submitted to a vote, the vote thereon being as follows:

YEAS: Alderwoman Megan Landry Lalande, Alderman Troy Catalon, Alderman Jonathan Schlicher & Alderman Matthew Trahan

NAYS: Alderman Scott Trahan

ABSENT OR PRESENT AND NOT VOTING: None

APPROVED AND ADOPTED on this 18th day of February 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this ordinance was approved by the Board of Alderman of the Town of Maurice after the same ordinance as duly presented to, examined, considered, approved, and adopted in an open meeting on the 18th day of February 2026, at the first place written above and shall become effective upon publication.

THE TOWN OF MAURICE

**BY: s/ Mayor Neil Arsement
MAYOR NEIL ARSEMENT**

**BY: s/ Erica Arceneaux
ERICA ARCENEAUX, CLERK**

CERTIFICATE

I, Erica Arceneaux, Town Clerk of the Town of Maurice, do hereby certify that the above is a true and exact copy of an Ordinance adopted by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Maurice duly assembled in Maurice, Louisiana, on the 18th day of February 2026, at which time a quorum was present and voting.

Signed on this 18th day of February 2026, at Maurice, Vermilion Parish, Louisiana.

TOWN OF MAURICE