

TITLE 15

MOTOR VEHICLES, TRAFFIC AND PARKING¹

CHAPTER

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CHAPTER 1

MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION

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¹Municipal code references

Excavations and obstructions in streets, etc.: title 16.
Fire lanes: § 7-208.

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- 15-127. Adoption of state traffic statutes.

15-101. Motor vehicle requirements. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any motor vehicle within the corporate limits unless such vehicle is equipped with properly operating muffler, lights, brakes, horn, and such other equipment as is prescribed and required by Tennessee Code Annotated, title 55, chapter 9. (1973 Code, § 9-101)

15-102. Driving on streets closed for repairs, etc. Except for necessary access to property abutting thereon, no motor vehicle shall be driven upon any street that is barricaded or closed for repairs or other lawful purpose. (1973 Code, § 9-106)

15-103. Reckless driving. Irrespective of the posted speed limit, no person, including operators of emergency vehicles, shall drive any vehicle in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property. (1973 Code, § 9-107)

15-104. One-way streets. On any street for one-way traffic with posted signs indicating the authorized direction of travel at all intersections offering access thereto, no person shall operate any vehicle except in the indicated direction. (1973 Code, § 9-109)

15-105. Unlaned streets. (1) Upon all unlaned streets of sufficient width, a vehicle shall be driven upon the right half of the street except:

(a) When lawfully overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction.

(b) When the right half of a roadway is closed to traffic while under construction or repair.

(c) Upon a roadway designated and signposted by the city for one-way traffic.

(2) All vehicles proceeding at less than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place and under the conditions then existing shall be driven as close as practicable to the right hand curb or edge of the roadway, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction or when preparing for a left turn. (1973 Code, § 9-110)

15-106. Laned streets. On streets marked with traffic lanes, it shall be unlawful for the operator of any vehicle to fail or refuse to keep his vehicle within the boundaries of the proper lane for his direction of travel except when lawfully passing another vehicle or preparatory to making a lawful turning movement.

On two (2) lane and three (3) lane streets, the proper lane for travel shall be the right hand lane unless otherwise clearly marked. On streets with four (4) or more lanes, either of the right hand lanes shall be available for use except that traffic moving at less than the normal rate of speed shall use the extreme right hand lane. On one-way streets either lane may be lawfully used in the absence of markings to the contrary. (1973 Code, § 9-111)

15-107. Yellow lines. On streets with a yellow line placed to the right of any lane line or center line, such yellow line shall designate a no-passing zone, and no operator shall drive his vehicle or any part thereof across or to the left of such yellow line except when necessary to make a lawful left turn from such street. (1973 Code, § 9-112)

15-108. Miscellaneous traffic-control signs, etc.¹ It shall be unlawful for any pedestrian or the operator of any vehicle to violate or fail to comply with any traffic-control sign, signal, marking, or device placed or erected by the state or the city unless otherwise directed by a police officer.

It shall be unlawful for any pedestrian or the operator of any vehicle to willfully violate or fail to comply with the reasonable directions of any police officer. (1973 Code, § 9-113)

15-109. General requirements for traffic-control signs, etc. All traffic control signs, signals, markings, and devices shall conform to the latest revision of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways,² published by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway administration and shall, so far as practicable, be uniform as to type and location throughout the city. (1973 Code, § 114)

15-110. Unauthorized traffic-control signs, etc. No person shall place, maintain, or display upon or in view of any street, any unauthorized sign, signal, marking, or device which purports to be or is an imitation of or resembles an official traffic-control sign, signal, marking, or device or railroad sign or signal, or which attempts to control the movement of traffic or parking of

¹Municipal code references

Stop signs, yield signs, flashing signals, pedestrian control signs, traffic control signals generally: §§ 15-505--15-509.

²This document may be obtained at: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov.

vehicles, or which hides from view or interferes with the effectiveness of any official traffic-control sign, signal, marking, or device or any railroad sign or signal. (1973 Code, § 9-115)

15-111. Presumption with respect to traffic-control signs, etc. When a traffic-control sign, signal, marking, or device has been placed, the presumption shall be that it is official and that it has been lawfully placed by the proper authority. All presently installed traffic-control signs, signals, markings and devices are hereby expressly authorized, ratified, approved and made official. (1973 Code, § 9-116, modified)

15-112. School safety patrols. All motorists and pedestrians shall obey the directions or signals of school safety patrols when such patrols are assigned under the authority of the chief of police and are acting in accordance with instructions; provided, that such persons giving any order, signal, or direction shall at the time be wearing some insignia and/or using authorized flags for giving signals. (1973 Code, § 9-117)

15-113. Driving through funerals or other processions. Except when otherwise directed by a police officer, no driver of a vehicle shall drive between the vehicles comprising a funeral or other authorized procession while they are in motion and when such vehicles are conspicuously designated. (1973 Code, § 9-118)

15-114. Clinging to vehicles in motion. It shall be unlawful for any person traveling upon any bicycle, motorcycle, coaster, sled, roller skates, or any other vehicle to cling to, or attach himself or his vehicle to any other moving vehicle upon any street, alley, or other public way or place. (1973 Code, § 9-120)

15-115. Riding on outside of vehicles. It shall be unlawful for any person to ride, or for the owner or operator of any motor vehicle being operated on a street, alley, or other public way or place, to permit any person to ride on any portion of such vehicle not designed or intended for the use of passengers. This section shall not apply to persons engaged in the necessary discharge of lawful duties nor to persons riding in the load-carrying space of trucks. (1973 Code, § 9-121)

15-116. Backing vehicles. The driver of a vehicle shall not back the same unless such movement can be made with reasonable safety and without interfering with other traffic. (1973 Code, § 9-122)

15-117. Projections from the rear of vehicles. Whenever the load or any projecting portion of any vehicle shall extend beyond the rear of the bed or body thereof, the operator shall display at the end of such load or projection, in

such position as to be clearly visible from the rear of such vehicle, a red flag being not less than twelve inches (12") square. Between one-half (1/2) hour after sunset and one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise, there shall be displayed in place of the flag a red light plainly visible under normal atmospheric conditions at least two hundred feet (200') from the rear of such vehicle. (1973 Code, § 9-123)

15-118. Causing unnecessary noise. It shall be unlawful for any person to cause unnecessary noise by unnecessarily sounding the horn, "racing" the motor, or causing the "screeching" or "squealing" of the tires on any motor vehicle.

No person operating or occupying a motor vehicle on any public street, highway, alley, parking lot, or driveway shall operate or permit the operation of any sound amplification system, including but not limited to, any radio, tape player, compact disc player, loud speaker, or any other electrical device used for the amplification of sound from within the motor vehicle so that the sound is plainly audible at a distance of fifty feet (50') or more feet from the vehicle. For the purpose of this section "plainly audible" means any sound which clearly can be heard, by any unimpaired auditory senses based on a direct line of sight of fifty (50) or more feet however, words or phrases need not be discernible such sound shall include bass reverberation.

This section shall not be applicable to emergency or public safety vehicles, vehicles owned and operated by a municipal or county government, or any utility company for sound emitted unavoidably during a job related operation, school or community sponsored activities, auctioneers or auctioning activities, boats or other watercrafts operated on waters, or any motor vehicle used in an authorized public activity for which there has been granted by the appropriate agency of the city or county government.

A violation of this section shall be punishable by fine of not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00). (1973 Code, § 9-124)

15-119. Vehicles and operators to be licensed. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle in violation of the "Tennessee Motor Vehicle Title and Registration Law" or the "Uniform Motor Vehicle Operators' and Chauffeurs' License Law." (1973 Code, § 9-125)

15-120. Passing. Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of a vehicle passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction shall pass to the left thereof at a safe distance and shall not again drive to the right side of the street until safely clear of the overtaken vehicle. The driver of the overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle on audible signal and shall not increase the speed of his vehicle until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle.

When the street is wide enough, the driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass upon the right of another vehicle which is making or about to make a left turn.

The driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass another vehicle proceeding in the same direction either upon the left or upon the right on a street of sufficient width for four (4) or more lanes of moving traffic when such movement can be made in safety.

No person shall drive off the pavement or upon the shoulder of the street in overtaking or passing on the right.

When any vehicle has stopped at a marked crosswalk or at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the street, no operator of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall overtake and pass such stopped vehicle.

No vehicle operator shall attempt to pass another vehicle proceeding in the same direction unless he can see that the way ahead is sufficiently clear and unobstructed to enable him to make the movement in safety. (1973 Code, § 9-126)

15-121. Damaging pavements. No person shall operate or cause to be operated upon any street of the municipality any vehicle, motor propelled or otherwise, which by reason of its weight or the character of its wheels, tires, or track is likely to damage the surface or foundation of the street. (1973 Code, § 9-119)

15-122. Bicycle riders, etc. Every person riding or operating a bicycle, motorcycle, or motor driven cycle shall be subject to the provisions of all traffic ordinances, rules, and regulations of the city applicable to the driver or operator of other vehicles except as to those provisions which by their nature can have no application to bicycles, motorcycles, motor driven cycles, or motor scooters.

No person operating or riding a bicycle, motorcycle, motor driven cycle, or motor scooter shall ride other than upon or astride the permanent and regular seat attached thereto, nor shall the operator carry any other person upon such vehicle other than upon a firmly attached and regular seat thereon.

No bicycle, motorcycle, motor driven cycle, or motor scooter shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped.

No person operating a bicycle, motorcycle, motor driven cycle, or motor scooter shall carry any package, bundle, or article which prevents the rider from keeping both hands upon the handlebars.

No person under the age of sixteen (16) years shall operate any motorcycle, motorbike, motor driven cycle, or motor scooter while any other person is a passenger upon said motor vehicle.

No person shall operate or ride upon any motorcycle, motorbike, or motor driven cycle unless such person is equipped with and wearing on the head a safety helmet with a secured chin strap and suspension lining, which said

helmet shall conform to the type and design manufactured for the use of the operators and riders of such motor vehicles. (1973 Code, § 9-127)

15-123. Interference with traffic prohibited, generally. It shall be unlawful for any person to interfere with, block, hinder, or lessen the flow of motor or pedestrian traffic on any public street, bridge, thoroughfare or sidewalk within this municipality without the express prior consent of the chief of police. (1973 Code, § 9-128)

15-124. Load limits. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or drive a motor vehicle with a load weight in excess of five (5) tons upon any street or alley, except Tennessee Highway No. 261, Tennessee Hwy. No. 52, or Tennessee Hwy. No. 10. This load limit restriction shall apply to through traffic, not local deliveries. (1973 Code, § 9-129)

15-125. Horses and horsedrawn vehicles. (1) Every horse being ridden on the roadways or road rights-of-way in the City of Lafayette between the hours of 6:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M. shall be equipped with a lamp on the front which shall emit a white light visible from a distance for at least five hundred feet (500') to the front and with a red reflector on the rear of a type which shall be visible from all distances from fifty feet (50') to three hundred feet (300') to the rear when directly in front of lawful upper beams of headlamps on a motor vehicle.

(2) All horsedrawn vehicles and/or equipment being driven on the roadways between 6:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M. within the City of Lafayette whether farm or passenger shall be equipped with a self-luminous red lamp which shall be visible from the front from a distance of at least five hundred feet (500') and with a self-luminous red lamp on the rear which shall be visible from a distance of at least five hundred feet (500') to the rear. (1973 Code, § 9-130)

15-126. Compliance with financial responsibility law required.

(1) This section shall apply to every vehicle subject to the state registration and certificate of title provisions.

(2) At the time the driver of a motor vehicle is charged with any moving violation under Tennessee Code Annotated, title 55, chapters 8 and 10, parts 1-5, chapter 50; any provision in this title of this municipal code; or at the time of an accident for which notice is required under Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-10-106, the officer shall request evidence of financial responsibility as required by this section. In case of an accident for which notice is required under Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-10-106, the officer shall request such evidence from all drivers involved in the accident, without regard to apparent or actual fault. For the purposes of this section, "financial responsibility" means:

(a) Documentation, such as the declaration page of an insurance policy, an insurance binder, or an insurance card from an insurance company authorized to do business in Tennessee, stating that a policy of insurance meeting the requirements of the Tennessee Financial Responsibility Law of 1977, compiled in Tennessee Code Annotated, chapter 12, title 55, has been issued;

(b) A certificate, valid for one (1) year, issued by the commissioner of safety, stating that a cash deposit or bond in the amount required by the Tennessee Financial Responsibility Law of 1977, compiled in Tennessee Code Annotated, chapter 12, title 55, has been paid or filed with the commissioner, or has qualified as a self-insurer under Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-12-111; or

(c) The motor vehicle being operated at the time of the violation was owned by a carrier subject to the jurisdiction of the department of safety or the interstate commerce commission, or was owned by the United States, the State of Tennessee or any political subdivision thereof, and that such motor vehicle was being operated with the owner's consent.

(3) It is a civil offense to fail to provide evidence of financial responsibility pursuant to this section. Any violation is punishable by a civil penalty of up to fifty dollars (\$50.00).

(4) The penalty imposed by this section shall be in addition to any other penalty imposed by the laws of this state or this municipal code.

(5) On or before the court date, the person so charged may submit evidence of financial responsibility at the time of the violation. If it is the person's first violation of this section and the court is satisfied that such financial responsibility was in effect at the time of the violation, the charge of failure to provide evidence of financial responsibility shall be dismissed. Upon the person's second or subsequent violation of this section, if the court is satisfied that such financial responsibility was in effect at the time of the violation, the charge of failure to provide evidence of financial responsibility may be dismissed. Any charge which is dismissed pursuant to this subsection shall be dismissed without costs to the defendant and no litigation tax shall be due or collected. (1973 Code, § 9-131, modified)

15-127. Adoption of state traffic statutes. By the authority granted under Tennessee Code Annotated, § 16-18-302, and Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-10-307, the City of Lafayette adopts by reference as if fully set forth in this section, the "Rules of the Road," as codified in Tennessee Code Annotated, §§ 55-8-101 through 55-8-131, §§ 55-8-133 through 55-8-150, and §§ 55-8-152 through 55-8-180. Additionally, the City of Lafayette adopts Tennessee Code Annotated, §§ 55-8-181 through 55-8-193, §§ 55-9-601 through 55-9-606, § 55-12-139, and § 55-21-108 by reference as if fully set forth in this section.

CHAPTER 2

EMERGENCY VEHICLES

SECTION

15-201. Authorized emergency vehicles defined.

15-202. Operation of authorized emergency vehicles.

15-203. Following emergency vehicles.

15-204. Running over fire hoses, etc.

15-201. Authorized emergency vehicles defined. Authorized emergency vehicles shall be fire department vehicles, police vehicles, and such ambulances and other emergency vehicles as are designated by the chief of police. (1973 Code, § 9-102)

15-202. Operation of authorized emergency vehicles.¹ (1) The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle, when responding to an emergency call, or when in the pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, or when responding to but not upon returning from a fire alarm, may exercise the privileges set forth in this section, subject to the conditions herein stated.

(2) The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle may park or stand, irrespective of the provisions of this chapter; proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down to ascertain that the intersection is clear; exceed the maximum speed limit and disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions so long as he does not endanger life or property.

(3) The exemptions herein granted for an authorized emergency vehicle shall apply only when the driver of any such vehicle while in motion sounds an audible signal by bell, siren, or exhaust whistle and when the vehicle is equipped with at least one (1) lighted lamp displaying a red light visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of five hundred feet (500') to the front of such vehicle, except that an authorized emergency vehicle operated as a police vehicle need not be equipped with or display a red light visible from in front of the vehicle.

(4) The foregoing provisions shall not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons, nor shall such provisions protect the driver from the consequences of his reckless disregard for the safety of others. (1973 Code, § 9-103)

¹Municipal code reference

Operation of other vehicle upon the approach of emergency vehicles:
§ 15-501.

15-203. Following emergency vehicles. No driver of any vehicle shall follow any authorized emergency vehicle apparently traveling in response to an emergency call closer than five hundred feet (500') or drive or park such vehicle within the block where fire apparatus has stopped in answer to a fire alarm. (1973 Code, § 9-104)

15-204. Running over fire hoses, etc. It shall be unlawful for any person to drive over any hose lines or other equipment of the fire department except in obedience to the direction of a fireman or police officer. (1973 Code, § 9-105, modified)

CHAPTER 3**SPEED LIMITS****SECTION**

15-301. In general.

15-302. At intersections.

15-303. In school zones and near playgrounds.

15-304. In congested areas.

15-301. In general. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or drive a motor vehicle upon any highway or street at a rate of speed in excess of thirty (30) miles per hour except where official signs have been posted indicating other speed limits, in which cases the posted speed limit shall apply. (1973 Code, § 9-201)

15-302. At intersections. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or drive a motor vehicle through any intersection at a rate of speed in excess of fifteen (15) miles per hour unless such person is driving on a street regulated by traffic-control signals or signs which require traffic to stop or yield on the intersecting streets. (1973 Code, § 9-202)

15-303. In school zones and near playgrounds. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or drive a motor vehicle through any school zone or near any playground at a rate of speed in excess of fifteen (15) miles per hour when official signs indicating such speed limit have been posted by authority of the municipality. This section shall not apply at times when children are not in the vicinity of a school and such posted signs have been covered by direction of the chief of police. (1973 Code, § 9-203)

15-304. In congested areas. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or drive a motor vehicle through any congested area at a rate of speed in excess of any posted speed limit when such speed limit has been posted by authority of the municipality. (1973 Code, § 9-204)

CHAPTER 4

TURNING MOVEMENTS**SECTION**

15-401. Generally.

15-402. Right turns.

15-403. Left turns on two-way roadways.

15-404. Left turns on other than two-way roadways.

15-405. U-turns.

15-401. Generally. No person operating a motor vehicle shall make any turning movement which might affect any pedestrian or the operation of any other vehicle without first ascertaining that such movement can be made in safety and signaling his intention in accordance with the requirements of the state law.¹ (1973 Code, § 9-301)

15-402. Right turns. Both the approach for a right turn and a right turn shall be made as close as practicable to the right hand curb or edge of the roadway. (1973 Code, § 9-302)

15-403. Left turns on two-way roadways. At any intersection where traffic is permitted to move in both directions on each roadway entering the intersection, an approach for a left turn shall be made in that portion of the right half of the roadway nearest the center line thereof and by passing to the right of the intersection of the center line of the two roadways. (1973 Code, § 9-303)

15-404. Left turns on other than two-way roadways. At any intersection where traffic is restricted to one direction on one (1) or more of the roadways, the driver of a vehicle intending to turn left at any such intersection shall approach the intersection in the extreme left hand lane lawfully available to traffic moving in the direction of travel of such vehicle and after entering the intersection the left turn shall be made so as to leave the intersection, as nearly as practicable, in the left hand lane lawfully available to traffic moving in such direction upon the roadway being entered. (1973 Code, § 9-304)

15-405. U-turns. U-turns are prohibited. (1973 Code, § 9-305)

¹State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-143.

CHAPTER 5**STOPPING AND YIELDING****SECTION**

- 15-501. Upon approach of authorized emergency vehicles.
- 15-502. When emerging from alleys, etc.
- 15-503. To prevent obstructing an intersection.
- 15-504. At railroad crossings.
- 15-505. At "stop" signs.
- 15-506. At "yield" signs.
- 15-507. At traffic-control signals generally.
- 15-508. At flashing traffic-control signals.
- 15-509. At pedestrian control signals.
- 15-510. Stops to be signaled.

15-501. Upon approach of authorized emergency vehicles.¹ Upon the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle making use of audible and/or visual signals meeting the requirements of the laws of this state, the driver of every other vehicle shall immediately drive to a position parallel to, and as close as possible to, the right hand edge or curb of the roadway clear of any intersection and shall stop and remain in such position until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a police officer. (1973 Code, § 9-401)

15-502. When emerging from alleys, etc. The drivers of all vehicles emerging from alleys, parking lots, driveways, or buildings shall stop such vehicles immediately prior to driving onto any sidewalk or street. They shall not proceed to drive onto the sidewalk or street until they can safely do so without colliding or interfering with approaching pedestrians or vehicles. (1973 Code, § 9-402)

15-503. To prevent obstructing an intersection. No driver shall enter any intersection or marked crosswalk unless there is sufficient space on the other side of such intersection or crosswalk to accommodate the vehicle he is operating without obstructing the passage of traffic in or on the intersecting street or crosswalk. This provision shall be effective notwithstanding any traffic control signal indication to proceed. (1973 Code, § 9-403)

¹Municipal code reference

Special privileges of emergency vehicles: title 15, chapter 2.

15-504. At railroad crossings. Any driver of a vehicle approaching a railroad grade crossing shall stop within not less than fifteen feet (15') from the nearest rail of such railroad and shall not proceed further while any of the following conditions exist:

(1) A clearly visible electrical or mechanical signal device gives warning of the approach of a railroad train.

(2) A crossing gate is lowered or a human flagman signals the approach of a railroad train.

(3) A railroad train is approaching within approximately one thousand five hundred feet (1,500') of the highway crossing and is emitting an audible signal indicating its approach.

(4) An approaching railroad train is plainly visible and is in hazardous proximity to the crossing.

15-505. At "stop" signs. The driver of a vehicle facing a "stop" sign shall bring his vehicle to a complete stop immediately before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or, if there is no crosswalk, then immediately before entering the intersection, and shall remain standing until he can proceed through the intersection in safety. (1973 Code, § 9-404)

15-506. At "yield" signs. The drivers of all vehicles shall yield the right of way to approaching vehicles before proceeding at all places where "yield" signs have been posted. (1973 Code, § 9-405)

15-507. At traffic-control signals generally. Traffic-control signals exhibiting the words "Go," "Caution," or "Stop," or exhibiting different colored lights successively one at a time, or with arrows, shall show the following colors only and shall apply to drivers of vehicles and pedestrians as follows:

(1) Green alone, or "Go":

(a) Vehicular traffic facing the signal may proceed straight through or turn right or left unless a sign at such place prohibits such turn. But vehicular traffic, including vehicles turning right or left, shall yield the right-of-way to other vehicles and to pedestrians lawfully within the intersection or an adjacent crosswalk at the time such signal is exhibited.

(b) Pedestrians facing the signal may proceed across the roadway within any marked or unmarked crosswalk.

(2) Steady yellow alone, or "Caution":

(a) Vehicular traffic facing the signal is thereby warned that the red or "Stop" signal will be exhibited immediately thereafter, and such vehicular traffic shall not enter or be crossing the intersection when the red or "Stop" signal is exhibited.

(b) Pedestrians facing such signal shall not enter the roadway unless authorized so to do by a pedestrian "Walk" signal.

(3) Steady red alone, or "Stop":

(a) Vehicular traffic facing the signal shall stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or, if none, then before entering the intersection and shall remain standing until green or "Go" is shown alone. Provided, however, that a right turn on a red signal shall be permitted at all intersections within the city, provided that the prospective turning car comes to a full and complete stop before turning and that the turning car yields the right-of-way to pedestrians and cross traffic traveling in accordance with their traffic signal. However, said turn will not endanger other traffic lawfully using said intersection. A right turn on red shall be permitted at all intersections except those clearly marked by a "No Turns On Red" sign, which may be erected by the city at intersections which the city decides require no right turns on red in the interest of traffic safety.

(b) Pedestrians facing such signal shall not enter the roadway unless authorized so to do by a pedestrian "Walk" signal.

(4) Steady red with green arrow:

(a) Vehicular traffic facing such signal may cautiously enter the intersection only to make the movement indicated by such arrow but shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians lawfully within a crosswalk and to other traffic lawfully using the intersection.

(b) Pedestrians facing such signal shall not enter the roadway unless authorized so to do by a pedestrian "Walk" signal.

(5) In the event an official traffic-control signal is erected and maintained at a place other than an intersection, the provisions of this section shall be applicable except as to those provisions which by their nature can have no application. Any stop required shall be made at a sign or marking on the pavement indicating where the stop shall be made, but in the absence of any such sign or marking the stop shall be made a vehicle length short of the signal. (1973 Code, § 9-406, modified)

15-508. At flashing traffic-control signals. (1) Whenever an illuminated flashing red or yellow signal is used in a traffic sign or signal placed or erected in the city it shall require obedience by vehicular traffic as follows:

(a) Flashing red (stop signal). When a red lens is illuminated with intermittent flashes, drivers of vehicles shall stop before entering the nearest crosswalk at an intersection or at a limit line when marked, or if none, then before entering the intersection, and the right to proceed shall be subject to the rules applicable after making a stop at a stop sign.

(b) Flashing yellow (caution signal). When a yellow lens is illuminated with intermittent flashes, drivers of vehicles may proceed through the intersection or past such signal only with caution.

(2) This section shall not apply at railroad grade crossings. Conduct of drivers of vehicles approaching railroad grade crossings shall be governed by the rules set forth in § 15-504 of this code. (1973 Code, § 9-407, modified)

15-509. At pedestrian control signals. Wherever special pedestrian control signals exhibiting the words "Walk" or "Wait" or "Don't Walk" have been placed or erected by the city, such signals shall apply as follows:

(1) Walk. Pedestrians facing such signal may proceed across the roadway in the direction of the signal and shall be given the right-of-way by the drivers of all vehicles.

(2) Wait or Don't Walk. No pedestrian shall start to cross the roadway in the direction of such signal, but any pedestrian who has partially completed his crossing on the walk signal shall proceed to the nearest sidewalk or safety zone while the wait signal is showing.

15-510. Stops to be signaled. No person operating a motor vehicle shall stop such vehicle, whether in obedience to a traffic sign or signal or otherwise, without first signaling his intention in accordance with the requirements of the state law,¹ except in an emergency. (1973 Code, § 9-408)

¹State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-143.

CHAPTER 6

PARKING¹

SECTION

- 15-601. Generally.
- 15-602. Angle parking.
- 15-603. Occupancy of more than one space.
- 15-604. Where prohibited.
- 15-605. Loading and unloading zones.
- 15-606. Regulation.
- 15-607. Unlawful parking on the square or within one block thereof.
- 15-608. Unlawful to occupy more than one space.
- 15-609. Presumption with respect to illegal parking.

15-601. Generally. No person shall leave any motor vehicle unattended on any street without first setting the brakes thereon, stopping the motor, removing the ignition key, and turning the front wheels of such vehicle toward the nearest curb or gutter of the street.

Except as hereinafter provided, every vehicle parked upon a street within this city shall be so parked that its right wheels are approximately parallel to and within eighteen inches (18") of the right edge or curb of the street. On one-way streets where the city has not placed signs prohibiting the same, vehicles may be permitted to park on the left side of the street, and in such cases the left wheels shall be required to be within eighteen inches (18") of the left edge or curb of the street.

Notwithstanding anything else in this code to the contrary, no person shall park or leave a vehicle parked on any public street or alley within the fire limits between the hours of 1:00 A.M. and 5:00 A.M. or on any other public street or alley for more than seventy-two (72) consecutive hours without the prior approval of the chief of police.

Furthermore, no person shall wash, grease, or work on any vehicle, except to make repairs necessitated by an emergency, while such vehicle is parked on a public street. (1973 Code, § 9-501)

15-602. Angle parking. On those streets which have been signed or marked by the city for angle parking, no person shall park or stand a vehicle other than at the angle indicated by such signs or markings. No person shall angle park any vehicle which has a trailer attached thereto or which has a length in excess of twenty-four feet (24'). (1973 Code, § 9-502)

¹Municipal code reference
Fire lanes: § 7-205.

15-603. Occupancy of more than one space. No person shall park a vehicle in any designated parking space so that any part of such vehicle occupies more than one (1) such space or protrudes beyond the official markings on the street or curb designating such space unless the vehicle is too large to be parked within a single designated space. (1973 Code, § 9-503)

15-604. Where prohibited. No person shall park a vehicle in violation of any sign placed or erected by the state or city, nor:

- (1) On a sidewalk.
- (2) In front of a public or private driveway.
- (3) Within an intersection or within fifteen feet (15') thereof.
- (4) Within fifteen feet (15') of a fire hydrant.
- (5) Within a pedestrian crosswalk.
- (6) Within fifty feet (50') of a railroad crossing.
- (7) Within twenty feet (20') of the driveway entrance to any fire station, and on the side of the street opposite the entrance to any fire station within seventy-five feet (75') of the entrance.
- (8) Alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when other traffic would be obstructed.
- (9) On the roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge or curb of a street.
- (10) Upon any bridge.
- (11) Alongside any curb painted yellow or red by the city. (1973 Code, § 9-504)

15-605. Loading and unloading zones. No person shall park a vehicle for any purpose or period of time other than for the expeditious loading or unloading of passengers or merchandise in any place marked by the city as a loading and unloading zone. (1973 Code, § 9-505)

15-606. Regulation. In the absence of an official sign to the contrary which has been installed by the municipality, between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. on all days except Sundays and holidays declared by the governing body, parking shall be limited to the maximum time of two (2) hours in the parking spaces on the square and within one (1) block of said public square. (1973 Code, § 9-506)

15-607. Unlawful parking on the square or within one block thereof. It shall be unlawful for the owner or operator of any vehicle to park or allow his vehicle to be parked in a parking space on the public square or within one (1) block thereof for more than four (4) hours. (1973 Code, § 9-507)

15-608. Unlawful to occupy more than one space. It shall be unlawful for the owner or operator of any vehicle to park or allow his vehicle to

park across any line or marking designated as parking space or otherwise so that the vehicle is not entirely within the designated parking space; provided, however, said vehicles which are too large to park within one (1) space may be permitted to occupy two (2) spaces, provided said parking does not exceed four (4) hours where said parking spaces are located on the public square or within one (1) block of said square. (1973 Code, § 9-508)

15-609. Presumption with respect to illegal parking. When any unoccupied vehicle is found parked in violation of any provision of this chapter there shall be a prima facie presumption that the registered owner of the vehicle is responsible for such illegal parking. (1973 Code, § 9-509)

CHAPTER 7**ENFORCEMENT****SECTION**

- 15-701. Issuance of traffic citations.
- 15-702. Failure to obey citation.
- 15-703. Illegal parking.
- 15-704. Impoundment of vehicles.
- 15-705. Violation and penalty.
- 15-706. Deposit of operator's license.
- 15-707. Receipt.
- 15-708. Authority.

15-701. Issuance of traffic citations.¹ When a police officer halts a traffic violator other than for the purpose of giving a warning, and does not take such person into custody under arrest, he shall take the name, address, and operator's license number of said person, the license number of the motor vehicle involved, and such other pertinent information as may be necessary, and shall issue to him a written traffic citation containing a notice to answer to the charge against him in the city court at a specified time. The officer, upon receiving the written promise of the alleged violator to answer as specified in the citation, shall release such person from custody. It shall be unlawful for any alleged violator to give false or misleading information as to his name or address. (1973 Code, § 9-601)

15-702. Failure to obey citation. It shall be unlawful for any person to violate his written promise to appear in court after giving said promise to an officer upon the issuance of a traffic citation, regardless of the disposition of the charge for which the citation was originally issued. (1973 Code, § 9-602)

15-703. Illegal parking. Whenever any motor vehicle without a driver is found parked or stopped in violation of any of the restrictions imposed by this code, the officer finding such vehicle shall take its license number and may take any other information displayed on the vehicle which may identify its user, and shall conspicuously affix to such vehicle a citation for the driver and/or owner to answer for the violation within ten (10) days during the hours and at a place specified in the citation. However, if the offense is a parking violation on the public square or within one (1) block off the square, the vehicle shall be towed from its location to a storage area, to be designated by the chief of police, and the

¹State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, § 7-63-101, et seq.

offender shall be required to pay a fine of five dollars (\$5.00), the pull in or towing fee and a storage cost of two dollars (\$2.00) per day. (1973 Code, § 9-603)

15-704. Impoundment of vehicles. Members of the police department are hereby authorized, when reasonably necessary for the security of the vehicle or to prevent obstruction of traffic, to remove from the streets and impound any vehicle whose operator is arrested or any unattended vehicle which is illegally parked, abandoned, or otherwise parked so as to constitute an obstruction or hazard to normal traffic. Any vehicle left parked on any street or alley for more than seventy-two (72) consecutive hours without permission from the chief of police shall be presumed to have been abandoned if the owner cannot be located after a reasonable investigation. Such an impounded vehicle shall be stored until the owner or other person entitled thereto, claims it, gives satisfactory evidence of ownership or right to possession, and pays all applicable fees and costs, or until otherwise lawfully disposed of. The fee for impounding a vehicle shall be five dollars (\$5.00) and the storage cost shall be two dollars (\$2.00) for each twenty-four (24) hour period or fraction thereof that the vehicle is stored. The owner of any vehicle so impounded shall also pay the pull-in, or towing fee. (1973 Code, § 9-604, modified)

15-705. Violation and penalty. Any violation of this chapter shall be a civil offense punishable as follows:

(1) **Traffic citations.** Traffic citations shall be punishable by a civil penalty up to fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each separate offense.

(2) **Parking citations.** For parking violations, except as provided in § 15-703, the offender may, within ten (10) days, have the charge against him disposed of by paying to the city recorder a fine of three dollars (\$3.00) provided he waives his right to a judicial hearing. If he appears and waives his right to a judicial hearing after ten (10) days but before a warrant is issued for his arrest, his civil penalty shall be five dollars (\$5.00).

15-706. Deposit of operator's license. Any person issued a citation or arrested and charged with the violation of any municipal ordinance of the City of Lafayette, which regulates traffic, except driving under the influence of an intoxicant or narcotic drug, leaving the scene of an accident or any other violation of which called for the mandatory revocation of an operator's or chauffeur's license for any period of time, may have the option of depositing his or her driver's license which was issued to him or her by the Department of Safety of the State of Tennessee, with the officer or court demanding bail in lieu of any other security required for his appearance in the City Court of the City of Lafayette, in answer to such charge. (1973 Code, § 9-701)

15-707. Receipt. Upon the deposit of such license, either the officer or the court demanding bail shall issue said person a receipt for said license upon

the form approved or provided by the Department of Safety of the State of Tennessee. (1973 Code, § 9-702)

15-708. Authority. This section is in furtherance of the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, title 55, chapter 10, now in effect or as hereinafter amended and provisions thereof shall be governed and controlled in accordance with said code provisions. (1973 Code, § 9-703)

CHAPTER 8

ABANDONED AND JUNKED MOTOR VEHICLES¹

SECTION

- 15-801. Definitions.
- 15-802. Storing, parking, or leaving junked or other such motor vehicle prohibited and declared nuisance; exceptions.
- 15-803. Notice to remove.
- 15-804. Responsibility for removal.
- 15-805. Notice procedure.
- 15-806. Content of notice.
- 15-807. Request for hearing.
- 15-808. Procedure for hearing.
- 15-809. Removal of motor vehicle from property.
- 15-810. Notice of removal.
- 15-811. Disposition of vehicles.
- 15-812. Contents of public sale notice.
- 15-813. Public sale.
- 15-814. Redemption of impounded vehicles.
- 15-815. Liability of owner or occupant.
- 15-816. Penalty.

15-801. Definitions. For the purposes of this chapter the following terms, phrases, words, and their derivations shall have the meanings given herein. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words in the plural number include the singular number, and words in the singular number include the plural number. The word "shall" is always mandatory and not merely directory.

- (1) "City" is the City of Lafayette.
- (2) "Director of traffic" is the chief of police of the City of Lafayette.
- (3) (d) "Junked motor vehicle" is any motor vehicle, as defined by subsection (4) below which does not have lawfully affixed thereto an unexpired license plate or plates and the condition of which is wrecked, dismantled, partially dismantled, inoperative, abandoned, or discarded.
- (4) "Motor vehicle" is any vehicle which is self-propelled and designed to travel along the ground and shall include, but not be limited to automobiles, buses, motor-bikes, motorcycles, motorscooters, trucks, tractors, go-carts, golf carts, campers, and trailers.

¹Municipal code reference
Junkyards: title 13, ch. 2.

(5) "Person" shall mean any person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company, or organization of any kind.

(6) "Private property" shall mean any real property within the city which is privately owned and which is not public property as defined in this section.

(7) "Public property" shall mean any street or highway which shall include the entire width between the boundary lines of every way publicly maintained for the purposes of vehicular travel, and shall also mean any other publicly owned property or facility. (1973 Code, § 8-602)

15-802. Storing, parking, or leaving junked or other such motor vehicle prohibited and declared nuisance; exceptions. No person shall park, store, leave, or permit the parking, storing, or leaving of any motor vehicle of any kind which is in an abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, inoperative, rusted, junked, or partially dismantled condition whether attended or not, upon any public or private property within the city for a period of time in excess of seventy-two (72) hours. The presence of an abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, inoperative, rusted, junked, or partially dismantled vehicle, or parts thereof, on private or public property is hereby declared a public nuisance which may be abated as such in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. This section shall not apply to any vehicle enclosed within a building on private property or to any vehicle held in connection with a business enterprise, lawfully licensed by the city and properly operated in the appropriate business zone, pursuant to the zoning laws of the city, or to any motor vehicle in operable condition specifically adapted or designed for operation on drag strips or raceways, or any vehicle retained by the owner for antique collection purposes. (1973 Code, § 8-603)

15-803. Notice to remove. Whenever it comes to the attention of the city that any nuisance as defined in § 15-802 of this chapter exists in the City of Lafayette, a notice in writing shall be served upon the occupant of the land where the nuisance exists, or in case there is no such occupant, then upon the owner of the property or his agent, notifying them of the existence of the nuisance and requesting its removal in the time specified in this chapter. (1973 Code, § 8-604)

15-804. Responsibility for removal. Upon proper notice and opportunity to be heard, the owner of the abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, or inoperative vehicle and the owner or occupant of the private property on which the same is located, either or all of them, shall be responsible for its removal. In the event of removal and disposition by the city, the owner or occupant of the private property where same is located shall be liable for the expenses incurred. (1973 Code, § 8-605)

15-805. Notice procedure. The chief of police or building inspector of the city shall give notice of removal to the owner or occupant of the private property where it is located at least seven (7) days before the time of compliance. It shall constitute sufficient notice, when a copy of same is posted in a conspicuous place upon the private property on which the vehicle is located and duplicate copies are sent by registered mail to the owner or occupant of the private property at his last known address. (1973 Code, § 8-606)

15-806. Content of notice. The notice shall contain the request for removal, within the time specified in this chapter, and the notice shall advise that upon failure to comply with the notice to remove the city or its designee shall undertake such removal with the costs of removal to be levied against the owner of the property. (1973 Code, § 8-607)

15-807. Request for hearing. The persons to whom the notices are directed, or their duly authorized agents may file a written request for hearing in the City Court of the City of Lafayette, Tennessee within the seven (7) day period of compliance prescribed in § 15-805 for the purpose of defending the charges by the city. (1973 Code, 8-608)

15-808. Procedure for hearing. The hearing shall be held as soon as practicable after the filing of the request and the persons to whom the notices are directed shall be advised of the time and place of said hearing at least five (5) days in advance thereof. At such hearing the city and the persons to whom the notices have been directed may introduce such witnesses and evidence as either party deems necessary. (1973 Code, § 8-609)

15-809. Removal of motor vehicle from property. If the violation described in the notice has not been remedied within the seven (7) day period of compliance, or in the event that a notice requesting a hearing is timely filed, a hearing is had and the existence of violation is affirmed by the City Court of the City of Lafayette, the chief of police or his designee shall have the right to take possession of the junked motor vehicle or vehicles and remove same from the premises. It shall be unlawful for any person to interfere with, hinder or refuse to allow such person or persons to enter upon private property for the purpose of removing a vehicle under the provisions of this chapter. (1973 Code, § 8-610)

15-810. Notice of removal. Within forty-eight (48) hours of the removal of such vehicle, the chief of police shall give notice to the registered owner of the vehicle, if known, and also to the owner or occupant of the private property from which the vehicle was removed that said vehicle, or vehicles, has been impounded and stored for violation of this chapter. The notice shall give the

location of where the vehicle or vehicles is stored, and the costs incurred by the city for removal. (1973 Code, § 8-611)

15-811. Disposition of vehicles. Upon removing a vehicle under the provisions of § 15-809, the city shall after ten (10) days cause it to be appraised. If the vehicle is appraised at seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) or less, the chief of police shall execute an affidavit so attesting and describing the vehicle, including the license plates, if any, and stating the location and appraised value of the vehicle. The chief of police, after complying with the above, may summarily dispose of the vehicle and execute a certificate of sale. If the vehicle is appraised at over seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) the chief of police shall give notice of public sale not less than twenty (20) days before the date of the proposed sale. (1973 Code, § 8-612)

15-812. Contents of public sale notice. The notice of sale shall state:

- (1) The sale is of abandoned property in the possession of the city.
- (2) A description of the vehicle, including make, model, license number and any other information which will accurately identify the vehicle.
- (3) The terms of the sale.
- (4) The date, time and place of the sale. (1973 Code, § 8-613)

15-813. Public sale. The vehicle shall be sold to the highest and best bidder. At the time of payment of the purchase price, the chief of police shall execute a certificate of sale in duplicate, the original of which to be given to the purchaser, and the copy thereof to be filed with the recorder of the city. Should the sale for any reason be invalid, the city's liability shall be limited to the return of the purchase price. (1973 Code, § 8-614)

15-814. Redemption of impounded vehicles. The owner of any vehicle seized under the provisions of this chapter may redeem such vehicle at any time after its removal but prior to the sale or destruction thereof upon proof of ownership and payment to the chief of police of such sum as he may determine and fix for the actual and reasonable expense of removal, and any preliminary sale advertising expenses, plus five dollars (\$5.00) per day for storage for each vehicle redeemed. (1973 Code, § 8-615)

15-815. Liability of owner or occupant. Upon the failure of the owner or occupant of property on which abandoned vehicles have been removed by the city to pay the unrecovered expenses incurred by the city in such removal, a lien shall be placed upon the property for the amount of such expenses. (1973 Code, § 8-616)

15-816. Penalty. Any person violating any of the provisions of this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be fined in accordance with the Lafayette Charter and the Lafayette Municipal Code. (1973 Code, § 8-617)