

ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
KNOXVILLE AMENDING
CHAPTER 17, ARTICLE VII, §
17-379 OF THE KNOXVILLE
CITY CODE RELATING TO
HEADLIGHTS ON MOTOR
VEHICLES.

ORDINANCE NO: O-64-2014

REQUESTED BY: Knoxville Police
Department

PREPARED BY: Law

APPROVED ON 1ST

READING: 04-01-2015

APPROVED ON 2ND

READING: 04-15-2014

APPROVED AS AN EMERGENCY

MEASURE: _____

MINUTE BOOK: 78 PAGE _____

WHEREAS, the Knoxville City Code currently does not mirror the Tennessee state statute requirements regarding use of headlights on motor vehicles during night time hours and inclement weather; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Knoxville has determined that it is in the public interest, safety, and welfare of the City of Knoxville that Chapter 17, Article VII, Section 17-379 of the Knoxville City Code be amended to include certain provisions from Tennessee Code Annotated §55-9-406 related to the operation of headlights during night time hours and inclement weather.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF KNOXVILLE:

SECTION 1: Chapter 17, Article VII, Section 17-379 of the Knoxville City Code is hereby amended by deleting the existing language and inserting in its place the following:

Sec. 17-379. Lights on motor vehicles.

- (a) The headlights of every motor vehicle shall be so constructed, equipped, arranged, focused, aimed and adjusted, that they will at all times mentioned in section 17-138, and under normal atmospheric conditions and on a level road produce a driving light sufficient to render clearly discernible a person two hundred (200) feet ahead, but shall not project a glaring or dazzling light to persons in front of the headlights. The headlights shall be displayed during the period from one half (1/2) hour after sunset to one half (1/2) hour before sunrise, during fog, smoke, or rain and at all other times when there is not sufficient light to render clearly discernible any person on the road at a distance of two hundred (200) feet ahead of the vehicle.
- (b) Operation of headlights during periods of rain, as required in this section, shall be made during any time when rain, mist or other precipitation, including snow, necessitates the constant use of windshield wipers by motorists.
- (c) *Headlights.*
 - (1) Every motor vehicle other than a motorcycle, road roller, road machinery or farm tractor shall be equipped with at least two (2) and not more than four (4) headlights, with at least one (1) on each side of the front of the motor vehicle.
 - (2) Auxiliary road lighting lamps may be used, but not more than two (2) of such lamps shall be lighted at any one (1) time in addition to the two (2) required headlights.
 - (3) No spotlight or auxiliary lamps shall be so aimed upon approaching another vehicle that any part of the high intensity portion of the beam therefrom is directed beyond the left side of the motor vehicle upon which the spotlight or auxiliary lamp is mounted, nor more than one hundred (100) feet ahead of such motor vehicle.
- (d) *Taillamps and stoplights.*
 - (1) Every motor vehicle shall be equipped with two (2) red taillamps and two (2) red stoplights on the rear of such vehicle, and one (1) taillamp and one (1) stoplight shall be on each side, except that passenger cars manufactured or assembled prior to January 1, 1939, trucks manufactured or assembled prior to January 1, 1968, and motorcycles and motor-driven cycles shall have at least one (1) red taillamp and one (1) red stoplight.
 - (2) The stoplight shall be so arranged as to be actuated by the application of the service or foot brakes and shall be capable of being seen and distinguished from a distance of one hundred (100) feet to the rear of a

motor vehicle in normal daylight, but shall not project a glaring or dazzling light.

- (3) The stoplight may be incorporated with the taillamp.
- (4) No person shall operate a motor vehicle on the public streets of the city or property owned by or leased to the city's community development corporation unless such vehicle is equipped with an operating lamp or lamps so constructed and placed as to illuminate with a white light the rear registration plate and render it clearly legible from fifty (50) feet to the rear. Any such lamp or lamps shall be so wired as to be lighted whenever the head lamps or auxiliary driving lamps are lighted. This subsection shall not apply to any motor vehicle assembled or manufactured prior to January 1, 1968.

(e) *Lights to be in operating condition.* Each lamp and stoplight required in this section shall be in good condition and operational.

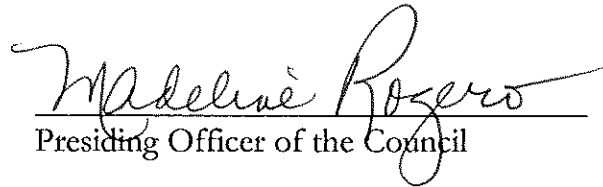
(f) *Use of flashing red lights.*

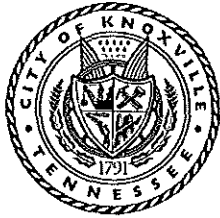
- (1) No vehicle operated in the city shall be equipped with any flashing red light which displays to the front of such vehicle, except school buses, authorized law enforcement vehicles only when used in combination with a flashing blue light, and emergency vehicles used in firefighting, including ambulances, firefighting vehicles, rescue vehicles, privately owned vehicles of regular or volunteer firemen certified in accordance with T.C.A. § 55-9-201(c), or other emergency vehicles used in firefighting owned, operated or subsidized by the governing body of any county or municipality.
- (2) Any emergency rescue vehicle owned, titled and operated by a state-chartered rescue squad, a member of the Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads, privately owned vehicles of regular or volunteer firemen certified in accordance with T.C.A. § 55-9-201(c), and marked with lettering at least three (3) inches in size and displayed on the left and right sides of the vehicle designating it an emergency rescue vehicle, any authorized civil defense emergency vehicle displaying the appropriate civil defense agency markings of at least three (3) inches in size, and any ambulance or vehicle equipped to provide emergency medical services properly licensed as required in the state and displaying the proper markings, shall also be authorized to be lighted in one (1) or more of the following manners:
 - a. A red light visibar type with P.A. system;
 - b. A red oscillating type light; and
 - c. Blinking red lights, front and rear.

- (3) Any vehicle, other than an emergency vehicle authorized by this section to display flashing red lights, or authorized law enforcement vehicle using red and blue lights in combination, which displays any such lights shall be considered in violation of this section.

SECTION 2: The Ordinance shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.


Recorder


Presiding Officer of the Council



CITY OF KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

City Council

AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

AGENDA DATE: April 15, 2014
DEPARTMENT: Knoxville Police Department
DIRECTOR: Chief Rausch

AGENDA SUMMARY An Ordinance amending Chapter 17, Article VII, Section 17-379 of the Knoxville City Code relating to headlights on motor vehicles.

COUNCIL DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED

All

BACKGROUND

The Knoxville City Code requires updating to reflect the Tennessee state statute requirements regarding use of headlights on motor vehicles during night time hours and inclement weather.

OPTIONS

Approve or Deny

RECOMMENDATION

Approve

ESTIMATED PROJECT SCHEDULE

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW

FISCAL INFORMATION

ATTACHMENTS:

- Headlights on Motor vehicles - Ordinance (DOC)

HISTORY:

04/01/14
Next: 04/15/14

City Council

APPROVED ON FIRST READING