

TITLE 15

MOTOR VEHICLES, TRAFFIC AND PARKING¹

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CHAPTER 1

MISCELLANEOUS

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¹Municipal code reference

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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. (1984 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. (1984 Code, § 9-106)

15-103. 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. (1984 Code, § 9-105)

15-104. 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. (1984 Code, § 9-106)

15-105. 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. (1984 Code, § 9-107)

15-106. 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. (1984 Code, § 9-108)

15-107. 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. (1984 Code, § 9-109)

15-108. General requirements for traffic-control signs, etc. Pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, § 54-5-108, all traffic control signs, signals, markings, and devices shall conform to the latest revision of the Tennessee Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways,² and shall be uniform as to type and location throughout the city. (1984 Code, § 9-110, modified)

15-109. 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 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. (1984 Code, § 9-111)

15-110. Presumption with respect to traffic-control signs, etc. When a traffic-control sign, signal, marking, or device has been placed, the

¹Municipal code references

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

²This document may be viewed online at: <http://www.state.tn.us/sos/rules/1680/1680-03/1680-03.htm>

presumption shall be that it is official and that it has been lawfully placed by the proper authority. (1984 Code, § 9-112)

15-111. 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. (1984 Code, § 9-113)

15-112. 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. (1984 Code, § 9-114)

15-113. 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. (1984 Code, § 9-116)

15-114. 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. (1984 Code, § 9-117)

15-115. 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. (1984 Code, § 9-118)

15-116. 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 (12) inches square. Between one-half (½) hour after sunset and one-half (½) 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 (200) feet from the rear of such vehicle. (1984 Code, § 9-119)

15-117. 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. (1984 Code, § 9-120)

15-118. 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." (1984 Code, § 9-121)

15-119. 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. (1984 Code, § 9-122)

15-120. Damaging pavements. No person shall operate upon any street of the city any vehicle, motor propelled or otherwise, which by reason of its weight or the character of its wheels, or track is likely to damage the surface or foundation of the street. (1984 Code, § 9-115)

15-121. Motorcycles, 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, or motor driven cycles.

No person operating or riding a bicycle, motorcycle, or motor driven cycle 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, or motor driven cycle 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, or motor driven cycle 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, or motor driven cycle while any other person is a passenger upon said motor vehicle.

Each driver of a motorcycle or motor driven cycle and any passenger thereon shall be required to wear on his head a crash helmet of a type approved by the state's commissioner of safety.

Every motorcycle or motor driven cycle operated upon any public way within the corporate limits shall be equipped with a windshield, or, in the alternative, the operator and any passenger on any such motorcycle or motor driven cycle shall be required to wear safety goggles of a type approved by the state's commissioner of safety for the purpose of preventing any flying object from striking the operator or any passenger in the eyes.

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or ride on any vehicle in violation of this section and it shall also be unlawful for any parent or guardian knowingly to permit any minor to operate a motorcycle or motor driven cycle in violation of this section. (1984 Code, § 9-123)

15-122. Evading traffic control signs or signals. It shall be unlawful for the operator of any vehicle to avoid or evade any regulatory traffic control sign or signal by turning out of his lane of traffic, crossing over, or driving through private or public property not a part of the public street. (1984 Code, § 9-124)

15-123. Applicability of chapter to public areas. The provisions of this chapter, §§ 15-101 through 15-127 of the Municipal Code of the City of Mount Pleasant as related to the operation of motor vehicles within the corporate limits of said city shall be applicable to the operation of same in any public park, playground or recreation area owned by the City of Mount Pleasant or any other governmental entity or otherwise if frequented and used by the public in general. (1984 Code, § 9-125)

15-124. Riding animals within corporate city limits after sunset.

(1) It shall be unlawful for any person to ride a horse or any other animal within the corporate city limits of the City of Mount Pleasant, Tennessee, at any time between thirty (30) minutes before sunset and thirty (30)

minutes after sunrise unless such conduct is part of an event authorized by the municipality.

(2) It shall be unlawful to ride a horse or any other animal upon any public sidewalks within the corporate limits of the City of Mount Pleasant, Tennessee at any time.

(3) No person shall drive an animal drawn cart, buggy, wagon and/or other vehicle within the corporate limits of the City of Mount Pleasant, Tennessee, between thirty (30) minutes before sunset and thirty (30) minutes after sunrise unless such driver displays at least one hundred square inches of solid reflectorized material on the rear of such vehicle and displays a light that is visible from the front of such vehicle from a distance of five hundred (500) feet in clear weather. (Ord. #96-778, Aug. 1996)

15-125. 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 of title 15 or any other 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.

(3) 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 covering the driver's vehicle.

(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.

(4) Civil offense. It is a civil offense to fail to provide evidence of financial responsibility pursuant to this section. Any violation of this section is punishable by a civil penalty of up to fifty dollars (\$50.00). The civil penalty prescribed by this section shall be in addition to any other penalty prescribed by the laws of this state or the city's municipal code of ordinances.

(5) Evidence of compliance after violation. On or before the court date, the person so charged may submit evidence of financial responsibility at the time of violation. If it is the person's first violation of this section and the court is satisfied that the 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 the 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 that is dismissed pursuant to this subsection shall be dismissed without costs to the defendant and no litigation tax shall be due or collected. (Ord. #2002-828, June 2002, modified)

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.

15-205. Operation of vehicles on approach of authorized emergency vehicles.

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. (1984 Code, § 9-201)

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 title; 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 500 feet 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

¹Municipal code reference

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

consequences of his reckless disregard for the safety of others. (1984 Code, § 9-202)

15-203. Following emergency vehicles. No driver of any vehicle shall follow any authorized emergency vehicle apparently travelling in response to an emergency call closer than five hundred (500) feet or drive or park such vehicle within the block where fire apparatus has stopped in answer to a fire alarm. (1984 Code, § 9-203)

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 policeman. (1984 Code, § 9-204)

15-205. Operation of vehicles on approach of authorized emergency vehicles. (1) Upon the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle making use of audible and visual signals, or of a police vehicle properly and lawfully making use of an audible signal only:

(a) The driver of every other vehicle shall yield the right-of-way and 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 that position until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a police officer.

(2) Upon approaching a stationary authorized emergency vehicle, when the vehicle is giving a signal by use of flashing lights, a person who drives an approaching vehicle shall:

(a) Proceeding with due caution, yield the right-of-way by making a lane change into a lane not adjacent to that of the authorized emergency vehicle, if possible with due regard to safety and traffic conditions, if on a highway having at least four (4) lanes with not less than two (2) lanes proceeding in the same direction as the approaching vehicle; or

(b) Proceeding with due caution, reduce the speed of the vehicle, maintaining a safe speed for road conditions, if changing lanes would be impossible or unsafe.

(3) Upon approaching a stationary recovery vehicle, highway maintenance vehicle, or utility service vehicle when the vehicle is giving a signal by use of authorized flashing lights, a person who drives an approaching vehicle shall:

(a) Proceeding with due caution, yield the right-of-way by making a lane change into a lane not adjacent to the stationary recovery vehicle, highway maintenance vehicle or the utility service vehicle if possible with due regard to safety and traffic conditions, if on a highway

having at least four (4) lanes with not less than two (2) lanes proceeding in the same direction as the approaching vehicle; or

(b) Proceeding with due caution, reduce the speed of the vehicle, maintaining a safe speed for road conditions, if changing lanes would be impossible or unsafe.

(4) For the purpose of this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Authorized emergency vehicle" means fire department vehicles, police vehicles and such ambulances and other emergency vehicles as are designated by the chief of police;

(b) "Highway maintenance vehicle" means a vehicle used for the maintenance of highways and roadways in this state and is

(i) Owned or operated by a contractor under contract with the department of transportation, a county, a municipality or other political subdivision of this state;

(ii) Owned or operated by a contractor under contract with the Department of Transportation, a county, a municipality or other political subdivision of this state;

(c) "Recovery vehicle" means a truck that is specifically designed for towing a disabled vehicle or a combination of vehicles; and

(d) "Utility" means any person, municipality, county, metropolitan government, electric cooperative, telephone cooperative, board, commission, district or any entity created or authorized by public act, private act, or general law to provide electricity, natural gas, water, wastewater services, telephone services, or any combination thereof, for sale to consumers in any particular service area.

(5) This section shall not operate to relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle, a recovery vehicle, highway maintenance vehicle or utility service vehicle from the duty to operate the vehicle with due regard for the safety of all persons using the highway.

(6) Any violation of this section is punishable by civil penalty of up to fifty dollars (\$50.00). The civil penalty prescribed by this section shall be in addition to any other penalty prescribed by the laws of this state or by the city's municipal code of ordinances. (as added by Ord. #2011-937, Oct. 2011)

CHAPTER 3

SPEED LIMITS

SECTION

15-301. In general.

15-302. At intersections.

15-303. In school zones.

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. (1984 Code, § 9-301)

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. (1984 Code, § 9-302)

15-303. In school zones. Pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-152, the city shall have the authority to enact special speed limits in school zones. Such special speed limits shall be enacted based on an engineering investigation; shall not be less than fifteen (15) miles per hour; and shall be in effect only when proper signs are posted with a warning flasher or flashers in operation. It shall be unlawful for any person to violate any such special speed limit enacted and in effect in accordance with this section.

In school zones where the board of commissioners has not established special speed limits as provided for above, any person who shall drive at a speed exceeding fifteen (15) miles per hour when passing a school during a recess period when a warning flasher or flashers are in operation, or during a period of ninety (90) minutes before the opening hour of a school, or a period of ninety (90) minutes after the closing hour of a school, while children are actually going to or leaving school, shall be prima facie guilty of reckless driving. (1984 Code, § 9-303, modified)

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 city. (1984 Code, § 9-304)

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 (1984 Code, § 9-401)

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. (1984 Code, § 9-402)

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. (1984 Code, § 9-403)

15-404. Left turns on other than two-way roadways. At any intersection where traffic is restricted to one direction on one 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. (1984 Code, § 9-404)

15-405. U-turns. (1) U-turns. U-turns are prohibited within the corporate limits of the municipality.

¹State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-143.

(2) Left turns into or reverse turns out of parking spaces. Left turns into or reverse turns out of parking places shall be prohibited in the following locations:

- (a) North Main Street from the public square to Columbia Avenue.
- (b) South Main Street from the public square to Jordan Avenue.
- (c) Broadway and Bluegrass Avenues easterly from the public square to railroad right-of-way.
- (d) Haylong Avenue westerly from the public square to Goodloe Street. (Ord. #96-770, March 1996)

CHAPTER 5

STOPPING AND YIELDING

SECTION

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

15-501. 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. (1984 Code, § 9-502)

15-502. 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. (1984 Code, § 9-503)

15-503. At railroad crossings. Any driver of a vehicle approaching a railroad grade crossing shall stop within not less than fifteen (15) feet 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 fifteen hundred (1500) feet 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. (1984 Code, § 9-504)

15-504. 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. (1984 Code, § 9-505)

15-505. 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. (1984 Code, § 9-506)

15-506. 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.

(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. (1984 Code, § 9-507)

15-507. 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. (1984 Code, § 9-508)

15-508. 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. (1984 Code, § 9-509)

15-509. 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. (1984 Code, § 9-510)

¹State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-143.

CHAPTER 6

PARKING

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. Presumption with respect to illegal parking.
- 15-607. Displayed registration.
- 15-608. Handicap parking.
- 15-609. 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 (18) inches 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 (18) inches of the left edge or curb of the street.

Notwithstanding anything in this code to the contrary, no person shall park or leave a vehicle on any public street for more than seventy-two (72) consecutive hours, upon the issuance of a seventy-two (72) hour notice and the expiration of the same, the vehicle may be towed at the owner's expense.

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. (1984 Code, § 9-601, as amended by Ord. #2010-915, Sept. 2010)

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-five (25) feet. (1984 Code, § 9-602)

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 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. (1984 Code, § 9-603)

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 or within five (5) feet of a public or private driveway.
- (3) Within an intersection or within five (5) feet thereof.
- (4) Within ten (10) feet of a fire hydrant.
- (5) Within a pedestrian crosswalk.
- (6) Within fifty (50) feet of a railroad crossing.
- (7) Within twenty (20) feet 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 (75) feet 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.
- (12) In the traffic lane of any street. (1984 Code, § 9-604)

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 or unloading zone. (1984 Code, § 9-605)

15-606. 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. (1984 Code, § 9-606)

15-607. Displayed registration. No vehicle shall be parked upon any public street that is without legal and properly displayed registration. (as added by Ord. #2010-915, Sept. 2010)

15-608. Handicap parking. No vehicle shall park in a handicap parking space, unless the vehicle is displaying a handicap placard that has been issued by the county clerk's office. This section shall only apply to handicap parking spaces that are posted by a sign that is at least eye level with a driver of a vehicle. (as added by Ord. #2010-915, Sept. 2010)

15-609. Illegal parking. No person shall park a vehicle on any public street, whereas the vehicle is parked against the flow of traffic. (as added by Ord. #2010-915, Sept. 2010)

CHAPTER 7

TRUCK ROUTES AND PARKING

SECTION

- 15-701. Parking limited.
- 15-702. Main Street truck traffic.
- 15-703. Trucks otherwise prohibited on certain streets.
- 15-704. Designated streets.
- 15-705. Exceptions.
- 15-706. Warning period.
- 15-707. Penalty.

15-701. Parking limited. No vehicle exceeding more than two (2) axles shall be parked on a public street unattended except while it is in the process of making a pickup or delivery. (1984 Code, § 9-701, as replaced by Ord. #2015-978, Feb. 2015)

15-702. Main Street truck traffic. (1) Vehicles with more than two (2) axles shall not use North or South Main Street (State Highway 243) as a thoroughfare between the main entrance to the Maury County Regional Airport on the North and the Mt. Joy Road on the South.

(2) Such vehicles having a local delivery or pickup to make between the main entrance to the Maury County Regional Airport and the Mt. Joy Road shall be permitted to make such delivery and/or pick up but shall use the nearest and most direct route from the Mount Pleasant By-Pass (Highway 43) to and from their in-town destination and shall minimize the time and distance traveled on North or South Main Street (State Highway 243) to the greatest extent possible.

(3) No vehicle transporting molten aluminum shall be allowed in the downtown (Central Business District) of Mt. Pleasant.

(4) Speed limits (not to exceed twenty-five (25) miles per hour) may be implemented and signs posted by the Mount Pleasant Police Department.

(5) The restrictions contained in this section are not intended to apply to farm wagons and/or light trailers being pulled by automobiles, pickup trucks, or similar vehicles. (1984 Code, § 9-702, as amended by Ord. #2008-887, Nov. 2008, and replaced by Ord. #2015-978, Feb. 2015)

15-703. Trucks otherwise prohibited on certain streets. It shall be unlawful to drive any vehicle with more than two (2) axles except for the purpose of making a pickup or delivery on any street so designated by ordinance and properly sign posted. This provision shall apply to as designated streets within either commercial or residential areas. (1984 Code, § 9-704, as replaced by Ord. #2015-978, Feb. 2015)

15-704. Designated streets. In addition to North Main and South Main Street, (State Highway 243) the following streets are otherwise designated as primary truck routes for making pickups and deliveries:

- (1) First Avenue (Hwy.166 N)
- (2) Enterprise Road (Hwy. 166 S)
- (3) Bluegrass Avenue
- (4) Cross Bridges Road
- (5) Gray Lane. (1984 Code, § 9-705, as replaced by Ord. #2015-978, Feb. 2015)

15-705. Exceptions. The foregoing provisions hereof shall not apply to any emergency vehicle, any school bus or any road construction equipment being operated by or for the City of Mount Pleasant in connection with repairs upon property or rights-of-way owned by the city. (1984 Code, § 9-706, as replaced by Ord. #2015-978, Feb. 2015)

15-706. Warning period. For a period of thirty (30) days following the effective date of this chapter "warning" tickets which shall involve no monetary fine or civil penalty shall be issued for violations by the Mount Pleasant Police Department. (Ord. #2008-887, Nov. 2008, as replaced by Ord. #2015-978, Feb. 2015)

15-707. Penalty. Violations of this chapter shall result in a minimum fine/civil penalty of fifty dollars (\$50.00) plus court costs. (as added by Ord. #2015-978, Feb. 2015, and replaced by Ord. # 2015-978, Feb. 2015)

CHAPTER 8

ENFORCEMENT

SECTION

- 15-801. Issuance of traffic citations.
- 15-802. Failure to obey citation.
- 15-803. Illegal parking.
- 15-804. Impoundment of vehicles.
- 15-805. Disposal of abandoned motor vehicles.
- 15-806. Violation and penalty.

15-801. 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. (1984 Code, § 9-801)

15-802. 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. (1984 Code, § 9-802)

15-803. 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. (1984 Code, § 9-803, modified)

15-804. 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

¹State law reference

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

vehicle whose operator is arrested or any unattended vehicle which is parked so as to constitute an obstruction or hazard to normal traffic. Any 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 it is otherwise lawfully disposed of. The fee for impounding a vehicle shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) and the storage cost shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per day beginning on the fourth day of storage, or upon the compliance with any court order. (1984 Code, § 9-804, as amended by Ord. #2010-915, Sept. 2010)

15-805. Disposal of abandoned motor vehicles. "Abandoned motor vehicles," as defined in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-16-103, shall be impounded and disposed of by the police department in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, §§ 55-16-103 through 55-16-109. (1984 Code, § 9-805)

15-806. Violation and penalty. Any violation of this title 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. Citations shall be issued for vehicles that have been towed for violating any part of chapter 6, by members of the Mount Pleasant Police Department.

PARKING VIOLATION CIVIL PENALTY:

| | |
|---|---------|
| Parking in fire lane or in violation of §§ 15-604(4), | |
| 15-604(7) | \$25.00 |
| Parking in violation handicap parking | \$25.00 |
| All other parking violations | \$ 5.00 |

The above civil penalty must be paid within three (3) business days or an additional ten dollars (\$10.00) will be added. If the civil penalty has not been paid within thirty (30) days the municipal court shall cause to be issued a summons for the offender, whereas the offender would be subject to a civil penalty of fifty dollars (\$50.00), plus court costs by court order. Written notice of this section shall be given at the time of the issuance of the parking citation. (1984 Code, § 9-803, as amended by Ord. #2010-915, Sept. 2010)