

ORDINANCE NO. 26-24

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS ON SPECIFIED CITY HIGHWAYS AND CLARIFYING THE OPERATION OF LOW-SPEED VEHICLES WITHIN TREMONTON CITY BY ENACTING CHAPTER 15-850 GOLF CARTS AND LOW-SPEED VEHICLES AND AMENDING CHAPTER 11-210

WHEREAS, residents of Tremonton City have expressed interest in using golf carts for short neighborhood trips on low-speed local streets; and

WHEREAS, Utah Code § 41-6a-1510 and Utah Code § 10-8-30 authorize a municipality, by ordinance, to allow a person to operate a golf cart on specified highways under the municipality's jurisdiction, provided the ordinance specifies the highways on which a golf cart may operate, who may operate a golf cart, and the hours of operation; and

WHEREAS, Utah Code § 41-6a-1510 further provides that a person may not operate a golf cart on a highway unless authorized by the municipality in which the highway is located; and

WHEREAS, Utah Code § 41-6a-1508 treats a low-speed vehicle as a motor vehicle for purposes of title, registration, driver licensing, insurance, and traffic rules, limits operation to highways posted 35 miles per hour or less except when crossing at an intersection, and authorizes a highway authority to prohibit or restrict low-speed vehicles on any highway under its jurisdiction if necessary for public safety; and

WHEREAS, Tremonton City has not previously adopted an ordinance under Utah Code § 41-6a-1510 authorizing golf carts on public highways; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance establishes Chapter 15-850 Golf Carts and Low-Speed Vehicles as depicted in Exhibit "A"; and

WHEREAS, Title 11, Chapter 11-200 of the Revised Ordinances regulates certain "motorized devices" that are not otherwise governed by State Code or other City ordinance, and should be amended so that golf carts and low-speed vehicles regulated by this ordinance are not subject to conflicting rules as depicted in Exhibit "B"; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that authorizing golf carts on low-speed local streets, while preserving statewide low-speed vehicle rules and excluding state highways and higher-speed arterials, promotes reasonable neighborhood mobility without compromising public safety; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has the authority under Utah Code Title 10, Chapter 3, and Utah Code § 10-8-30 to regulate the movement of traffic on City streets.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the City Council of Tremonton City as follows:

1. Enforcement. Every officer charged with enforcement of State and municipal laws is hereby charged with the responsibility to enforce this ordinance, and nothing in this ordinance limits charging a violation of the Utah Traffic Code or other applicable State law.

A peace officer may stop, inspect, and, when authorized by law, impound a golf cart or low-speed vehicle operated in violation of this ordinance when continued operation would create an immediate hazard.

2. Punishment. A violation of this ordinance shall be an infraction, unless a different classification is provided by State law for the same conduct, and a person convicted of a violation is subject to the fine and disposition set in the City's Consolidated Bail Schedule, as adopted by resolution of the City Council, per offense, or such other penalty as the court may lawfully impose.

3. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, or phrase of this ordinance is held invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining portions shall continue in full force and effect.

4. Conflicting Ordinances. This ordinance shall supersede any conflicting ordinance previously adopted by the City Council, and all ordinances, resolutions, or parts thereof in conflict with this ordinance are repealed to the extent of the conflict. This ordinance shall be codified into the Revised Ordinances of Tremonton City.

5. Effective Dates. This ordinance shall become effective on October 20, 2026, upon publication, and the City Recorder shall publish or post this ordinance as required by law.

A golf cart or low-speed vehicle that is not operated in compliance with this ordinance remains subject to Section 11-210 to the extent that section can apply.

PASSED AND DATED this 20th day of October 2026.

TREMONTON CITY, a Utah Municipal Corporation

Bret Rohde, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cynthia Nelson, City Recorder

Publication or Posting Date: _____

EXHIBIT A

15-850. GOLF CARTS AND LOW-SPEED VEHICLES.

15-851. Definitions.

As used in this ordinance, the following terms have the meanings given. Terms not defined here have the meanings given in Utah Code § 41-6a-102, as amended, or successor provision.

"City highway" or "highway" means a street, road, or highway under the jurisdiction of Tremonton City. It does not include a state highway, interstate, or highway under the jurisdiction of the Utah Department of Transportation or Box Elder County unless the City is the highway authority for that segment.

"Golf cart" means the same as that term is defined in Utah Code § 41-6a-102, as amended. A golf cart does not include a low-speed vehicle or an off-highway vehicle.

"Low-speed vehicle" or "LSV" means the same as that term is defined in Utah Code § 41-6a-102, as amended.

"Operator" means a person who drives or is in actual physical control of a golf cart or low-speed vehicle.

"Posted speed limit" means the speed limit established by sign or by Section 15-619 of these ordinances.

15-852. Golf Carts Authorized.

A person may operate a golf cart on a City highway only as authorized by this ordinance, and operation of a golf cart on a highway that is not a City highway authorized by this ordinance is prohibited.

Consistent with Utah Code § 41-6a-1510(3), a golf cart operated under this ordinance is exempt from titling, odometer statement, vehicle identification, license plates, and registration under Title 41, Chapter 1a, Utah Code; county motor vehicle emissions inspection and maintenance programs under Utah Code § 41-6a-1642; motor vehicle insurance under Title 41, Chapter 12a, Utah Code; driver licensing under Title 53, Chapter 3, Utah Code; and the uniform statewide fee described in Utah Code § 59-2-405.2.

The exemptions stated in this Section do not prohibit an owner from voluntarily maintaining liability insurance, and the City encourages owners to do so.

The exemption from driver licensing does not limit the City's authority under Utah Code § 41-6a-1510(1)(c)(ii) to specify who may operate a golf cart. Operator qualifications are set in Section 4 of this ordinance.

15-853. Highways on Which a Golf Cart May Operate.

A golf cart may be operated only on a City highway that has a posted speed limit of twenty-five (25) miles per hour or less.

A golf cart may cross a City highway with a posted speed limit greater than 25 miles per hour only at an intersection and only by the most direct route to reach an authorized highway.

A golf cart shall not be operated on Iowa String Road / State Route 13, Main Street where posted greater than 25 miles per hour, or any other state highway; on any City highway posted greater than 25 miles per hour, except when crossing as provided in this Section; or on any highway posted by the City as closed to golf carts.

A golf cart shall not be operated on a public sidewalk, pedestrian way, multi-use path, public trail, or public parking structure, or within a City-designated park, except on a paved park roadway posted 25 miles per hour or less and only for access to a parking area unless otherwise authorized by a city official.

The Chief of Police, Public Works Director, or City Manager may temporarily close any City highway to golf carts when necessary for a special event, construction, emergency, or public safety, with notice by sign, barricade, or public announcement, and those same officials may authorize temporary use of golf carts during a special event, construction, emergency, or public safety need.

The City Council may, by resolution, add or remove specific street segments from golf cart use if the Council finds the change is necessary for public safety; otherwise, the Chief of Police may authorize additional roadway use.

15-854. Who May Operate a Golf Cart.

No person shall operate a golf cart on a City highway unless the person is at least sixteen (16) years of age and holds a valid driver license, learner permit, or equivalent privilege issued by Utah or another state.

A person operating on a learner permit shall be accompanied by a licensed driver who is at least eighteen (18) years of age and occupying a seat beside the operator, if the golf cart is so equipped, or immediately adjacent if it is not.

No person under sixteen (16) years of age shall operate a golf cart on a City highway, and it is unlawful for a parent, guardian, or owner to knowingly allow a person to operate a golf cart in violation of this Section.

15-855. Hours of Operation - Golf Carts.

A golf cart may be operated on a City highway between civil sunrise and civil sunset, and may be operated at other hours only when equipped as required by this Section.

Nighttime, dusk, and pre-dawn operation of a golf cart on a City highway is prohibited unless the golf cart is equipped with lighting consistent with state law, to include the ability to cast light 100 feet in front of the vehicle, visible from 500 feet in front of the golf cart, tail lights and brake lights visible from 500 feet behind the golf cart, and turn signals visible from the front and behind the golf cart.

This Section does not apply to a low-speed vehicle that is equipped and registered as required by State law.

15-856. Golf Cart Equipment, Passengers, and Condition.

A golf cart operated on a City highway shall be in safe mechanical condition, with functional steering, brakes, and a parking brake or equivalent; shall display a slow-moving vehicle identification emblem that complies with SAE J943 on the rear of the vehicle if the vehicle is unable to travel at the posted speed limit; shall have a rear reflex reflector and, if factory-equipped, operational tail lamps; shall not be operated with more passengers than the number of seating positions for which the golf cart was originally manufactured; and shall not be used to carry a passenger on a lap, in a cargo area not designed as a seat, or standing on the vehicle.

Every passenger under sixteen (16) years of age shall wear a properly fitted bicycle helmet or DOT-approved helmet while the golf cart is in motion on a City highway.

Adding lights, a windshield, or similar accessories does not convert a golf cart into a low-speed vehicle. A golf cart may not be operated as a low-speed vehicle unless it independently qualifies under Utah Code § 41-6a-1508 and is titled and registered with the Utah Division of Motor Vehicles.

A golf cart that has been structurally altered from the original manufacturer's design in a manner that increases designed top speed above the manufacturer's golf-cart rating, or that converts the vehicle into an off-highway vehicle, may not be operated under this ordinance.

15-857. Traffic Rules - Golf Carts.

Subject to Utah Code § 41-6a-1510(4), a person operating a golf cart has the rights and is subject to the duties applicable to the operator of any other vehicle under Title 41, Chapter 6a, Utah Code, except that a golf cart shall comply with the same traffic-rule requirements as a bicycle, except as described in Utah Code § 41-6a-526(2) and (3).

An operator shall drive as near as practicable to the right-hand edge of the roadway, except when overtaking, preparing to turn left, or avoiding a hazard; obey all traffic-control devices, stop signs, and yield signs; yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk and on a sidewalk when crossing; not exceed the posted speed limit, and in no event operate at a speed greater than 25 miles per hour; and not impede the reasonable flow of traffic where a safe turnout exists.

Utah Code § 41-6a-526 (driving under the influence) applies to a person operating a golf cart on a highway to the extent provided by that section.

15-858. Low-Speed Vehicles.

A low-speed vehicle may be operated on a City highway only if it is titled, registered, plated, insured, and equipped as required by Utah Code § 41-6a-1508 and Title 41, Chapter 1a, Utah Code, and the operator holds a valid driver license.

Consistent with Utah Code § 41-6a-1508(5), except to cross a highway at an intersection, a low-speed vehicle shall not be operated on a highway with a posted speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour.

A low-speed vehicle shall display the slow-moving vehicle emblem required by Utah Code § 41-6a-1508(6), and a person shall not operate a low-speed vehicle that has been structurally altered from the original manufacturer's design.

The City does not, by this ordinance, impose a general prohibition on low-speed vehicles on City highways that are eligible under State law. The City Council or the highway authority may, by resolution or official traffic-control order, prohibit or restrict low-speed vehicles on a specific City highway if the prohibition or restriction is necessary for public safety, as authorized by Utah Code § 41-6a-1508(5)(b).

The hours-of-operation limits in Section 5 of this ordinance do not apply to a lawfully equipped and registered low-speed vehicle.

15-859. Prohibited Acts.

It is unlawful to operate a golf cart on a highway except as authorized by this ordinance; to operate a golf cart or low-speed vehicle in a careless, reckless, or exhibition manner; to operate a golf cart or low-speed vehicle while the operator's ability is impaired by alcohol, drugs, or any other substance to the extent prohibited by State law; to leave a golf cart unattended on a City highway with the power engaged or without setting the parking brake or equivalent; to attach a golf cart to another vehicle for towing on a City highway, except a bona fide emergency tow; or to fail to stop a golf cart or low-speed vehicle when directed by a peace officer.

Exhibit “B”

11-210. - Motorized Devices.

(1) For the purposes of this section, motorized device shall be defined as any device that is motorized and used or designed for transporting persons, and that is not governed by the provisions of State Code or other provisions of the City's ordinance. Motorized device does not include a golf cart operated under Chapter 15-800 or a low-speed vehicle operated under Utah Code § 41-6a-1508 and Chapter 15-800."

STATE OF UTAH)
: ss.
County of Box Elder)

I, CYNTHIA NELSON, the City Recorder of Tremonton, Utah, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a full and correct copy of Ordinance No. 26-24, entitled “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS ON SPECIFIED CITY HIGHWAYS AND CLARIFYING THE OPERATION OF LOW-SPEED VEHICLES WITHIN TREMONTON CITY BY ENACTING CHAPTER 15-850 GOLF CARTS AND LOW-SPEED VEHICLES AND AMENDING CHAPTER 11-210” adopted and passed by the City Council of Tremonton, Utah, at a meeting thereof on the 20th day of October 2026, which appears of record in my office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the corporate seal of the City this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Cynthia Nelson, City Recorder