

TOWN OF GEORGETOWN

Ordinance No. G-26-03

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF GEORGETOWN, INDIANA, TO AUTHORIZE AND REGULATE THE USE OF GOLF CARTS AND UTILITY TASK VEHICLES (UTVS)

WHEREAS, the Town Council for the Town of Georgetown, Indiana is the legislative body of the Town of Georgetown;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ind. Code 36-5-2-9, the legislative body may adopt ordinances or resolutions for the performance of functions of the town;

WHEREAS, Indiana Code 9-21-1-3.3 authorizes municipalities to adopt ordinances authorizing and regulating the operation of golf carts and off road vehicles, including utility task vehicles (UTVs), on public roadways under their jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the Town of Georgetown have expressed a desire to use golf carts and utility task vehicles (UTVs) on the Town's roadways;

WHEREAS, the Town of Georgetown desires to promote safety while allowing the limited operations of such vehicles on the Town roadways under regulated conditions.

Now, therefore, be it ordained and enacted by the Town Council of the Town of Georgetown, Indiana, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1.

Town Council of the Town of Georgetown, Indiana, that a new Chapter 74 shall be added to the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Georgetown, Indiana under Title VII: Traffic Code and shall read as follows:

Chapter 74: Golf Cart and Utility Task Vehicles (UTVS) Rules and Regulations

74.1 – Definitions

For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning:

- A) **Driver's License:** A valid current license to operate a motor vehicle issued by the State of Indiana or any other state.
- B) **Financial Responsibility:** A policy of liability insurance coverage on golf carts and utility task vehicles (UTVs) in an amount not less than required by Indiana Law for a motor vehicle operated on the public highways in the State of Indiana.
- C) **Golf Carts:** The definition is provided in Indiana Code 9-13-2-69.7. As it now exists, that term means a four-wheeled motor vehicle originally and specifically designed

and intended to transport one or more individuals and golf clubs for the purpose of playing the game of golf on a golf course.

- D) **Low Speed Vehicle:** The definition is provided in Indiana Code 9-13-2-94.5. as it now exists, that term means a four wheeled electrically powered motor vehicle with a maximum design speed of not more than twenty-five (25) miles per hour, with operational and equipment specifications described in 49 CFR 571.500, and that is equipped with headlamps; front and rear turn signal lamps, and stop lamps; reflex reflectors; exterior or interior mirrors, brakes as specified in IC 9-19-3-1; a windshield; a vehicle identification number; and safety belt installed at each designated seating position, and that has not been privately assembled as described in IC 9-17-4-1. The term does not include a golf cart or an off-road vehicle.
- E) **Off Road Vehicle:** The definition is provided in Indiana Code § 14-8-2-185. As it now exists, that term means a motor-driven vehicle capable of cross-country travel without benefit of a road and on or immediately over land, water, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other natural terrain. The term includes multiwheel drive or low-pressure tire vehicles, amphibious machines, ground effect air cushion vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, recreational off-highway vehicles, and other means of transportation deriving motive power from a source other than muscle or wind.
- F) **Street:** The definition is provided by Indiana Code § 9-13-2-73. As it now exists, that term means the area which comprises the entire width between the boundary lines of every publicly maintained way when any part of the way is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel. The term includes an alley in a city or town.
- G) **Utility Task Vehicle (UTV):** A UTV means a self-propelled, motor-driven vehicle designed for off-road use, having at least four wheels, non-straddle seating for two or more occupants positioned side-by-side, and a steering wheel for control, which is sometimes referred to as a side-by-side or utility terrain vehicle. The term includes vehicles designed primarily for work, recreation, or general utility purposes, with a width not to exceed 74 inches and a gross vehicle weight rating not exceeding 2,000 pounds.

74.2 Permitted Operation.

This Chapter applies only to golf carts and UTVs as defined herein. This Chapter does not apply to low-speed vehicles as defined in Indiana Code § 9-13-2-94.5. The operation of a golf cart and UTVs within the Town is permitted only if such vehicles are operated and equipped in full compliance with the following conditions:

A) Permitted Vehicles:

The operation of motorized vehicles on City streets pursuant to this Chapter is strictly limited to the following:

1. Golf Carts as defined herein, subject to the equipment, insurance, and operational requirements of this Chapter.
2. Utility Task Vehicles (UTVs) as defined herein, subject to the equipment, insurance, and operational requirements of this Chapter.

B) Prohibited Vehicles:

All other off-road vehicles, as defined by Indiana law or this Chapter, are strictly prohibited from operation on Town streets. Prohibited vehicles include but are not limited to:

1. All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) as defined in Indiana Code § 14-8-2-5.7;
2. Dirt bikes, trail bikes, or other straddle-type off-road motorcycles;
3. Go-karts;
4. Recreational off-highway vehicles not meeting the definition of UTV in this Chapter;
5. Side-by-side type vehicles exceeding permitted size or weight limits;
6. Snowmobiles;
7. Amphibious or ground effect vehicles;
8. Any other vehicle designed primarily for off-road recreational use and not specifically authorized as a golf cart or UTV.

C) Driver Requirements.

1. The operator must possess a valid driver's license. No person under the age of 16 years old shall operate such vehicle on the street or roadway.
2. The operator shall obey all state and local traffic laws and regulations.

D) Insurance Requirement.

1. The vehicle must be covered by liability insurance meeting the minimum requirements under Indiana Code 9-25-4-5
2. Proof of insurance must be current and, in the operators, immediate possession while operating such vehicle at all times and provided to law enforcement upon request.

E) Rules of Operation.

1. **Compliance with Traffic Laws.** All operators shall comply with all applicable Indiana traffic laws while operating on Town streets.
2. **Speed Limit.** Regardless of the posted speed limit, operators shall not operate a golf cart or UTV in excess of thirty (30) miles per hour on any Town street.
3. **Yield to Pedestrians and Bicyclists.** Operators shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and bicyclists at all times.
4. **Keep Right and Yield to Overtaking Vehicles.** Such vehicles shall be operated as far to the right side of the traveled portion of the roadway as practicable and shall yield the right-of-way to overtaking vehicles as soon as it is safely possible to do so.

5. Parking. All golf carts and UTVs shall comply with all applicable parking ordinances of the Town and all traffic laws of the State of Indiana.

6. Left Turns. If a left turn is required, the operator must yield to oncoming traffic, carefully merge into the passing lane only when safe, and use the vehicle's left turn signal.

7. Street Crossings. Crossing streets shall only be permitted at perpendicular intersections.

8. Alcohol and Controlled Substances. The operator shall not allow or possess any open alcoholic beverage container or any illegal drugs or controlled substances within the vehicle at any time during its operation on City streets.

9. Proof of License and Insurance. Upon request by a law enforcement officer or other enforcement departments or agencies having jurisdiction, an operator shall provide proof of financial responsibility and a valid driver's license for the operation of the vehicle on Town streets.

F) Permitting Process.

A person wishing to operate a golf cart or UTV on Town streets shall register and have the vehicle inspected by the Georgetown Police Department.

- 1) The cost of the inspection fee and annual sticker will be \$20.00
- 2) The sticker must be placed on the driver's side, front half of the vehicle in an unobstructed manner.
- 3) Permit stickers are not transferable
- 4) Permit stickers will only be issued to Town of Georgetown Residence who wish to participate in the operation of a golf cart or UTV in the Town Limits.

F) Equipment Requirements.

All golf carts and UTVs operated on public Town streets shall be maintained in good working order and shall be equipped with the following functional safety features:

1. Headlights;
2. Taillights;
3. Brake lights;
4. Horn;
5. Turn signals;
6. Rear reflectors;

7. Functioning brakes;
8. Rearview mirror;
9. A slow-moving vehicle emblem in accordance with Indiana Code § 9-21-9-5; and
10. Seatbelts for all occupants properly fastened about the occupant's body at all times when the vehicle is in motion.

G) Occupancy Limits.

1. No more passengers than factory-installed seats; and
2. All occupants must remain seated while the vehicle is in motion.

H. Permitted Areas.

Golf carts and UTVs that comply with all requirements of this chapter may be operated on residential Town streets, except in those areas specifically designated as prohibited under this section.

1) Golf carts and UTVs shall not be operated:

- a) On Town of Georgetown Park green space, sidewalk, walking paths
- b) On or across state highways, except in designated intersections where crossing is permitted.
- c) On construction sites, private property, unless the property owner has granted permission; or
- d) On any road with a posted speed limit greater than 30 miles per hour.

2) The prohibitions in this section shall not apply to the use of golf carts or UTVs by the Town, county, or state personnel including but not limited to police, fire, emergency medical services (EMS), parks department, public works department, utility department, code enforcement and other municipal departments; while operating within the scope of their official duties.

3) This exception also applies to utility companies, contractors and other service providers acting under the Town's authorization, provided such use is reasonably necessary for the performance of their work.

74.3 Adoption of State Law.

All applicable provisions of the Indiana Traffic Laws, including but not limited to Indiana Code Title 9, are hereby adopted by reference and shall govern the operation of golf carts or UTVs within the Town, except where this Chapter provides otherwise. Any violations of such adopted

state laws shall be considered a violation of this Chapter when committed in the operation of a golf cart or UTV on a Town street.

74.4 Indemnification

An operator or any other person who owns, operates, or rides upon a golf cart or UTV on a Town street does so at his or her own risk and peril, and assumes all liability resulting from such activity. Operation of a golf cart or UTV on a Town street is at the owner's and operator's sole risk. The Town shall not be liable for any claims resulting from the operation of golf carts or UTVs. Owners and operators shall indemnify and hold harmless the Town of Georgetown from any and all claims, damages, or expenses arising out of or relating to such operations.

74.5 Violations and Penalties.

A. Any person in violation of this Ordinance shall be subject to the following penalties:

1. First offense - \$150.00 Fine
2. Second offense - \$200.00 Fine
3. Third Offense - \$300.00 Fine, impoundment, and/or prohibition of the future operations of the golf cart or UTV on Town streets. The Town may revoke the right to operate for repeated violations or unsafe operations, in addition to fines. In the event of impoundment, the golf cart or UTV shall be released only upon payment of all applicable fines, fees, and storage charges.
4. Each violation shall constitute a separate offense.

B. Enforcement. This Ordinance shall be enforced by the Town of Georgetown Police Department. Citations may be issued to any person operating a golf cart or UTV in violation of this Ordinance pursuant to Indiana Code 9-21-1-3.3

C. Disposition of Fines and fees. Any fine assessed for a violation of a traffic ordinance associated with this Chapter shall be deposited as prescribed.

1. 50% into the Town of Georgetown's Motor Vehicle Highway Fund.
2. 50% into the Town of Georgetown's Law Enforcement Continuing Education Fund.
3. Application/Inspection fees will be deposited into the Town of Georgetown's Law Enforcement Continuing Education Fund.

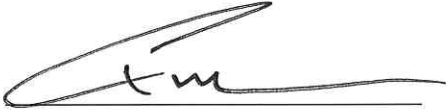
Section 2. Repeal of Conflicting Ordinances.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed and shall be of no further force or effect.

Section 3. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect on August 17th, 2026, following its passage by the Town of Georgetown Town Council.

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED this 17th day of August 2026, by the Town Council of the Town of Georgetown, Indiana.



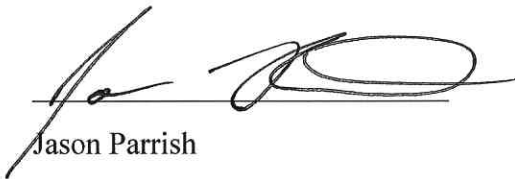
Chris Loop

Council President



Brandon Hopf

Council Vice President



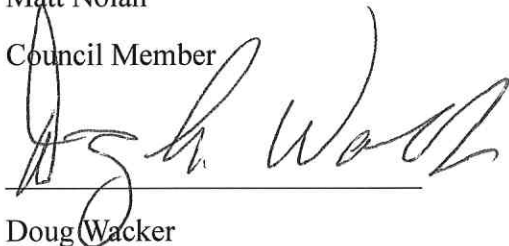
Jason Parrish

Council Member



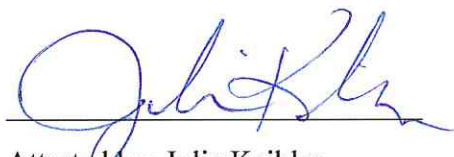
Matt Nolan

Council Member



Doug Wacker

Council Member



Attested by: Julia Keibler

Georgetown Clerk-Treasurer