

# Golf Carts



City of Piperton

2019

- May golf carts be operated on City of Piperton streets?
- Golf carts as defined by Tennessee Code Ann. § 55-1-123 cannot legally be operated on City of Piperton streets.

## 55-1-123 Golf cart defined

- "Golf cart" means a motor vehicle that is designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and equipped with safety belts installed for use in the left front and right front seats and that is not capable of exceeding speeds of twenty miles per hour (20 mph)

# Low Speed Vehicles

- Additional information regarding golf carts may be found in the Tennessee Department of Revenue document, Vehicle Title and Registration Notice #08-20, [Low Speed Vehicles](#)



## 55-1-122 “Low speed vehicle” defined

- "Low speed vehicle" means any four-wheeled electric or gasoline vehicle, **excluding golf carts**, whose top speed is greater than twenty miles per hour (20 mph) but not greater than twenty-five miles per hour (25 mph), including neighborhood electric vehicles. Low speed vehicles must comply with the standards in 49 CFR 571.500

# 49 CFR 571

- Headlamps
- Tail lights
- Stop lamps
- Front and rear turn signal lamps
- Reflex reflectors, one red on each side near the rear and one on the rear
- Seat belts (Type 1 or 2) located at each seating position
- Parking brake
- One exterior mirror on the driver's side and one additional mirror, either on the passenger side or in the interior
- Windshield that conforms to the Federal motor vehicle safety
- Vehicle ID Number (VIN)

# Neighborhood Electric Vehicle



# NEV continued

- Per DOT report to Congress, June 2012 NEVs are not defined
- However, the preamble to the final rule<sup>3</sup> establishing FMVSS No. 500 contains a glossary with the following two definitions:



# NEV continued

- "Neighborhood electric vehicle" means any 4-wheeled electric vehicle whose top speed is not greater than 25 miles per hour. Some of these vehicles look more like a passenger car than a conventional golf car

# NEV continued

- "Low-speed vehicle" means any 4-wheeled motor vehicle whose top speed is greater than 20 miles per hour, but not greater than 25 miles per hour. This group includes neighborhood electric vehicles, and speed-modified golf cars, whose top speed is greater than 20 miles per hour, but not greater than 25 miles per hour

# Traditional Golf Carts

- As defined by Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-1-123, **may not be titled and registered for on road use, unless modified** to meet all of the low or medium speed vehicle requirements in Tennessee law and the federal safety standards contained in 49 CFR 571.500.

# Low Speed Vehicle Affidavit



- The [Low Speed Vehicle Affidavit](#) indicates the conditions that must be met in order to register a “low speed vehicle”
- Page 2 of the Vehicle Title and Registration Notice #08-20, [Low Speed Vehicles](#)

# Low Speed Vehicle Affidavit

- A golf cart that is **designed and manufactured** for on road use, **or is modified** to meet all of the low or medium speed vehicle requirements and federal safety standards does not meet the definition of a traditional golf cart, as outlined in Tennessee Code Ann. § 55-1-123

# Low Speed Vehicle Affidavit

- Since this vehicle is not a golf cart **as defined** under Tennessee law, the vehicle may be registered as a low or medium speed vehicle if all requirements are met to be a low or medium speed vehicle

# Low & Medium Speed Vehicles

- A low speed vehicle as defined in § 55-8-101 may be operated only on streets where the posted speed limit is thirty-five miles per hour (35 mph) or less
- A medium speed vehicle as defined in § 55-8-101 may be operated at a rate not to exceed thirty-five miles per hour (35 mph) only on streets where the posted speed limit is forty miles per hour (40 mph) or less

# Low & Medium speed Vehicles cont.

- Any person operating a low speed vehicle or medium speed vehicle **must have in possession** a valid **Class D driver license**
- The vehicle is registered with the state and will have a license plate
- Operation of Vehicles – Rules of the Road shall apply



# Vehicle Identification Number

- Depends on age of the golf cart
- Documentation available
  - Bill of Sale
  - Title
  - MSO Manufacturer Statement of Origin

No set order/process to get a VIN, it is dependent upon the owners available documentation

# VIN continued

- Visit the County Clerk's office
- Bring all available paperwork you have for the golf cart
- The paperwork you possess would determine the County Clerk's action
- Anti-Theft Unit investigator will inspect the golf cart and also be responsible for applying VIN to the cart