

Ordinance No. 222

An Ordinance to provide for the regulation of motorized carts within the City of Grovetown, Georgia.

WHEREAS, the City of Grovetown, Georgia is concerned with the hazards of people driving motorized carts on the public streets of the City of Grovetown, GA;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF GROVETOWN, GEORGIA.

(A) Findings; definitions.

- (1) The City Council of Grovetown, GA finds that all public streets located within its territorial boundaries and under its jurisdiction are designed and constructed so as to safely permit their use by regular vehicular traffic and also the driving of motorized carts, except as stated elsewhere in this section.
- (2) *MOTORIZED CARTS*. Those electric and gasoline-powered pleasure carts, commonly called golf carts. These are the only carts authorized for use under this section.

(B) Registration; certification.

- (1) *Motorized carts*. It shall be the duty of every owner of a motorized cart that is operated in the streets and those areas accessible by the public to register the cart with the city within ten business days of the date of purchase. Two numerical decals shall be issued upon registration; and the record of each motorized cart number, along with the name and address of the owner shall be maintained by the Grovetown Department of Public Safety. The decals must be affixed to the cart in such a manner as to be fully visible at all times. The registration fee for motorized carts owned by city residents shall be \$10, plus the cost of the decals, and the registration shall be effective until such time as the cart is sold or otherwise disposed of. Upon occurrence of a sale or the transfer of ownership by other means to another person who shall operate the cart over the streets of the city, the registration must be transferred to the new owner within 30 calendar days of the change of ownership at a cost of \$5 transfer charge or the cart shall be considered an unregistered cart.

- (2) *Age, number of registrants limited.* Only those persons 18 years of age or older may register a motorized cart. Cart registration may be in one person's name only, and that person must sign the registration form.

(C) Operating regulations.

- (1) Those persons who are 16 years of age and older may drive a motorized cart on the streets of the City of Grovetown, GA and those areas accessible by the public of the city.
- (2) Every licensee shall have his/her valid driver's license in his/her immediate possession at all times when operating a motorized cart.
- (3) All operators of motorized carts shall abide by all traffic regulations applicable to vehicular traffic when using the streets and those areas accessible by the public in the city.
- (4) Motorized carts shall not be operated on the sidewalks or pedestrian right-of-ways within the city limits of Grovetown, GA.
- (5) Motorized carts may only cross streets and highways under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation only at crossings or intersections designated for that purpose.
- (6) Motorized carts may be operated over those authorized streets and those areas accessible by the public during daylight hours (30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset) unless such motorized carts are equipped with functional headlights and taillights.
- (7) It shall be unlawful for the owner of any motorized cart or any person operating, employing, permitting the use of or otherwise directing the use of such cart to operate or permit the operator of any such cart to drive over the streets or those areas accessible by the public in the city in violation of this section.
- (8) It shall be unlawful for anyone to operate a motorized cart without first obtaining and maintaining liability insurance or to otherwise provide proof of financial responsibility in accordance with at least the minimal amount of liability coverage as specified under the laws of the State of Georgia for motorized vehicles.

(D) Hazardous activities and special rules.

- (1) Street and areas accessible by the public in the city are for public transportation and public use. Motorized carts shall not engage in hazardous activities on the streets and those areas accessible to the public

in the city. Such hazardous activities and the special rules pertaining to them, include but are not limited to the following:

- (a) Racing of any form, except for special events approved by the city.
- (b) Blocking of public access, except for special events approved by the city.

Normal rules of the road shall apply to the use of motorized carts on the streets and those areas accessible to the public in the city. For instance, the motorized cart shall be operated on the right of the center of the street. Passing shall be on the left side of the street.

- (2) Pedestrians shall be given due consideration and right of way by operators of motorized carts. Operators of motorized carts shall give a warning or announcement, when approaching pedestrians from the rear. The warning or announcement may be verbal, but it is recommended that motorized cart operators equip their vehicles with a warning device such as a horn or bell. Every operator of a motorized cart shall be considerate of the safety and welfare of other users of the street and other areas accessible to the public in the city. Dangerous conduct will not be tolerated.
- (3) All laws and ordinances relative to alcohol and its use, including open container laws, which apply to other traffic on the streets and other areas accessible to the public in the city, shall apply to operators and passengers of motorized carts.
- (4) All litter from motorized carts shall be deposited in the proper receptacles.

(E) Liability.

The registered owner of a motorized cart is liable for his or her actions and the actions of those he or she allows to use his or her motorized cart. Each owner and operator of a motorized cart shall maintain minimum insurance coverage or proof of financial responsibility as defined in The Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Act under OCGA 40-9-1 to 103 and OCGA 40-6-10.

(F) Penalty

It shall be unlawful for any person to violate this article. Any person who violates this article may be tried before the municipal court of the City of Grovetown and punished as follows: up to 6 months in the municipal jail, up to 12 months of probation, and / or a fine of up to \$1000.00. Each occurrence of a violation of this ordinance shall be deemed a separate offense.

- (G) All other ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby expressly repealed.**

Approved this 10th day of June, 2013, by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Grovetown, Georgia.

ATTESTED:

Vicky Capetillo, City Clerk

George W. James, Mayor