

TITLE 15

MOTOR VEHICLES, TRAFFIC AND PARKING¹

CHAPTER

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CHAPTER 1

MISCELLANEOUS²

SECTION

- 15-101. Offenses adopted by reference.
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¹Municipal code reference

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

²State law references

Under Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-10-307, the following offenses are exclusively state offenses and must be tried in a state court or a court having state jurisdiction: driving while intoxicated or drugged, as prohibited by Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-10-401; failing to stop after a traffic accident, as prohibited by Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-10-101, et seq.; driving while license is suspended or revoked, as prohibited by Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-7-116; and drag racing, as prohibited by Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-10-501.

- 15-109. Miscellaneous traffic control signs, etc.
- 15-110. General requirements for traffic control signs, etc.
- 15-111. Unauthorized traffic control signs, etc.
- 15-112. Presumption with respect to traffic control signs, etc.
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- 15-118. Projections from the rear of vehicles.
- 15-119. Causing unnecessary noise.
- 15-120. Vehicles and operators to be licensed.
- 15-121. Passing.
- 15-122. Motorcycles, motor driven cycles, motorized bicycles, bicycles, etc.

15-101. Offenses adopted by reference. The offenses against the State of Tennessee enumerated in Tennessee Code Annotated, §§ 55-8-101 through 55-8-180, 55-10-101 through 55-10-310, 55-50-301, 55-50-302, 55-50-304, 55-50-305, 55-50-311 and 55-50-312 are hereby adopted, by reference, pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-10-307, as offenses against the Town of Rutherford. Any violation of the above referenced statutes within the corporate limits of the Town of Rutherford is also a violation of this section. (Ord. #1993-8, Aug. 1993)

15-102. 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. (1968 Code, § 9-101)

15-103. 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. (1968 Code, § 9-106)

15-104. 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. (1968 Code, § 9-107)

15-105. 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. (1968 Code, § 9-109)

15-106. 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 town 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. (1968 Code, § 9-110)

15-107. 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. (1968 Code, § 9-111)

15-108. 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. (1968 Code, § 9-112)

15-109. Miscellaneous traffic control signs, etc.¹ It shall be unlawful for any pedestrian or the operator of any vehicle to violate or fail to

¹Municipal code references

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

comply with any traffic control sign, signal, marking, or device placed or erected by the state or the town unless otherwise directed by a police officer.

It shall be unlawful for any pedestrian or the operator of any vehicle willfully to violate or fail to comply with the reasonable directions of any police officer. (1968 Code, § 9-113)

15-110. 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,¹ 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 town. This section shall not be construed as being mandatory but is merely directive. (1968 Code, § 9-114)

15-111. 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. (1968 Code, § 9-115)

15-112. 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 town authority. (1968 Code, § 9-116)

15-113. 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. (1968 Code, § 9-117)

15-114 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

¹This manual may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

they are in motion and when such vehicles are conspicuously designated. (1968 Code, § 9-118)

15-115. 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. (1968 Code, § 9-120)

15-116. 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. (1968 Code, § 9-121)

15-117. 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. (1968 Code, § 9-122)

15-118. 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 (200) feet from the rear of such vehicle. (1968 Code, § 9-123)

15-119. 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. (1968 Code, § 9-124)

15-120. 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." (1968 Code, § 9-125)

15-121. 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. (1968 Code, § 9-126)

15-122. Motorcycles, motor driven cycles, motorized bicycles, bicycles, etc. (1) Definitions. For the purpose of the application of this section, the following words shall have the definitions indicated:

(a) "Motorcycle." Every motor vehicle having a seat or saddle for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than three (3) wheels in contact with the ground, but excluding a tractor or motorized bicycle.

(b) "Motor-driven cycle." Every motorcycle, including every motor scooter, with a motor capacity that does not exceed five (5) brake horsepower, or with a motor with a cylinder capacity not exceeding one hundred and twenty-five cubic centimeters (125cc);

(c) "Motorized bicycle." A vehicle with two (2) or three (3) wheels, an automatic transmission, and a motor with a cylinder capacity not exceeding fifty (50) cubic centimeters which produces no more than two (2) brake horsepower and is capable of propelling the vehicle at a maximum design speed of no more than thirty (30) miles per hour on level ground.

(2) Every person riding or operating a bicycle, motor cycle, motor driven cycle or motorized bicycle shall be subject to the provisions of all traffic ordinances, rules, and regulations of the town 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 motorized bicycles.

(3) No person operating or riding a bicycle, motorcycle, motor driven cycle or motorized bicycle 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.

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

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

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

(7) Each driver of a motorcycle, motor driven cycle, or motorized bicycle 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.

(8) Every motorcycle, motor driven cycle, or motorized bicycle 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, motor driven cycle or motorized bicycle shall be required to wear safety goggles, faceshield or glasses containing impact resistant lens for the purpose of preventing any flying object from striking the operator or any passenger in the eyes.

(9) 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, motor driven cycle or motorized bicycle in violation of this section. (1968 Code, § 9-127)

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. (1968 Code, § 9-102)

15-202. Operation of authorized emergency vehicles.¹ (1) 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 (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.

(2) 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.

(3) 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.

(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. (1968 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 (500) feet or drive or park such vehicle within the block where fire apparatus has stopped in answer to a fire alarm. (1968 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. (1968 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. (1968 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. (1968 Code, § 9-202)

15-303. In school zones. Pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-152, the town 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 paragraph.

In school zones where the board of mayor and aldermen 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 forty (40) minutes before the opening hour of a school, or a period of forty (40) 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. (1968 Code, § 9-203, 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 municipality. (1968 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 (1968 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. (1968 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 lines of the two roadways. (1968 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 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. (1968 Code, § 9-304)

15-405. U-turns. U-turns are prohibited. (1968 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. (1968 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. (1968 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. (1968 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 (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. (1968 Code, § 9-404)

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. (1968 Code, § 9-405)

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. (1968 Code, § 9-406)

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 generally a right turn on a red signal shall be permitted at all intersections within the town, 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 shall 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 town at intersections which the town 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. (1968 Code, § 9-407)

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 town 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. (1968 Code, § 9-408)

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 town, 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. (1968 Code, § 9-409)

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. (1968 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. Regulation by parking meters.
- 15-607. Lawful parking in parking meter spaces.
- 15-608. Unlawful parking in parking meter spaces.
- 15-609. Unlawful to occupy more than one parking meter space.
- 15-610. Unlawful to deface or tamper with meters.
- 15-611. Unlawful to deposit slugs in meters.
- 15-612. 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 town 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 town 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 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. (1968 Code, § 9-501)

15-602. Angle parking. On those streets which have been signed or marked by the town 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 (24) feet. (1968 Code, § 9-502)

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. (1968 Code, § 9-503)

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 (15) feet thereof.
 - (4) Within fifteen (15) 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 municipality.
- (1968 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 town as a loading and unloading zone. (1968 Code, § 9-505)

15-606. Regulation by parking meters. In the absence of an official sign to the contrary which has been installed by the town, between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M., on all days except Sundays and holidays declared by the board of mayor and aldermen, parking shall be regulated by parking meters where the same have been installed by the town. The presumption shall be that all installed parking meters were lawfully installed by the town. (1968 Code, § 9-506)

15-607. Lawful parking in parking meter spaces. Any parking space regulated by a parking meter may be lawfully occupied by a vehicle only after a proper coin has been deposited in the parking meter and the said meter has been activated or placed in operation in accordance with the instructions printed thereon. (1968 Code, § 9-507)

15-608. Unlawful parking in parking meter spaces. 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 regulated by a parking meter for more than the maximum period of time which can be purchased at one time. Insertion of additional coin or coins in the meter to purchase additional time is unlawful.

No owner or operator of any vehicle shall park or allow his vehicle to be parked in such a space when the parking meter therefor indicates no parking time allowed, whether such indication is the result of a failure to deposit a coin or to operate the lever or other actuating device on the meter, or the result of the automatic operation of the meter following the expiration of the lawful parking time subsequent to depositing a coin therein at the time the vehicle was parked. (1968 Code, § 9-508)

15-609. Unlawful to occupy more than one parking meter space. It shall be unlawful for the owner or operator of any vehicle to park or allow his vehicle to be parked across any line or marking designating a parking meter space or otherwise so that such vehicle is not entirely within the designated parking meter space; provided, however, that vehicles which are too large to park within one space may be permitted to occupy two adjoining spaces provided proper coins are placed in both meters. (1968 Code, § 9-509)

15-610. Unlawful to deface or tamper with meters. It shall be unlawful for any unauthorized person to open, deface, tamper with, willfully break, destroy, or impair the usefulness of any parking meter. (1968 Code, § 9-510)

15-611. Unlawful to deposit slugs in meters. It shall be unlawful for any person to deposit in a parking meter any slug or other substitute for a coin of the United States. (1968 Code, § 9-511)

15-612. 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. (1968 Code, § 9-512)

CHAPTER 7

VEHICLE REGISTRATION

SECTION

- 15-701. Vehicles to be registered.
- 15-702. License fee.
- 15-703. License tag or certificate to be displayed.
- 15-704. Use of funds.
- 15-705. Violations.

15-701. Vehicles to be registered. All resident owners or operators of passenger automobiles within the Town of Rutherford and operates a passenger automobile within the corporate limits shall be required to register such vehicle with the town recorder annually and pay the license fee levied in § 15-702; provided, tourists and non-resident owners of passenger automobiles shall be allowed to operate their vehicles upon the streets and highways of the Town of Rutherford for a period of thirty (30) days without registering or obtaining a license. (1968 Code, § 9-601, modified)

15-702. License fee. An annual license fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) is hereby levied on each vehicle subject to the registration requirements of § 15-701. Such license fee shall be due and payable on the first day of July of each year and shall be paid to the town recorder or his duly appointed representative.

Owners or operators who acquire passenger automobiles subject to the provisions of this chapter for which no license has been secured, on or after the first day of February in any year, shall only be required to pay a license fee of two dollars (\$2.00) for the remainder of the year. (1968 Code, § 9-602, modified)

15-703. License tag or certificate to be displayed. Upon payment of the applicable license fee by the vehicle owner or operator, the town recorder shall issue a serially numbered tag or sticker which the owner or operator shall firmly attach to his vehicle so that it may be readily observed from the outside of the vehicle. (1968 Code, § 9-603)

15-704. Use of funds. The revenue from the license fees collected under this chapter shall be used in paying for the cost of administration of this chapter, the enforcement of its provisions, for the promotion of traffic safety and installation of signs, signals, markings and other safety devices, and for regulating traffic on the streets of the town. (1968 Code, § 9-604)

15-705. Violations. It shall be unlawful for any owner or operator of a motor vehicle to which this chapter is applicable to violate or fail to comply with any provision of this chapter. Each day a motor vehicle is operated without the owner thereof having complied with the provisions of this chapter shall constitute a separate offense. (1968 Code, § 9-605)

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. 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. (1968 Code, § 9-701)

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. (1968 Code, § 9-702)

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. (1968 Code, § 9-703)

15-804. Impoundment of vehicles. Members of the police department are hereby authorized, when reasonably necessary for the security of the vehicle

¹State law reference

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

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 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 of impoundment and storage, or until it is otherwise lawfully disposed of. The fee for impounding a vehicle shall be five dollars (\$5.00) and the storage cost shall be one dollar (\$1.00) for each twenty-four hour period or fraction thereof that the vehicle is stored. (1968 Code, § 9-704)

15-805. 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. (a) Parking meter. If the offense is a parking meter violation, the offender may, within ten (10) days, have the charge against him disposed of by paying to the town recorder a fine of one dollar (\$1.00) 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 for his arrest is issued, his fine shall be three dollars (\$3.00).

(b) Other parking violations excluding handicapped parking. For other parking violations, excluding handicapped parking violations, the offender may, within ten (10) days, have the charge against him disposed of by paying to the town 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 thirty (30) days but before a warrant is issued for his arrest, his civil penalty shall be five dollars (\$5.00). (1968 Code, § 9-703, modified)

CHAPTER 9

ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLES

SECTION

- 15-901. Unlawful to store, leave, etc., abandoned motor vehicles.
- 15-902. Abandoned motor vehicles declared nuisance.
- 15-903. Notice to remove abandoned motor vehicles.
- 15-904. Violations after notice.
- 15-905. Removal and disposal of abandoned motor vehicles by the mayor, chief of police or health officer.
- 15-906. Authority to enter upon the premises to remove abandoned motor vehicles.
- 15-907. Right of possessor to remove or house abandoned motor vehicles.
- 15-908. Alternative remedies of the town.

15-901. Unlawful to store, leave, etc., abandoned motor vehicles.

It shall be unlawful to park, store, or leave, or to permit the parking or storing of any licensed or unlicensed motor vehicle of any kind for a period in excess of seventy-two hours which is in a rusted, wrecked, junked, partially dismantled, inoperative, or abandoned condition, whether attended or not, upon any public property including any city street, alley, parking lot, or other city property or private property within the city unless the same is completely enclosed within a building or unless it is connected with a business enterprise operated in a lawful place and manner and licensed as such, when necessary to the operation of such business enterprise. (Ord. #1993-10, Oct. 1993)

15-902. Abandoned motor vehicles declared a nuisance. The accumulation and storage of one or more such motor vehicles in violation of the provisions of the chapter shall constitute rubbish and unsightly debris, and a nuisance detrimental to the health, safety, and general welfare of the inhabitants of the Town of Rutherford, and it shall be the duty of the registered owner of such motor vehicle and of the person in charge or control of the private property upon which such motor vehicle is located, whether as owner, tenant, occupant, lessee, or otherwise, to remove the same to a place of lawful storage or to have the motor vehicle housed within a building where it will not be visible from the street. (Ord. #1993-10, Oct. 1993)

15-903. Notice to remove abandoned motor vehicles. Whenever there are reasonable grounds to believe that a violation of the provisions of this chapter exists, the mayor, chief of police or health officer shall give or cause to be given written notice that said motor vehicles violates the provisions of this

chapter, and demanding that said motor vehicle be removed to a place of lawful storage within ten days of the serving of such notice said motor vehicles be housed in a building where it will not be visible from the street and advising of the intention of the mayor, chief of police or health officer to remove and impound such motor vehicle if it has not been removed or housed at the end of such time. Such notice shall be given by:

- (1) Affixing such notice to such motor vehicle;
- (2) Sending notice by certified mail to the owner of such motor vehicle at his last known address if the owner is reasonably ascertainable;
- (3) By sending notice by certified mail to the person owning or controlling the property on which such motor vehicle is located;
- (4) Or serving notice by any city officer as with the service of any process; or
- (5) Publication as provided by the laws of the State of Tennessee. (Ord. #1993-10, Oct. 1993)

15-904. Violation after notice. Any person who fails, neglects, or refuses to remove the abandoned, wrecked, junked, partially dismantled, or inoperative motor vehicle or to house the same and abate said nuisance in accordance with the notice given pursuant to the provisions of § 15-903 shall be in violation of the provisions of this chapter and shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. (Ord. #1993-10, Oct. 1993)

15-905. Removal and disposal of abandoned motor vehicles by the mayor, chief of police or health officer. In addition to and not in lieu of any other procedure prescribed in this chapter for removal of abandoned motor vehicles from any public or private property, if the registered owner of any motor vehicle which is in violation of this chapter or the owner or person in lawful possession or control of the private property upon which the same is located shall fail, neglect, or refuse to remove or house such abandoned, wrecked, junked, partially dismantled, or inoperative motor vehicle in accordance with the notice given pursuant to the provisions of § 15-903, the mayor, chief of police or health officer may remove and impound said motor vehicle until lawfully claimed. If it is not lawfully claimed within a period of ten (10) days, he may dispose of the same at public sale and thereafter maintain an action in the name of the Town of Rutherford in the appropriate court against any person or persons upon whom notice was served as required by § 15-903 to recover the costs of removing, impounding, and disposing of such motor vehicle. In the event the proceeds of any sale thereof shall be insufficient to recover such costs, any such unsatisfied costs shall become a lien upon the real property upon which said motor vehicle was located in violation of this chapter, said lien to be satisfied as any other delinquent tax lien. (Ord. #1993-10, Oct. 1993)

15-906. Authority to enter upon the premises to remove abandoned motor vehicles. The mayor, chief of police, health officer or any regularly employed officer of the Rutherford Police Department, contracting agents of the Town of Rutherford and employees of such contracting agents and authorized officers, employees, and agents of the Town of Rutherford are hereby expressly authorized to enter upon private property for such purposes and to remove any motor vehicle in accordance the provisions of this chapter. (Ord. #1993-10, Oct. 1993)

15-907. Right of possessor to remove or house abandoned motor vehicles. Any person to whom notice was given pursuant to § 15-903 shall have the right to remove or house such motor vehicle in accordance with said notice at his own expense, at any time prior to the arrival of the mayor, chief of police, health officer or their authorized representative for the purpose of removal of said motor vehicle. (Ord. #1993-10, Oct. 1993)

15-908. Alternative remedies of the town. Authority is reserved for the Town of Rutherford to follow the provisions of this chapter or the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, §§ 55-16-103 through 55-16-109, or use the provisions of this chapter and referenced code, or portions thereof, jointly, severally, or part jointly and part severally. (Ord. #1993-10, Oct. 1993)