Ordinance 2025/28
An Ordinance to Regulate the Operation of Golf Carts Within the City of Beaufort Pursuant to § 56-2-90 of the South Carolina Code

WHEREAS, SC Code § 56-2-90 empowers municipalities to regulate golf cart operation on public highways of 35 mph or less, designate hours, authorize night use with lighting, and create separated cart paths;

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that such regulation promotes safety and orderly traffic flow;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Beaufort, South Carolina, duly assembled and by authority thereof, that the following ordinance be adopted:

Part 8- Motor Vehicles and Traffic

Chapter 6- Golf Carts

Section 8-6001. Purpose

To regulate golf carts for safety, uniformity, and traffic management, consistent with state law.

Section 8-6002. Definitions

- **Golf Cart**: As defined in SC Code § 56-2-90.
- **Permittee**: Person holding a valid SCDMVpermit.
- **Designated Roadway**: Secondary roads as identified by the South Carolina Department of Transportation with posted speed limit of 35 mph or less.

Section 8-6003. Compliance with State and Local Requirements

All golf carts must:

1. Be registered with SCDMV, insured, and display the state-issued permit decal.
2. Be operated only by a person at least 16 years old with a valid driver's license and required documentation in possession.
3. Ensure all passengers are seat-belted.
4. Be equipped with functioning headlights, taillights, turn signals, and reflectors meeting City vehicle code.
5. Comply with any other applicable provisions of SC Code § 56-2-90 as may be updated from time to time.

Section 8-6004. Municipal Regulation of Operations

Pursuant to SC Code § 56-2-90(C), the City enacts:

4.1 Hours, Methods, and Locations

- Golf carts may operate between sunrise and sunset on Designated Roadways.
- Carts may cross intersections with speed limits greater than 35 mph only at intersections with traffic control devices or at designated crossing points.
- Operation must remain within a four-mile radius of the registered address or gated community ingress/egress.

4.2 Night Operation

- Night operation permitted on Designated Roadways if carts are equipped with functioning headlights, taillights, turn signals, and reflectors meeting City vehicle code.

4.3 Golf Cart Paths

- The City may authorize golf cart paths separated from vehicular lanes by a curb, parking strip, or at least a 4 ft buffer, subject to applicable approvals.

Section 8-6005. Enforcement

- Violations are infractions, punishable by up to $100 and/or 30 days in jail.
- Police shall first issue warnings for non-compliance, particularly seatbelt and lighting infractions until after December 31, 2025.

Section 8-6006. Severability

Invalid provisions shall not affect the remainder of the ordinance.

Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption and publication.

DONE, RATIFIED AND ENACTED this 18th day of November, 2025.

Philip E. Cromer, Mayor
City of Beaufort, South Carolina

Attest:

Traci Guldner, City Clerk
City of Beaufort, South Carolina

First Reading: October 14, 2025

Second Reading: November 18, 2025

Reviewed as to form by Benjamin T. Coppage, City Attorney.