



CHAPTER 20 – TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES

ARTICLE VIII. – GOLF CARTS

Sec. 20-240. - Purpose.

The purpose of this Chapter shall be to establish a Golf Cart Ordinance to allow the operation of golf carts within certain areas of the Town hereinafter designated to promote the health, safety, and welfare of persons operating golf cart(s) within the Town and to protect the safety of their passengers and other users of roads.

Sec. 20-240.1. - Policy statement and liability disclaimer.

Golf carts are not designed or manufactured to be used on public streets, roads and highways, and the Town of Spring Hope in no way advocates or endorses their operation on roads. The Town of Spring Hope, by regulating such operation is merely trying to address obvious safety issues, and adoption of this Ordinance is not to be relied upon as a determination that operation on designated roads is safe or advisable if done in accordance with this Ordinance. All persons who operate or ride upon golf carts on designated roads do so at their own risk and peril and must be observant of and attentive to the safety of themselves and others, including their passengers, other motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians. The Town of Spring Hope has no liability and assumes no liability under any theory of liability for permitting golf carts to be operated on designated public roads pursuant to the statutory authority of North Carolina General Statute 160A-300.6. Any person who operates a golf cart must procure liability insurance sufficient to cover the risks involved in using a golf cart on the designated roads of the Town of Spring Hope.

Sec. 20-240.2. - Definitions.

For the purpose of this section, the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings.

Golf Cart: A vehicle designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and that is not capable of exceeding speeds of 20 MPH as set forth in G.S. 20-4.01 (12b).

Driver's License: A valid license to operate a motor vehicle issued by North Carolina or any other state.

Financial Responsibility: Liability insurance coverage on a golf cart in an amount not less than required by North Carolina law for motor vehicles operated on public highways in the State of North Carolina.

Operator: Only persons of the age of 16 and 17 years of age and holding a valid driver's license may operate a golf cart on roads or a person over the age of 18 possessing a valid state of residence ID card issued by the state where they reside.

Sec. 20-240.3. - Operation of golf carts allowed; exceptions.

- (a) Allowed. The operation of golf carts on the public streets, roads and highways within certain areas of the Town so designated for that purpose and on property controlled by the Town, if so designated shall be permitted in compliance with the provisions of this Chapter; however, it shall be unlawful to operate any golf cart that is not properly registered with the Town or to operate any golf cart at any place or in any manner not authorized herein.
- (b) Exceptions. The operation of golf carts is not subject to the provisions of this Chapter under the following circumstances:
 - 1. The operation of golf carts at private clubs or on private property, with the consent of the owner.
 - 2. The operation of golf carts that complies with and are regulated by the requirements of State motor vehicle law, which makes it a street legal golf cart and/or low speed vehicle and is therefore eligible for usage on public roads as prescribed by law.
 - 3. The operation of golf carts in connection with a parade, festival, or other special event provided the consent of the event sponsor or Chief of Police is obtained and provided such use only occurs during the event, or
 - 4. The use of golf carts by the Town of Spring Hope in its official capacity or a contracted water, wastewater, public works management service.

Sec. 20-240.4. - Manner of Operation.

Golf carts shall not be operated on the public streets, roads, and highways of the Town except in full compliance with the provisions of this Chapter.

- (a) Golf carts shall not be operated on or alongside public roads or streets with a posted speed limit greater than 35 miles per hour.
- (b) Golf carts may cross a road with a posted speed limit greater than 35 mph. However, once this segment of road has been traversed, the golf cart is still required to travel only on or along a roadway with a speed limit of 35 mph or less. Golf carts must cross in a manner that is the most direct route in order to decrease crossing distance, i.e. no riding along a road or crossing at an angle.
- (c) Golf carts may be driven on approved public roads and streets so designated by the Town from sunrise until sunset. Golf carts may be driven after sunset when equipped with operational headlights and taillights. Golf carts may not be operated when fog, smog, smoke, inclement weather, or other conditions reduce visibility so that the golf cart is not visible from a minimum distance of 250 feet.
- (d) Golf carts are authorized for use on the following roads within the Town limits:
(App A) map of spring hope town limits
- (e) Any person who operates a golf cart must be responsible for all liability associated with operation of the golf cart and must have liability insurance coverage which will cover the use of

a golf cart in an amount not less than the minimum required by North Carolina law for motor vehicles operated on public highways in the State.

(f) Any person who operates a golf cart must be at least sixteen (16 or 17) years of age and possess a valid State issued driver license or be 18 years of age and possess a valid state issued identification card. Golf cart operators must carry their driver's license / identification on their person at all times while operating a golf cart on public roads. For the purpose of this Chapter, a learner's permit shall not be considered as a valid driver's license nor shall any license that has been revoked, temporarily, or otherwise, or suspended for any reason be considered as a valid driver's license during the period of revocation or suspension.

(g) Any person who operates a golf cart on public streets and roads must adhere to all applicable State and local traffic laws, regulations, and ordinances, including but not limited to those banning the possession and use of alcoholic beverages, and all other illegal drugs. In addition, no golf cart containing any open container of alcohol shall be operated on public roads.

(h) The operator of the golf cart shall comply with all traffic rules and regulations adopted by the State of North Carolina and the County/Town/City which governs the operation of motor vehicles.

(i) An operator of a golf cart on designated streets may not allow the number of people in the golf cart at any one time to exceed the maximum capacity specified by the manufacturer. The operator shall not allow passengers to ride on any part of a golf cart not designed to carry passengers, such as the rear of a golf cart designed to carry golf bags.

(j) In no instance shall a golf cart be operated at a speed greater than 20 miles per hour. No golf cart may be operated at a speed greater than reasonable and prudent for the existing conditions.

(k) Golf carts must be operated at the right edge of the roadway and must yield to all vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

(l) Golf carts must park in designated spaces in such a manner that multiple golf carts can utilize the space. All parking rules and limits apply. Golf carts shall only park in handicapped parking spaces if the driver or at least one passenger has a valid handicap parking placard, and such placard is properly displayed in the cart. No parking on sidewalks is allowed.

Sec. 20-240.5. - Required equipment.

(a) Golf carts must have the basic equipment supplied by the manufacturer. Such equipment must include all safety devices as installed by said manufacturer, including rear view mirror and a rear triangle reflector of the same type required by North Carolina law.

(b) Golf carts driven after sunset must have a minimum of one (1) operating – headlight, and two (2) operating taillights, one on each side of the rear of the cart. All lights must be visible from a distance of 250 feet.

(c) A low-speed caution triangle, with a minimum size of twelve (12) inches or greater on all three sides, that shall be made of reflective material and mounted on the rear of the vehicle.

(d) If a mechanical turn signal indicator is installed, it shall be operational. If a mechanical turn signal indicator is not installed, then hand signals are required for turns.

Sec. 20-240.6. – Registration and fee prior to usage.

(a) All golf cart owners who intend to operate the golf cart on designated roads must complete a golf cart registration application and submit to the Spring Hope Police Department for approval. Before driving on designated public roads, the operator of a golf cart must have an approved and currently validated town registration.

(b) There will be a \$5.00 fee to register a golf cart in accordance with the Fee Schedule adopted annually by the Town Board. The golf cart registration fee will be collected on January 1st of each year. Registered golf cart owners will be contacted by the Police Department and advised if any changes to the fees are adopted.

(c) Each owner must have proof of ownership, liability insurance, and a completed Waiver of Liability releasing the Town of Spring Hope from liability that may arise as a result of operation of a golf cart within the Town limits. These documents must be in the golf cart at all times while in operation on public roads or streets.

(d) All golf carts must meet the requirements or minimum standards of safety equipment as set forth in Section .06 of this Chapter.

(e) All (16 and 17) years of age golf cart operators must present a valid driver's license while operating a golf cart on a public street or road. All other operators over the age of 17 must present a valid state issued identification card.

(f) The registration sticker shall be valid for the life of the golf cart unless the golf cart is sold to a new owner and that owner desires to operate the golf cart on the roadway, then a renewal must occur. The registration must be displayed on the lower corner of the driver's side windshield or in case of no windshield, the driver's side front quarter panel of the golf cart and easily visible by law enforcement personnel.

(g) Lost or stolen permit/stickers are the responsibility of the owner and must be replaced before the golf cart is operated on a public road.

Sec. 20-240.7. - Denial, Revocation, and Enforcement.

(a) If any person shall violate the provisions of this Chapter, he/she shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$500.00.

(b) The Town may refuse to register and issue a permit for the operation of a golf cart, or may revoke a previously issued permit, if the application contains any material misrepresentation; if equipment required by this Chapter, has been removed from the golf cart and if the liability insurance requirements have not been met.

(c) The Town may refuse to register and issue a permit for the operation of a golf cart or may revoke a previously issued permit for cart owners who have received at least two citations involving the golf cart after the registration is issued.

(d) Any person who knowingly allows an underage driver to operate a golf cart shall have their permit revoked. In addition, the Town may also refuse to issue a future permit to someone who allowed an underage driver to operate a golf cart on public roads or streets.

(e) All-terrain vehicles, four-wheel utility vehicles and other similar utility vehicles which are not manufactured for operation on a golf course may not be registered as a golf cart nor shall such vehicles be operated on the public roads or streets within the Town unless such vehicles are otherwise used in conjunction with and authorized for emergency service operations or authorized by the Chief of Police.

(f) Any violation of the motor vehicle laws of the State of North Carolina shall be charged the same as any other driver of any registered vehicle in the State.



Sec. 20-240.8. - Golf Cart Registration Application.

Town of Spring Hope Golf Cart Registration Application

In accordance with the Town of Spring Hope Code of Ordinances, Chapter 20, Article VIII. - Golf Carts, a Golf Cart Registration may be issued to operate a golf cart on the designated streets of the Town of Spring Hope. Golf cart operators shall submit an application, in person to the Town of Spring Hope to obtain its own individual permit/decal to be placed on the front windshield area of the cart so as to be fully visible when the cart is in operation. Golf carts shall have all the required equipment listed in the Ordinance. All golf cart drivers the age of (16 and 17) shall possess a valid state issued driver license and all golf cart drivers over the age of 17 shall possess a valid state issued identification card.

A golf cart registration authorizes the operation of a golf cart on approved public streets or roads within the corporate limits of the Town and whose posted speed limit is 35 mph or less. It is the responsibility of the golf cart operator to know what roads are designated as permissible for the operation of golf carts.

As with any other form of transportation, all persons who operate golf carts do so at their own risk and must be observant of and attentive to the safety of themselves and others. The Town has no liability under any theory of liability and the Town assumes no liability for permitting golf carts to be operated on public streets.

The owner of the golf cart must provide evidence of liability insurance at the time of application and must continuously maintain insurance for the entire time the golf cart is registered in the Town of Spring Hope. A golf cart registration fee of \$5.00 for each cart, which includes the permit/decal, shall be payable at the time of registration and inspection. The renewal shall be the 1st of January of each calendar year. The registered golf cart shall be inspected and registered by the Spring Hope Police Department annually.

Please Print Below

Applicants Name: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Address: _____

Mailing Address if different from above:

Driver's License/State ID Number: _____ State Issued: _____

Cart Serial No. (if available): _____

Year: _____ Make/Model: _____ Color: _____

Insurance Company: _____ Policy No: _____

By signing this application below, the applicant acknowledges that he/she has received, read, and understands the provisions of the Golf Cart Ordinance and agrees to abide by all rules and regulations governing the operation of his/her golf cart in the Town of Spring Hope. The applicant further declares, under penalties of perjury, this vehicle is insured with the company named above and he/she will maintain liability insurance throughout the registration period.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____



Sec. 20-240.9. - Waiver of Liability.

Town of Spring Hope
Summary of Golf Cart Regulations & Waiver of Liability

This is a summary of the rules and regulations for the operation of a golf cart on the streets/roads within the Town of Spring Hope. Additional information regarding the regulations for operating a golf cart on specified Town streets along with violation penalties is found in the copy of the Town of Spring Hope Ordinance Regulating the Operation of Golf Carts on Public Streets.

- Golf carts must have the basic equipment supplied by the manufacturer, including all safety devices installed by the manufacturer.
- Golf carts shall not be operated on or alongside public roads or streets with a posted speed limit greater than 35 miles per hour.
- Golf carts may be driven on public roads and streets so designated by the Town.
- Golf cart drivers must adhere to all applicable State and local traffic laws, regulations, and ordinances.
- Golf carts may not be operated when fog, smog, smoke, inclement weather or other conditions reduce the visibility so that the golf cart is not visible from a minimum distance of 250 feet.
- Golf cart drivers the age of (16 and 17) shall have a valid driver's license. In no case should anyone under the age of 16 operate a golf cart. Golf cart drivers over the age of 17 must possess a valid state issued identification.
- Golf cart drivers shall stay on the far right of the road and shall yield the right-of-way to overtaking vehicles.
- Golf carts shall not be operated at a speed greater than 20 miles per hour.
- Golf carts must park in designated spaces.
- Golf carts may not be used for the purpose of towing another cart, trailer, vehicle of any kind, including a person on roller skates, skateboard, bicycle, or similar device.
- Lost or stolen permit/stickers are the responsibility of the owner and must be replaced before the golf cart is operated on a public street or road.
- The Town may refuse to register and issue a permit for the operation of a golf cart or may revoke a previously issued permit for cart owners who have received at least two citations involving the golf cart.
- Any violation of the motor vehicle laws of the State of North Carolina shall be charged the same as any other driver of any registered vehicle in the State.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, religion, sex, familial status, sexual orientation, and reprisal. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)"