



St. James Parish Council

Alvin St. Pierre, Jr.
Chairman

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Vondra Etienne-Steib
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Secretary

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following entitled ordinance was introduced at a regular meeting of the Parish Council of the Parish of St. James, State of Louisiana, on March 17, 2021, and laid over for publication of notice:

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 21-03 **ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 110 "TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES" OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ADD SECTIONS 12 "GOLF CARTS" AND 13 "UTILITY TERRAIN VEHICLES" TO PROVIDE FOR THE OPERATION OF THESE VEHICLES UPON PUBLIC STREETS OR ROADS

WHEREAS, the purpose of this ordinance shall be to establish a definitive policy with the Parish of St. James to promote the health, safety and welfare of persons operating the golf cart(s) and utility terrain vehicle(s) within the Parish of St. James and to protect the safety of their passengers and other users of public roads and streets; and,

WHEREAS, consistent with the provisions of LA R.S. 32:299.3 and 32:299.4, the establishment of a golf cart and utility terrain vehicle ordinance is necessary to address the interests of public safety; and,

WHEREAS, golf carts and utility terrain vehicles are not specifically designed or manufactured to be used on public streets, roads or highways and the Parish of St. James in no way advocates or endorses their operations on roads; and,

WHEREAS, all persons who operate or ride upon golf carts or utility terrain vehicles on the 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; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the St. James Parish Council that Chapter 110 of the St. James Parish Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as shown in Exhibit A hereto and made a part thereof.

EXHIBIT A

Section 110-12 – Golf Carts

- (a) A "golf cart" is defined as an electric four-wheeled vehicle originally intended for use off-road on golf courses and other green spaces whose maximum speed is twenty-five (25) miles per hour, LA R.S. 32:299.4.
- (b) The operation of a golf cart upon the public roads or streets of St. James Parish is prohibited, except as otherwise provided in this section.
- (c) A golf cart may be operated only upon parish roads or streets with speed limits of twenty-five (25) miles per hour or less unless specifically exempted herein.
- (d) A golf cart shall not be operated upon any state highway.
- (e) A golf cart operated on a parish road or street shall be equipped with efficient brakes, a reliable steering apparatus, safe tires, a rearview mirror, and red reflectorized warning devices on both the front and rear of the vehicle. Such golf cart shall also be equipped with headlamps, front and rear turn signal lamps, tail lamps, and brake lamps.
- (f) Any golf cart operated upon a parish road or street shall be registered with the State of Louisiana through the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor vehicles, as an off-road vehicle and shall display a decal issued by the office of motor vehicles.
- (g) No person shall operate a golf cart upon a parish road or street without a valid driver's license.
- (h) Any golf cart operated upon a parish road or street shall have liability insurance with the same minimum limits as required by the provisions of LA R.S. 32:900(B). Documents reflecting a current policy of liability insurance as required herein shall be in the possession of the driver.
- (i) Any passenger riding on the golf cart shall be seated and the number of passengers shall not exceed the amount for which the golf cart was designed.
- (j) This section shall not apply to any golf carts owned and insured by a golf course or country club which is operated on the golf course during daylight hours.
- (k) This section shall not apply to any golf cart operated by a golfer or employee of a golf course or country club, which golfer or employee possesses a valid driver's license when said golf cart is used to cross a part of a parish road where a golf course is constructed on both sides of the parish road.
- (l) All golf carts authorized by this section to be operated on parish streets shall be registered with the Sheriff of St. James Parish and shall display a decal issued by the sheriff. Said registration shall be at a nominal charge as determined by the Sheriff.
- (m) Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or imprisonment in the parish jail for not more than thirty (30) days, or both.

Alvin St. Pierre, Jr. **Jason Amato** **Ryan Louque** **Mason Bland** **Clyde Cooper** **Vondra Steib** **Donald Nash**

District 1

District 2

District 3

District 4

District 5

District 6

District 7

Section 110-13 – Utility Terrain Vehicles

- (a) A "utility terrain vehicle" is defined as any recreational motor vehicle designed for and capable of travel over designated roads, traveling on four or more tires with a maximum tire width of twenty-seven inches, a maximum wheel cleat or lug of three-fourths of an inch, a minimum width of fifty inches but not exceeding seventy-four inches, a minimum weight of at least seven hundred pounds but not exceeding two thousand pounds, and a minimum wheelbase of sixty-one inches but not exceeding one hundred ten inches, pursuant to LA R.S. 32:299.3.
- (b) The operation of a utility terrain vehicle upon the public roads or streets of St. James Parish is prohibited, except as otherwise provided in this section.
- (c) A utility terrain vehicle may be operated only upon parish roads or streets with speed limits of twenty-five (25) miles per hour or less unless specifically exempted herein.
- (d) A utility terrain vehicle shall not be operated upon any state highway.
- (e) A utility terrain vehicle operated on a parish road or street shall be equipped with headlamps, front and rear turn signal lamps, tail lamps, stop lamps, reflex reflectors, including one on each side as far to the rear as practicable and one red reflector on the rear of the vehicle, an exterior mirror mounted on the driver's side of the vehicle and either an exterior mirror mounted on the passenger's side of the vehicle or an interior mirror, a parking brake, an adequate windshield, a windshield wiper, speedometer, odometer, braking for each wheel, a seat belt assembly installed at each designated seating position, and a vehicle identification or serial number.
- (f) Any utility terrain vehicle operated upon a parish road or street shall be registered with the State of Louisiana through the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor vehicles, as an off-road vehicle and shall display a decal issued by the office of motor vehicles.
- (g) A person operating a utility terrain vehicle shall be at least twenty-one years of age and possess a valid driver's license.
- (h) Any utility terrain vehicle operated upon a parish road or street shall have liability insurance with the same minimum limits as required by the provisions of LA R.S. 32:900(B). Documents reflecting a current policy of liability insurance as required herein shall be in the possession of the driver.
- (i) Any passenger riding on the utility terrain vehicle shall be seated and the number of passengers shall not exceed the amount for which the utility terrain vehicle was designed.
- (j) All utility terrain vehicles authorized by this section to be operated on parish streets shall be registered with the Sheriff of St. James Parish and shall display a decal issued by the sheriff. Said registration shall be at a nominal charge as determined by the Sheriff.
- (k) Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or imprisonment in the parish jail for not more than thirty (30) days, or both.

NOTICE IS HEREBY, FURTHER, GIVEN that the Parish Council of said Parish will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 31, 2021, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse Annex, 2631 Hwy 20 in Vacherie, LA at which time there will be a public hearing on the adoption of the aforesaid ordinance.

s/Alvin St. Pierre, Jr.
Chairman

s/Linda Hubbell
Secretary

Note: St. James Parish will provide, upon request, reasonable accommodation to any disabled individual wishing to attend the meeting. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation is requested to contact 1-800-846-5277 (TDD), 1-800-947-5277 (Voice) or 562-2400 (Handicapped) to discuss the particular accommodation needed.