

TITLE 15**MOTOR VEHICLES, TRAFFIC AND PARKING¹****CHAPTER**

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CHAPTER 1**MISCELLANEOUS****SECTION**

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¹Municipal code reference

Excavations and obstructions in streets, etc.: title 16.

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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. (1971 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. (1971 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. (1971 Code, § 9-109)

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. (1971 Code, § 9-110)

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. (1971 Code, § 9-111)

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. (1971 Code, § 9-112)

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. (1971 Code, § 9-113)

15-108. 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, 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. (1971 Code, § 114, 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. (1971 Code, § 9-115)

15-110. 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. (1971 Code, § 9-116)

15-111. School safety patrols. All motorists and pedestrians shall obey the directions or signals of school safety patrols when such patrols are assigned

¹Municipal code references

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

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. (1971 Code, § 9-117)

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. (1971 Code, § 9-118)

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. (1971 Code, § 9-120)

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. (1971 Code, § 9-121)

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. (1971 Code, § 9-122)

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 (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. (1971 Code, § 9-123)

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. (1971 Code, § 9-124)

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." (1971 Code, § 9-125)

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. (1971 Code, § 9-126)

15-120. 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. (1971 Code, § 9-119)

15-121. 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, motorbike, or motor driven cycle while any other person is a passenger upon said motor vehicle.

All motorcycles and motor driven cycles operated on public ways within the corporate limits shall be equipped with crash bars approved by the state's commissioner of safety.

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 of a type approved by the state's commissioner of safety, 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. (1971 Code, § 9-127)

15-122. 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 Covington 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 Covington 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. (1971 Code, § 9-102)

15-202. Operation of authorized emergency vehicles. (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 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. (1971 Code, § 9-103)

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 feet (500') or drive or park such vehicle

within the block where fire apparatus has stopped in answer to a fire alarm. (1971 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 policeman. (1971 Code, § 9-105)

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. (1971 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. (1971 Code, § 9-202)

15-303. In school zones. 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. (1971 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. (1971 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 (1971 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. (1971 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 (2) roadways. (1971 Code, § 9-303)

15-404. Left turns on other than two-way roadways. At any intersection where traffic is restricted to one (1) 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. (1971 Code, § 9-304)

15-405. U-turns. U-turns are prohibited. (1971 Code, § 9-305)

¹State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-143.

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. (1971 Code, § 9-402)

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. (1971 Code, § 9-403)

15-503. 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 fifteen 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. (1971 Code, § 9-404)

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. (1971 Code, § 9-405)

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. (1971 Code, § 9-406)

15-506. At traffic-control signals generally. Traffic-control signals exhibiting the words "Go," "Caution," or "Stop," or exhibiting different colored lights successively one (1) 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. (1971 Code, § 9-407)

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. (1971 Code, § 9-408)

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. (1971 Code, § 9-409)

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. (1971 Code, § 9-410)

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.

15-601. 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 encourage 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 municipality 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 municipality 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 ire 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. (Ord. #1550, Feb. 2006)

15-602. Angle parking. On those streets which have been signed or marked by the municipality 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'). (Ord. #1550, Feb. 2006)

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. (Ord. #1550, Feb. 2006)

15-604. Where prohibited. No person shall park a vehicle in violation of any sign placed or erected by the municipality, 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, 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 municipality;
- (12) At any place on the public square except in those spaces designated for parking and in conformance with time restrictions as indicated by signs erected by the city;
- (13) In any area designated as a fire lane pursuant to the terms of the fire code adopted by § 7-201. (Ord. #1550, Feb. 2006)

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 municipality as a loading and unloading zone. (Ord. #1550, Feb. 2006)

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. (Ord. #1550, Feb. 2006)

CHAPTER 7

ENFORCEMENT

SECTION

- 15-701. Issuance of traffic citations.
- 15-702. Failure to obey citation.
- 15-703. Illegal parking.
- 15-704. Impoundment and disposition of motor vehicles.
- 15-705. Disposal of abandoned motor vehicles.

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. (1971 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. (1971 Code, § 9-602)

15-703. Illegal parking.² 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. (1971 Code, § 9-603, modified)

15-704. Impoundment and disposition of motor vehicles. The police department, and all members thereof assigned to traffic duty, are hereby

¹State law reference

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

²Municipal code reference

Parking: § 15-601.

authorized to remove and tow away, or have removed and towed away, from any public or private way or place, any car or other vehicle under any of the circumstances hereinafter enumerated, the board of mayor and aldermen hereby finding and determining such vehicle under such circumstances to be an obstruction to traffic or public nuisance. Such vehicle is authorized to be removed under any of the following circumstances:

(1) When any vehicle is left unattended upon any bridge, viaduct or tunnel, or where such vehicle constitutes an obstruction to traffic;

(2) When a vehicle upon a public way is so disabled as to constitute an obstruction to traffic and the person in charge of the vehicle is by reason of physical injury incapacitated to such an extent as to be unable to provide for its custody or removal;

(3) When any vehicle is left unattended upon a street or parked illegally so as to constitute a definite hazard or obstruction to the normal movement of traffic, or left unattended on any public street with engine running or with keys in the ignition switch or lock;

(4) When any vehicle is parked or left standing upon any area or portion of a public street in violation of or contrary to a parking limitation or prohibition established by the city, provided such area or portion of such public street has been posted with an official sign giving notice both of such limitation or prohibition and of the fact that such area or portion of such street is a "tow away" area;

(5) When a vehicle is parked in violation of any traffic ordinance and is an obstruction or hazard or potential obstruction or hazard to any lawful function or limits the normal access to a use of any public or private property;

(6) When a vehicle is left on a public way or place and appears to be abandoned within the meaning of Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-16-103;

(7) When the driver of such vehicle is taken into custody by the police department and the vehicle would thereby be left unattended upon a street, highway or restricted parking area, or other public way;

(8) When a vehicle is found being driven upon the streets or other public way of the city and the same is not equipped with all of the necessary parts and equipment as required by law, or does not meet the standards for the parts or equipment required therein;

(9) When the driver of a vehicle is reasonably suspected of using a license plate or a license permit unlawfully, misusing the license plate or license permit issued to the driver, or a vehicle is driven or parked without proper license plates or license permit, or with no license plates or license permit, or driven or parked with an invalid or expired license permit;

(10) When the driver of a vehicle is driving without an operator's license or chauffeur's license which is current and valid, or who does not have such license in the driver's immediate possession, or who drives a vehicle contrary to restrictions imposed upon the license, or who drives a vehicle while their

operator's or chauffeur's license has been denied, suspended, canceled or revoked by the state;

(11) When a vehicle is found parked on or near to any railroad track as to block the same in any manner;

(12) When the driver of any vehicle, or the vehicle which the driver is driving, is reasonably suspected of having been involved in any hit and run accident;

(13) When any vehicle is reasonably suspected of being a stolen vehicle, or parts thereof to be stolen parts;

(14) When the driver of any vehicle is taken into custody for a suspected felony or misdemeanor, or when the vehicle is suspected of containing stolen goods, or other contraband;

(15) When a driver, owner or person in charge of a vehicle has failed to respond to a notice of illegal parking issued pursuant to the municipal code, and has also failed to respond to the additional notice sent to the registered owner as provided for under the municipal code; provided, that under the circumstances in the subsection set forth employees of the city, acting in their official capacity, and officers of the police department may, and they are hereby authorized to temporarily and for a period of seventy-two (72) hours, immobilize such vehicle by installing on, or attaching to such vehicle, a device designed to restrict the normal movement of such vehicle, and if such vehicle is so immobilized, the employee of the city or police officer so installing or attaching such device shall conspicuously affix to such vehicle a notice, in writing, on a form provided by the chief of police, advising the owner, driver or person in charge of such vehicle, that such vehicle has been immobilized by the city for violation of one (1) or more of the provisions of this chapter, and that release from such immobilization may be obtained at a designated place; that unless arrangements are made for the release of such vehicle within seventy-two (72) hours the vehicle will be removed from the streets at the direction of the employees of the city, acting in their official capacity, or by a police officer, and that removing or attempting to remove the device before a release is obtained is unlawful, and containing such information as the chief of police shall deem necessary. It shall be unlawful for any person to remove or attempt to remove any such device before a release is obtained as herein provided, or to move any such vehicle before the same is released by the police department, clerk of the city court or any city or county judge; and where such vehicle has been properly immobilized in such manner, a fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) shall be charged by the police department or clerk of the city court before releasing such vehicle, and the parking restrictions, if any, otherwise applicable shall not apply while such vehicle is so immobilized. If the vehicle has remained immobilized for a period of seventy-two (72) hours and release has not been obtained, the police officer or employee of the city causing such immobilization shall have the vehicle impounded.

(16) When any vehicle is parked or stopped in an emergency access lane in violation of or contrary to a parking limitation or prohibition established by city ordinance, provided that such emergency access lane has been posted with an authorized sign giving notice both of such limitation or prohibition and of the fact that such area or portion of such public roadway or private property is a "tow away" area.

(17) Cars or vehicles so towed for violation of any of the above provisions shall be stored in a safe place and shall be restored to the owner or operator of such car upon payment of such fees as shall be established from time to time by resolution by the board of mayor and aldermen, and shall further pay any additional cost incurred by the towing away by any commercial towing service and any additional storage fees incurred on behalf of such commercial towing service. (Ord. #1373, May 1995, modified)

15-705. 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 or their designee in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, §§ 55-16-101 through 55-16-110. (Ord. #1373, May 1995)

CHAPTER 8

HEAVY TRUCKS

SECTION

- 15-801. Definition of vehicles and equipment.
- 15-802. Heavy truck and/or equipment prohibited on certain streets.
- 15-803. Signs posted.
- 15-804. Violations and penalty.

15-801. Definition of vehicles and equipment. "Vehicles and equipment" means any device in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon street, road, highway, or public thoroughfares, excepting devices moved by human power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks. (Ord. #1532, Sept. 2004)

15-802. Heavy truck and/or equipment prohibited on certain streets. (1) Trucks prohibited on certain streets. It shall be unlawful to drive any truck and/or equipment except for the purpose of making a delivery on any street so designated by this chapter and properly sign posted. This provision shall apply to, as designated, streets within either commercial or residential areas.

(2) Designated streets. It is hereby established that the following streets are designated as prohibiting trucks and/or equipment except as in subsection (4)(a) through (d) below:

- (a) South Main Street;
- (b) Pleasant Street;
- (c) Liberty Street;
- (d) North Main Street;
- (e) Church Street;
- (f) Ripley Street;
- (g) Sherrod Street.

(3) Limited load streets. It shall be unlawful to operate any vehicle and/or equipment on any street so posted, including but not necessarily limited to: when the gross weight on the surface of any street through any axle of such vehicle and/or equipment exceeds twelve thousand (12,000) pounds, gross weight, or any street where the weight of the vehicle and/or equipment permitted on such street is limited by ordinance and signs indicating such limitations are posted, except for the operation of heavy trucks and/or equipment upon any street where necessary to the conduct of business at a destination point within the city or the county accessible only by traveling through the city provided streets designated as truck routes are used until reaching the intersection nearest the destination point.

(4) **Exceptions.** The following categories are exempt from prohibition of this section:

(a) The operation of heavy trucks and/or equipment owned or operated by the city, any contractor or material man, while under contract to the city while engaged in the repair, maintenance, or construction of streets, street improvements, or street utilities within the city.

(b) The operation of school buses and buses used to transport persons to and from a place of worship, which run a designated route.

(c) The operation of emergency vehicles and/or equipment upon any street in the city.

(d) The operation of heavy trucks and/or equipment upon any street where necessary to the conduct of business at a destination point within the city or the county accessible only by traveling through the city provided streets designated as truck routes are used until reaching the intersection nearest the destination point. (Ord. #1532, Sept. 2004)

15-803. Signs posted. Signs shall be posted on the entrances to each of the streets listed in § 15-802(2) indicating either by words or by appropriate symbols that heavy trucks and/or equipment are prohibited from traveling upon said streets. (Ord. #1532, Sept. 2004)

15-804. Violations and penalty. Any violation of this chapter shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed fifty dollars (\$50.00). (Ord. #1532, Sept. 2004)