

REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

Meeting Date June 16, 2025

Agenda Item: 7F	Prepared by: Chris Noury, City Attorney
Agenda Section: New Business: Ordinance. First Reading	Date: June 12, 2025
Subject: Amendment to Chapter 21, Traffic, of the Code of Ordinances of North Myrtle Beach, regarding regulated use of golf carts	Division: Legal

Background:

The South Carolina General Assembly recently passed Section 56-2-90 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina which authorizes municipalities within South Carolina to set the hours that golf carts may be operated on a highway where the speed limit is thirty-five miles per hour or less.

Pursuant to the above referenced state statute, the attached ordinance sets forth regulated use of golf carts including the hours which golf carts can be operated on public highways and streets within North Myrtle Beach between the hours of sunrise and sunset.

The proposed ordinance also contains a penalty provision for violation of the ordinance: a fine of \$100 and or up to 30 days incarceration.

Recommended Action:

Approve and deny the proposed ordinance on first reading

Reviewed by Department Head	Reviewed by City Manager	Reviewed by City Attorney
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Council Action:
Motion By _____ 2nd By _____ To _____

AN ORDINANCE

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH MYRTLE BEACH PROVIDING
THAT THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF NORTH MYRTLE BEACH,
SOUTH CAROLINA BE AMENDED BY REVISING CHAPTER 21, TRAFFIC, ARTICLE I,
TO INCLUDE SECTION 21-2, ENTITLED REGULATED USE OF GOLF CARTS.**

WHEREAS, the General Assembly for the State of South Carolina enacted Section 56-2-90 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina which enables municipalities and counties to adopt ordinances to regulate the operation of golf carts within their jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, Section 56-2-90(c)(1) specifically provides that a municipality may, by ordinance, stipulate the hours, methods and locations of golf cart operations, provided golf carts may only be operated on a highway where the speed limit is thirty-five miles per hour or less; and

WHEREAS, golf carts are increasingly used for short-distance travel within neighborhoods and communities, necessitating clear, consistent, and enforceable rules for their lawful operation; and

WHEREAS, the safety and regulation of golf carts are vital to maintaining order and protecting all users of public roads and highways; and

WHEREAS, the Ordinance, once adopted, will be included in Chapter 21 entitled **Traffic** in **Article 1** at **Section 21-2, Regulated Use of Golf Carts**.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA:

Section I: That *Sec 21-2. – Regulated Use of Golf Carts*, be added to read as follows.

Section 21-2. – Regulated Use of Golf Carts.

- (a) Golf carts shall not be operated on public streets except in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance and applicable law.
- (b) An individual or business owner of a vehicle commonly known as a golf cart shall obtain a permit decal and registration from the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles upon presenting proof of ownership and liability insurance for the golf cart and upon payment of a registration fee to the Department of Motor Vehicles. The permit decal must be affixed to the golf cart and replaced every five years, or at the time the owner changes their address, whichever is sooner.
- (c) A permitted golf cart may be operated within the City jurisdictional limits between the hours of sunrise and sunset on secondary roads with a posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less; provided that a permitted golf cart may cross a highway or street at an intersection where the highway has a posted speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour.
- (d) A permitted golf cart may only be operated within four miles of the address on the registration certificate, or only within four miles of a point of ingress and egress of a gated community if the address is within a gated community.
- (e) Each golf cart passenger that is under the age of twelve years old, when it is being operated on the public highways and streets, must wear a fastened safety belt or be properly restrained in a car seat or booster seat.

- (f) A person operating a permitted golf cart must be at least 16 years of age and hold a valid driver's license. The operator of a permitted golf cart being operated on a public highway or street must have in their possession:
- a. The registration certificate issued by the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles;
 - b. Proof of liability insurance for the golf cart in conformance with Section 38-77-140 of the South Carolina Code of Laws; and
 - c. Valid driver's license.
- (g) Penalty:
Notwithstanding Section 21-19, it shall be a misdemeanor to violate this provision, any person convicted of violating this provision shall be punished by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars (\$100) or by imprisonment for not more than thirty (30) days.

Section II: This Ordinance shall become effective upon the date of passage.

DONE, RATIFIED AND PASSED THIS THE _____ DAY OF _____, 2025.

ATTEST:

 Mayor Marilyn Hatley

 City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

 City Attorney

FIRST READING: 6.16.2025

SECOND READING: _____

REVIEWED:

 City Manager

ORDINANCE: _____