

TITLE 15

MOTOR VEHICLES, TRAFFIC AND PARKING¹

CHAPTER

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CHAPTER 1

MISCELLANEOUS²

SECTION

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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.

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- 15-127. Operator to exercise due care.
- 15-128. Driving while license cancelled, suspended, or revoked.
- 15-129. Restricted use of Walnut Street.
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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. (1990 Code, § 15-101)

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. (1990 Code, § 15-102)

15-103. Reckless driving. Irrespective of the posted speed limit, no person, including operators of emergency vehicles, shall drive any vehicle in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property. (1990 Code, § 15-103)

15-104. One-way streets. On any street for one-way traffic with posted signs indicating the authorized direction of travel at all intersections offering access thereto, no person shall operate any vehicle except in the indicated direction. (1990 Code, § 15-105)

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

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

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

(c) Upon a roadway designated and signposted by the 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 of the 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. (1990 Code, § 15-106)

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

On two (2) lane and three (3) lane streets, the proper lane for travel shall be the right hand lane unless otherwise clearly marked. On streets with four (4) or more lanes, either of the right hand lanes shall be available for use except that traffic moving at less than the normal rate of speed shall use the extreme right hand lane. On one-way streets either lane may be lawfully used in the absence of markings to the contrary. (1990 Code, § 15-107)

15-107. Yellow lines. On streets with a yellow line placed to the right of any lane line or center line, such yellow line shall designate a no passing zone, and no operator shall drive his vehicle or any part thereof across or to the left of such yellow line except when necessary to make a lawful left turn from such street. (1990 Code, § 15-108)

15-108. Obedience to any traffic control device.¹ (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 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.

(2) The driver of any vehicle shall obey the instructions of any official traffic control device applicable thereto placed in accordance with this chapter,

¹Municipal code reference

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

unless otherwise directed by a police officer, subject to the exceptions granted the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle.

(3) It shall be unlawful for the operator of any vehicle to leave the roadway and travel across private property or public property devoted to other than highway use to avoid compliance with an official traffic signal or an official traffic sign or for the purpose of avoiding obedience to directions given by a police officer or any traffic regulation or ordinance. (1990 Code, § 15-109, as amended by Ord. #280, June 2004)

15-109. General requirements for traffic control signs, etc. All traffic control signs, signals, markings, and devices shall conform to the latest revision of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways,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. (1990 Code, § 15-110, modified)

15-110. Unauthorized traffic control signs, etc. No person shall place, maintain, or display upon or in view of any street, any unauthorized sign, signal, marking, or device which purports to be or is an imitation of or resembles an official traffic control sign, signal, marking, or device or railroad sign or signal, or which attempts to control the movement of traffic or parking of 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. (1990 Code, § 15-111)

15-111. Presumption with respect to traffic control signs, etc. When a traffic control sign, signal, marking, or device has been placed, the presumption shall be that it is official and that it has been lawfully placed by the proper town authority. (1990 Code, § 15-112)

15-112. School safety patrols. All motorists and pedestrians shall obey the directions or signals of school safety patrols when such patrols are assigned under the authority of the chief of police and are acting in accordance with instructions; provided, that such persons giving any order, signal, or direction shall at the time be wearing some insignia and/or using authorized flags for giving signals. (1990 Code, § 15-113)

15-113. Driving through funerals or other processions. Except when otherwise directed by a police officer, no driver of a vehicle shall drive between the vehicles comprising a funeral or other authorized procession while

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. (1990 Code, § 15-114)

15-114. Clinging to vehicles in motion. It shall be unlawful for any person traveling upon any bicycle, motorcycle, coaster, sled, roller skates, or any other vehicle to cling to, or attach himself or his vehicle to any other moving vehicle upon any street, alley, or other public way or place. (1990 Code, § 15-115)

15-115. Riding on outside of vehicles. It shall be unlawful for any person to ride, or for the owner or operator of any motor vehicle being operated on a street, alley, or other public way or place, to permit any person to ride on any portion of such vehicle not designed or intended for the use of passengers. This section shall not apply to persons engaged in the necessary discharge of lawful duties nor to persons riding in the load carrying space of trucks. (1990 Code, § 15-116)

15-116. Backing vehicles. The driver of a vehicle shall not back the same unless such movement can be made with reasonable safety and without interfering with other traffic. (1990 Code, § 15-117)

15-117. Projections from the rear of vehicles. Whenever the load or any projecting portion of any vehicle shall extend beyond the rear of the bed or body thereof, the operator shall display at the end of such load or projection, in such position as to be clearly visible from the rear of such vehicle, a red flag being not less than twelve (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. (1990 Code, § 15-118)

15-118. Causing unnecessary noise. It shall be unlawful for any person to cause unnecessary noise by unnecessarily sounding the horn, "racing" the motor, or causing the "screeching" or "squealing" of the tires on any motor vehicle. (1990 Code, § 15-119)

15-119. Vehicles and operators to be licensed. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle in violation of the "Tennessee Motor Vehicle Title and Registration Law" or the "Uniform Motor Vehicle Operators' and Chauffeurs' License Law." (1990 Code, § 15-120)

15-120. Passing. Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of a vehicle passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction shall pass to the left thereof at a safe distance and shall not again

drive to the right side of the street until safely clear of the overtaken vehicle. The driver of the overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle on audible signal and shall not increase the speed of his vehicle until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle.

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

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

No person shall drive off the pavement or upon the shoulder of the street in overtaking or passing on the right. When any vehicle has stopped at a marked crosswalk or at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the street, no operator of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall overtake and pass such stopped vehicle.

No vehicle operator shall attempt to pass another vehicle proceeding in the same direction unless he can see that the way ahead is sufficiently clear and unobstructed to enable him to make the movement in safety. (1990 Code, § 15-121)

15-121. 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 which produces not to 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. (1990 Code, § 15-122)

15-122. Delivery of vehicle to unlicensed driver, etc.

(1) Definitions. (a) "Juvenile" as used in this chapter shall mean a person less than eighteen (18) years of age, and no exception shall be made for a juvenile who has been emancipated by marriage or otherwise.

(b) "Adult" shall mean any person eighteen (18) years of age or older.

(c) "Custody" means the control of the actual, physical care of the juvenile, and includes the right and responsibility to provide for the physical, mental, moral and emotional well being of the juvenile. "Custody" as herein defined, relates to those rights and responsibilities as exercised either by the juvenile's parent or parents or a person granted custody by a court of competent jurisdiction.

(d) "Automobile" shall mean any motor driven automobile, car, truck, tractor, motorcycle, motor driven cycle, motorized bicycle, or vehicle driven by mechanical power.

(e) "Drivers license" shall mean a motor vehicle operators license or chauffeurs license issued by the State of Tennessee.

(2) It shall be unlawful for any adult to deliver the possession of or the control of any automobile or other motor vehicle to any person, whether an adult or a juvenile, who does not have in his possession a valid motor vehicle operators or chauffeurs license issued by the Department of Safety of the State of Tennessee, or for any adult to permit any person, whether an adult or a juvenile, to drive any motor vehicle upon the streets, highways, roads, avenues, parkways, alleys or public thoroughfares in the Town of Mount Carmel unless such person has a valid motor vehicle operators or chauffeurs license as issued by the Department of Safety of the State of Tennessee.

(3) It shall be unlawful for any parent or person having custody of a juvenile to permit any such juvenile to drive a motor vehicle upon the streets, highways, roads, parkways, avenues or public ways in the town in a reckless, careless, or unlawful manner, or in such a manner as to violate the ordinances of the town. (1990 Code, § 15-123)

15-123. Size, weight, and load. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any motor vehicle within the corporate limits in any manner whatsoever which is contrary to or in violation of any of the provisions manner contrary to the requirements set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, chapter 8, title 55. In any case of a conflict between the provisions of this municipal code and the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, chapter 8, title 55, the more restrictive provisions shall apply. (1990 Code, § 15-124)

15-124. Adoption of state traffic statutes. By the authority granted under Tennessee Code Annotated, § 16-18-302, the Town of Mount Carmel 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, and §§ 55-8-133 through 55-8-180. Additionally, the Town of Mount Carmel 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. (Ord. #318, Dec. 2006, modified)

15-125. Registration requirements for motor vehicles. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any motor vehicle within the corporate limits unless such vehicle is properly registered and meets all of the registration requirements set out in Tennessee Code Annotated, chapter 4, title 55. (1990 Code, § 15-126)

15-126. Compliance with financial responsibility law required.

(1) Every vehicle operated within the corporate limits must be in compliance with the financial responsibility law.

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

(3) For the purposes of this section, "financial responsibility" means:

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

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

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

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

(5) On or before the court date, the person so charged may submit evidence of financial responsibility at the time of the violation. If it is the person's first violation of this section and the court is satisfied that such financial responsibility was in effect at the time of the violation, the charge of failure to provide evidence of financial responsibility shall be dismissed. Upon the person's second or subsequent violation of this section, if the court is satisfied that such financial responsibility was in effect at the time of the violation, the charge of failure to provide evidence of financial responsibility may be dismissed. Any charge which is dismissed pursuant to this subsection shall be dismissed without costs to the defendant and no litigation tax shall be due or collected. (Ord. #239, March 2002, modified)

15-127. Operator to exercise due care. It shall be unlawful to operate a motor vehicle in such manner as shall indicate a failure to keep a proper lookout or an absence of due care, having regard to actual and potential hazards, or when special hazards exist with respect to pedestrians or other traffic, or because of weather or street conditions, and in any event speed and operation shall be so controlled as shall be necessary to avoid colliding with any person, vehicle, or other conveyance on or entering the street or highway in compliance with the legal requirements and the duty of all persons to use due care. (Ord. #265, Dec. 2003)

15-128. Driving while license cancelled, suspended, or revoked.

(1) A person who drives a motor vehicle on any public highway within the corporate limits at a time when the person's privilege to do so is cancelled, suspended, or revoked violates this chapter.

(2) No person shall cause or knowingly permit such person's child or ward under eighteen (18) years of age to drive a motor vehicle upon a highway within the corporate limits when such minor is not authorized to do so under this title or the laws of the State of Tennessee.

(3) No person shall authorize or knowingly permit a motor vehicle owned by such person or under such person's control to be driven upon any highway within the corporate limits by any person who is not authorized under this title or under the laws of the State of Tennessee to do so. (1990 Code, § 15-127)

15-129. Restricted use of Walnut Street. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any motor vehicle along or upon Walnut Street with a gross vehicle weight exceeding eight thousand (8,000) pounds. (1990 Code, § 15-128)

15-130. Restricted use of McCracken Lane. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any motor vehicle along or upon McCracken Lane with a gross vehicle weight exceeding eight thousand (8,000) pounds. (1990 Code, § 15-129)

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. (1990 Code, § 15-201)

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 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.

(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 consequences of his reckless disregard for the safety of others. (1990 Code, § 15-202)

¹Municipal code reference

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

15-203. Following emergency vehicles. No driver of any vehicle shall follow any authorized emergency vehicle apparently 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. (1990 Code, § 15-203)

15-204. Running over fire hoses, etc. It shall be unlawful for any person to drive over any hose lines or other equipment of the fire department except in obedience to the direction of a fireman or policeman. (1990 Code, § 15-204)

CHAPTER 3

SPEED LIMITS

SECTION

15-301. In general.

15-302. At intersections.

15-303. In school zones.

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. (1990 Code, § 15-301)

15-302. At intersections. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or drive a motor vehicle through any intersection at a rate of speed in excess of fifteen (15) miles per hour unless such person is driving on a street regulated by traffic control signals or signs which require traffic to stop or yield on the intersecting streets. (1990 Code, § 15-302)

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 ninety (90) minutes before the opening hour of a school, or a period of ninety (90) minutes after the closing hour of a school, while children are actually going to or leaving school, shall be prima facie guilty of reckless driving. (1990 Code, § 15-303, modified)

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 (1990 Code, § 15-401)

15-402. Right turns. Both the approach for a right turn and a right turn shall be made as close as practicable to the right hand curb or edge of the roadway. (1990 Code, § 15-402)

15-403. Left turns on two-way roadways. At any intersection where traffic is permitted to move in both directions on each roadway entering the intersection, an approach for a left turn shall be made in that portion of the right half of the roadway nearest the center line thereof and by passing to the right of the intersection of the center lines of the two (2) roadways. (1990 Code, § 15-403)

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. (1990 Code, § 15-404)

15-405. U-turns. U-turns are prohibited. (1990 Code, § 15-405)

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. (1990 Code, § 15-501)

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. (1990 Code, § 15-502)

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. (1990 Code, § 15-503)

¹Municipal code reference

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

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

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

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

(3) A railroad train is approaching within approximately 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. (1990 Code, § 15-504)

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. (1990 Code, § 15-505)

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. (1990 Code, § 15-506)

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. (1990 Code, § 15-507)

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. (1990 Code, § 15-508)

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. (1990 Code, § 15-509)

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. (1990 Code, § 15-510)

¹State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-143.

CHAPTER 6

PARKING

SECTION

- 15-601. Generally.
- 15-602. Angle parking.
- 15-603. Occupancy of more than one space.
- 15-604. Where prohibited.
- 15-605. Loading and unloading zones.
- 15-606. Presumption with respect to illegal parking.

15-601. 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 inches (18") 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 inches (18") of the left edge or curb of the street.

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

Furthermore, no person shall wash, grease, or work on any vehicle, except to make repairs necessitated by an emergency, while such vehicle is parked on a public street. (1990 Code, § 15-601)

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 feet (24'). (1990 Code, § 15-602)

15-603. Occupancy of more than one space. No person shall park a vehicle in any designated parking space so that any part of such vehicle occupies more than one (1) such space or protrudes beyond the official markings on the street or curb designating such space unless the vehicle is too large to be parked within a single designated space. (1990 Code, § 15-603)

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

(1) On a sidewalk; provided, however, a bicycle may be parked on a sidewalk if it does not impede the normal and reasonable movement of pedestrian or other traffic;

(2) In front of a public or private driveway;

(3) Within an intersection;

(4) Within fifteen feet (15') of a fire hydrant;

(5) Within a pedestrian crosswalk;

(6) Within twenty feet (20') of a crosswalk at an intersection;

(7) Within thirty feet (30') upon the approach of any flashing beacon, stop sign or traffic control signal located at the side of a roadway;

(8) Within fifty feet (50') of the nearest rail of a railroad crossing;

(9) Within twenty feet (20') of the driveway entrance to any fire station, and on the side of the street opposite the entrance to any fire station within seventy-five feet (75') of such entrance when properly signposted;

(10) Alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when stopping, standing or parking would obstruct traffic;

(11) On the roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge or curb of a street;

(12) Upon any bridge or other elevated structure upon a highway or within a highway tunnel;

(13) In a parking space clearly identified by an official sign as being reserved for the physically handicapped, unless, however, the person driving the vehicle is:

(a) Physically handicapped; or

(b) Parking such vehicle for the benefit of a physically handicapped person.

A vehicle parking in such a space shall display a certificate of identification or a disabled veteran's license plate issued under Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-160(c).

(14) On any controlled access highway.

(15) In the area between roadways of a divided highway, including crossovers.

(16) The foregoing restriction imposed by subsections (14) and (15) shall not apply to the driver of any motor vehicle which is disabled in such manner and to such extent that it is impossible to avoid stopping and temporarily leaving the vehicle in such position; provided however, that notice is given to the police department within one (1) hour of doing so. (1990 Code, § 15-604, as amended by Ord. #171, May 1996)

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. (1990 Code, § 15-605)

15-606. Presumption with respect to illegal parking. When any unoccupied vehicle is found parked in violation of any provision of this chapter, there shall be a prima facie presumption that the registered owner of the vehicle is responsible for such illegal parking. (1990 Code, § 15-606)

CHAPTER 7

ENFORCEMENT

SECTION

- 15-701. Issuance of traffic citations.
- 15-702. Failure to obey citation.
- 15-703. Illegal parking.
- 15-704. Impoundment of vehicles.
- 15-705. Disposal of abandoned motor vehicles.
- 15-706. Deposit of drivers' license in lieu of bail.

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. (1990 Code, § 15-701)

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. (1990 Code, § 15-702)

15-703. Illegal parking. Whenever any motor vehicle without a driver is found parked or stopped in violation of any of the restrictions imposed by this code, the officer finding such vehicle shall take its license number and may take any other information displayed on the vehicle which may identify its user, and shall conspicuously affix to such vehicle a citation for the driver and/or owner to answer for the violation within thirty (30) days during the hours and at a place specified in the citation.

The offender may, within thirty (30) days, have the charge against him disposed of by paying to the city recorder a fine of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) provided he waives his right to a judicial hearing. If he appears and waives his right to a judicial hearing after (30) days, but before a warrant for his arrest is

¹State law reference

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

issued, his fine shall be fifty dollars (\$50.00). If tried and convicted, his fine shall be one hundred dollars (\$100.00) only if done so in front of a jury of his peers. (Ord. #232, Dec. 2001)

15-704. Impoundment of vehicles. Members of the police department are hereby authorized, when reasonably necessary for the security of the vehicle or to prevent obstruction of traffic, to remove from the streets and impound any vehicle whose operator is arrested or any unattended vehicle which is parked so as to constitute an obstruction or hazard to normal traffic, or which has been parked for more than one (1) hour in excess of the time allowed for parking in any place, or which has been involved in two (2) or more violations of this title for which citation tags have been issued and the vehicle not removed. 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 twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) and the storage cost shall be six dollars (\$6.00) for each twenty-four (24) hour period or fraction thereof that the vehicle is stored. (Ord. #187, Feb. 1998)

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 in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, §§ 55-16-103 through 55-16-109. (1990 Code, § 15-705)

15-706. Deposit of drivers' license in lieu of bail. (1) Deposit allowed. Whenever any person lawfully possessing a chauffeur's or operator's license theretofore issued to him by the Tennessee Department of Safety, or under the driver licensing laws of any other state or territory or the District of Columbia, is issued a citation or arrested and charged with the violation of any town ordinance or state statute regulating traffic, except those ordinances and statutes, the violation of which call for the mandatory revocation of a operator's or chauffeur's license for any period of time, such person shall have the option of depositing his chauffeur's or operator's license with the officer or court demanding bail in lieu of any other security required for his appearance in the city court of this town in answer to such charge before said court.

(2) Receipt to be issued. The officer, or the court demanding bail, who receives any person chauffeur's or operator's license as herein provided, shall issue to said person a receipt for said license upon a form approved or provided by the Tennessee Department of Safety.

(3) Failure to appear--disposition of license. In the event that any driver who has deposited his chauffeur's or operator's license in lieu of bail fails to appear in answer to the charges filed against him, the clerk or judge of the

city court accepting the license shall forward the same to the Tennessee Department of Safety for disposition by said department in accordance with provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-7-401, et seq. (1990 Code, § 15-706)

CHAPTER 8

AUTOMATED ENFORCEMENT

SECTION

- 15-801. Definitions.
- 15-802. Penalties.
- 15-803. Procedure.
- 15-804. Offenses.
- 15-805. Uncontested payment or court contest.
- 15-806. Owner of vehicle presumed liable; exception.
- 15-807. Affirmative defenses.
- 15-808. Vehicles exempt from receiving a citation.

15-801. Definitions. The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this section, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

- (1) "Citations," which include documents entitled "notice of violation," may include:
 - (a) The name and address of the registered owner of the vehicle;
 - (b) The registration plate number of the motor vehicle involved in the violation;
 - (c) The violation charged;
 - (d) The location of the violation;
 - (e) The date and time of the violation;
 - (f) A copy of the recorded image;
 - (g) The amount of the civil penalty imposed and the date by which the civil penalty should be paid;
 - (h) A personal or electronically signed statement by a P.O.S.T. certified member of the police department that, based on inspection of recorded images, the motor vehicle was being operated in violation of this division;
 - (i) Information advising the person alleged to be liable under this division of the manner and time in which liability alleged in the citation occurred and that the citation may be contested in a city court and that failure to contest in the manner and time provided shall be deemed an admission of liability and that a default judgment may be entered thereon; and
 - (j) Other information required by Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-198.
- (2) "In operation" means operating in good working condition.
- (3) "Owner or vehicle owner" means the person identified as the registered owner of the vehicle.

(4) "Recorded images" means images recorded by a traffic enforcement camera system on a photographic, micropictograph, electronic image, videotape or any other medium or means including digital or digitally stored and at least one (1) image, identifying the registration plate number of the motor vehicle.

(5) "Hand-held enforcement camera system" includes a manned traffic enforcement camera and is an electronic system consisting of a photographic, video or electronic camera and a radar detection device, operated by a police officer pressing a trigger to automatically produce photographs, video or digital images of each vehicle violating the posted speed limit. (Ord. #306, Dec. 2005, as replaced by Ord. #17-460, Oct. 2017, and Ord. #17-462, Nov. 2017)

15-802. Penalties. (1) Any violation of this division shall subject the responsible person or entity to a penalty of fifty dollars (\$50.00), and as may be permitted by Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-198, court costs, for each violation. Such penalty and court costs shall not be suspended, reduced, or altered for a violation of this division. Such penalty and court costs shall be imposed even if the responsible person is granted defensive driving school, driver education or improvement course or any diversion by the court. Such penalty and court costs shall be in addition to any cost required for the school. The imposition of a civil penalty under the provisions of this division shall not prevent the revocation of any permit or license or taking of other punitive or immediate remedial action as called for or permitted under the provisions of the town's municipal code or other applicable law.

(2) If the person or entity receiving the summons or citation is in violation of this division solely upon evidence obtained from an unmanned traffic enforcement camera that has been installed to enforce or monitor traffic violations, the violation shall be considered a nonmoving traffic violation. (Ord. #306, Dec. 2005, as replaced by Ord. #17-460, Oct. 2017, and Ord. #17-462, Nov. 2017)

15-803. Procedure. (1) The city police department or an agent of the police department shall administer the hand-held speed enforcement camera system.

(2) A citation alleging that the violation of this division occurred, sworn to and by statement signed personally or electronically by a P.O.S.T. certified member of the police department, based on inspection of recorded images produced by the hand-held speed enforcement camera system, shall be issued in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-198 and shall be admissible in any proceeding alleging a violation under this division. The citation shall be sent by first-class mail to the owner's address as given on the motor vehicle registration. Personal service of process on the owner shall not be required. (Ord. #306, Dec. 2005, modified, as replaced by Ord. #17-460, Oct. 2017, and Ord. #17-462, Nov. 2017)

15-804. Offenses. (1) It shall be unlawful for a vehicle to drive in excess of the posted speed limit on the streets of running in and through Mount Carmel, Tennessee. If a driver proceeding in excess of the posted speed limit is captured on the hand-held speed enforcement camera operated by a Mount Carmel Police Officer, a traffic citation will be generated and mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle captured on the camera.

(2) The provisions of this division shall be construed, interpreted and shall be conformed so as to comply with the requirements of Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-198. (Ord. #306, Dec. 2005, as replaced by Ord. #17-460, Oct. 2017, and Ord. #17-462, Nov. 2017)

15-805. Uncontested payment or court contest. A person who receives a citation under this division may pay the civil penalty, in accordance with instruction on the citation, directly to the city court, or contracted collection agent or system vendor or contest the matter in city court. (as added by Ord. #17-460, Oct. 2017, and replaced by Ord. #17-462, Nov. 2017)

15-806. Owner of vehicle presumed liable; exception. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the registered owner of the motor vehicle shall be responsible by strict liability for a violation under this division and shall be responsible for payment of any citation issued as the result of the traffic control monitoring system.

(2) An owner of a vehicle shall not be responsible for the violation if, on or before the designated court date, the owner furnishes the court an affidavit stating the name and address of the person or entity that leased, rented or otherwise had care, custody or control of the motor vehicle at the time of the violation.

(3) If a motor vehicle or its plates were stolen at the time of the alleged violation, the registered owner must provide an affidavit denying the owner was an operator and provide a certified copy of the police report reflecting such theft.

(4) An affidavit alleging theft of a motor vehicle or its plates must be provided by the registered owner of a vehicle receiving a notice of violation within thirty (30) days of the mailing date of the notice of violation. (as added by Ord. #17-460, Oct. 2017, and replaced by Ord. #17-462, Nov. 2017)

15-807. Affirmative defenses. It shall be an affirmative defense to the liability under this division, proven by a preponderance of the sworn evidence that:

(1) The person who received the citation was not the owner of the motor vehicle at the time of the alleged violation, provided such person supplies proof of the transfer of ownership, and the person provides the name and address of the purchaser or transferee. (as added by Ord. #17-460, Oct. 2017, and replaced by Ord. #17-462, Nov. 2017)

15-808. Vehicles exempt from receiving a citation. The following vehicles are exempt from receiving a citation for a violation of this division:

- (1) Emergency vehicles with active emergency lights; and
- (2) Vehicles under police escort. (as added by Ord. #17-460, Oct. 2017, and replaced by Ord. #17-462, Nov. 2017)