

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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15-101. 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. (1994 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. (1994 Code, § 15-102)

15-103. One-way streets. On any street for one-way traffic with posted signs indicating the authorized direction of travel at all intersections offering access thereto, no person shall operate any vehicle except in the indicated direction. (1994 Code, § 15-103)

15-104. Unlaned streets. (1) Upon all unlaned streets of sufficient width, a vehicle shall be driven upon the right half of the street except:

- (a) When lawfully overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction;
- (b) When the right half of a roadway is closed to traffic while under construction or repair; or
- (c) Upon a roadway designated and signposted by the city for one-way traffic.

(2) All vehicles proceeding at less than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place and under the conditions then existing shall be driven as close as practicable to the right hand curb or edge of the roadway, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction or when preparing for a left turn. (1994 Code, § 15-104)

15-105. Laned streets. On streets marked with traffic lanes, it shall be unlawful for the operator of any vehicle to fail or refuse to keep his vehicle within the boundaries of the proper lane for his direction of travel except when lawfully passing another vehicle or preparatory to making a lawful turning movement.

On two (2) lane and three (3) lane streets the proper lane for travel shall be the right hand lane unless otherwise clearly marked. On streets with four (4) or more lanes, either of the right hand lanes shall be available for use except that traffic moving at less than the normal rate of speed shall use the extreme right hand lane. On one-way streets either lane may be lawfully used in the absence of markings to the contrary. (1994 Code, § 15-105)

15-106. Yellow lines. On streets with a yellow line placed to the right of any lane line or center line, such yellow line shall designate a no-passing zone, and no operator shall drive his vehicle or any part thereof across or to the left of such yellow line except when necessary to make a lawful left turn from such street. (1994 Code, § 15-106)

15-107. Miscellaneous traffic-control signs, etc.¹ It shall be unlawful for any pedestrian or the operator of any vehicle to violate or fail to comply with any traffic-control sign, signal, marking or device placed or erected by the state or the city. (1994 Code, § 15-107)

15-108. General requirements for traffic-control signs, etc. All traffic-control signs, signals, markings and devices shall conform to the latest revision of the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways*,² published by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and shall, so far as practicable, be uniform as to type and location throughout the city. (1994 Code, § 15-108)

¹Municipal code references

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

²This manual is available online at mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov.

15-109. Unauthorized traffic-control signs, etc. No person shall place, maintain or display upon or in view of any street, any unauthorized sign, signal, marking or device which purports to be or is an imitation of or resembles an official traffic-control sign, signal, marking or device or railroad sign or signal, or which attempts to control the movement of traffic or parking of vehicles, or which hides from view or interferes with the effectiveness of any official traffic-control sign, signal, marking or device or any railroad sign or signal. (1994 Code, § 15-109)

15-110. Presumption with respect to traffic-control signs, etc. When a traffic-control sign, signal, marking or device has been placed, the presumption shall be that it is official and that it has been lawfully placed by the proper municipal authority. (1994 Code, § 15-110)

15-111. School safety patrols. All motorists and pedestrians shall obey the directions or signals of school safety patrols, when such patrols are assigned under the authority of the chief of police, and are acting in accordance with instructions; provided, that such persons giving any order, signal, or direction shall at the time be wearing some insignia and/or using authorized flags for giving signals. (1994 Code, § 15-111)

15-112. Driving through funerals or other processions. Except when otherwise directed by a police officer, no driver of a vehicle shall drive between the vehicles comprising a funeral or other authorized procession while they are in motion and when such vehicles are conspicuously designated. (1994 Code, § 15-112)

15-113. Clinging to vehicles in motion. It shall be unlawful for any person traveling upon any bicycle, motorcycle, coaster, sled, roller skates or any other vehicle to cling to, or attach himself or his vehicle to any other moving vehicle upon any street, alley or other public way or place. (1994 Code, § 15-113)

15-114. Riding on outside of vehicles. It shall be unlawful for any person to ride, or for the owner or operator of any motor vehicle being operated on a street, alley or other public way or place to permit any person to ride on any portion of such vehicle not designed or intended for the use of passengers. This section shall not apply to persons engaged in the necessary discharge of lawful duties nor to persons riding in the load-carrying space of trucks. (1994 Code, § 15-114)

15-115. Backing vehicles. The driver of a vehicle shall not back the same unless such movement can be made with reasonable safety and without interfering with other traffic. (1994 Code, § 15-115)

15-116. Projections from the rear of vehicles. Whenever the load or any projecting portion of any vehicle shall extend beyond the rear of the bed or body thereof the operator shall display at the end of such load or projection, in such position as to be clearly visible from the rear of such vehicle, a red flag being not less than twelve (12) inches square. Between one-half (1/2) hour after sunset and one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise there shall be displayed in place of the flag a red light plainly visible under normal atmospheric conditions at least two hundred feet (200') from the rear of such vehicle. (1994 Code, § 15-116)

15-117. 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. (1994 Code, § 15-118)

15-118. 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.

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. (1994 Code, § 15-119)

15-119. Damaging pavements. No person shall operate upon any street of the municipality any vehicle, motor propelled or otherwise, which by reason of its weight or the character of its wheels or track is likely to damage the surface or foundation of the street. (1994 Code, § 15-120)

15-120. 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, including a vehicle that is fully enclosed, has three (3) wheels in contact with the ground, weighs less than one thousand five hundred pounds (1,500 lbs.), and has the capacity to maintain posted highway speed limits, 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 city/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) (a) Each driver of a motorcycle, motor driven cycle, or motorized bicycle and any passenger thereon shall be required to wear on his head, either a crash helmet meeting federal standards contained in 49 CFR 571.218, or, if such driver or passenger is twenty-one (21) years of age or older, a helmet meeting the following requirements:

(i) Except as provided in subdivisions (a)(ii)-(iv), the helmet shall meet federal motor vehicle safety standards specified in 49 CFR 571.218;

(ii) Notwithstanding any provision in 49 CFR 571.218 relative to helmet penetration standards, ventilation airways may penetrate through the entire shell of the helmet; provided, that no ventilation airway shall exceed one and one-half inches (1 1/2") in diameter;

(iii) Notwithstanding any provision in 49 CFR 571.218, the protective surface shall not be required to be a continuous contour; and

(iv) Notwithstanding any provision in 49 CFR 571.218 to the contrary, a label on the helmet shall be affixed signifying that such helmet complies with the requirements of the American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM), the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CSPM), or the Snell Foundation.

(b) This section does not apply to persons riding:

(i) Within an enclosed cab;

(ii) Motorcycles that are fully enclosed, have three (3) wheels in contact with the ground, weigh less than one thousand five hundred pounds (1,500 lbs.) and have the capacity to maintain posted highway speed limits;

(iii) Golf carts; or

(iv) In a parade, at a speed not to exceed thirty (30) miles per hour, if the person is eighteen (18) years or older.

(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.

15-121. Striking city owned property prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any person to drive over or strike any fixed object, including light posts, parked automobiles, utility poles, buildings, street signs or any sign lawfully placed. (1994 Code, § 15-122)

15-122. Vehicle to be under driver's control. It shall be unlawful for any person to drive upon the streets of Ripley, Tennessee, or state and county highways within said city limits, at any time when their motor vehicle is not under complete control of the driver. (1994 Code, § 15-123)

15-123. Weight limits for trucks. No type of truck or other vehicle shall exceed posted weight limits on city streets or roadways exclusive of point-of-delivery and city service trucks. (1994 Code, § 15-124, modified)

15-124. Adoption of state traffic statutes. By the authority granted under *Tennessee Code Annotated*, § 16-18-302, the City of Ripley 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 to 55-8-131, and §§ 55-8-133 to 55-8-180. Additionally, the City of Ripley adopts *Tennessee Code Annotated*, § 55-4-101 through 55-4-135, §§ 55-8-181 to 55-8-193, §§ 55-8-199, 55-8-204, §§ 55-9-601 to 55-9-606, § 55-12-139, § 55-21-108, and § 55-50-351 by reference as if fully set forth in this section.

15-125. 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 title 55, chapters 8 and 10, parts 1 through 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, on 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 1997, compiled in *Tennessee Code Annotated*, chapter 12, title 55, has been paid or filed with the commission, or has qualified as a self-insurer under *Tennessee Code Annotated*, § 55-12-111; or

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

(4) Civil offense. The civil penalty provided by this code shall be in addition to any other penalty prescribed by the laws of this state.

(5) Evidence of compliance after violation. On or before the court date, the person charged with a violation of this section may submit evidence of compliance with this section in effect at the time of the violation. If the court is satisfied that compliance was in effect at the time of the violation, the charge of failure to provide evidence of financial responsibility may be dismissed. (1994 Code, § 15-127, modified)

15-126. Basketball goals alongside or within public rights-of-way. No portable or fixed basketball goal shall be placed, erected or maintained on or alongside the right-of-way of any public street within the municipal limits of the City of Ripley so as to allow a person or persons to play within the street. The placement of any basketball goal within a public right-of-way or the presence of person within a public street playing basketball on such a goal shall be a violation of this section. (1994 Code, § 15-128, modified)

CHAPTER 2

EMERGENCY VEHICLES

SECTION

- 15-201. Authorized emergency vehicles defined.
- 15-202. Operation of authorized emergency vehicles.
- 15-203. Following emergency vehicles.
- 15-204. Running over fire hoses, etc.

15-201. 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. (1994 Code, § 15-201)

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

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

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

(4) The foregoing provisions shall not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons, nor shall such provisions protect the driver from the consequences of his reckless disregard for the safety of others. (1994 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 traveling in response to an emergency call closer than five hundred feet (500') or drive or park such vehicle within the block where fire apparatus has stopped in answer to a fire alarm. (1994 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 firefighter or police officer. (1994 Code, § 15-204)

CHAPTER 3

SPEED LIMITS

SECTION

15-301. In general.

15-302. At intersections.

15-303. In school zones and near playgrounds.

15-304. In congested areas.

15-301. In general. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or drive a motor vehicle upon any highway or street at a rate of speed in excess of thirty (30) miles per hour except where official signs have been posted indicating other speed limits in which cases the posted speed limit shall apply. (1994 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. (1994 Code, § 15-302)

15-303. In school zones and near playgrounds. Pursuant to *Tennessee Code Annotated*, § 55-8-152, the city/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.

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. (1994 Code, § 15-304)

CHAPTER 4

TURNING MOVEMENTS

SECTION

15-401. Generally.

15-402. Right turns.

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

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

15-405. U-turns.

15-401. Generally. No person operating a motor vehicle shall make any turning movement which might affect any pedestrian or the operation of any other vehicle without first signaling his intention in accordance with the requirements of the state law.¹ (1994 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. (1994 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 line of the two (2) roadways. (1994 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. (1994 Code, § 15-404)

15-405. U-turns. U-turns are prohibited. (1994 Code, § 15-405)

¹State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-143.

CHAPTER 5

STOPPING AND YIELDING

SECTION

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

15-501. When emerging from alleys, etc. The drivers of all vehicles emerging from alleys, parking lots, driveways or buildings shall stop such vehicles immediately prior to driving onto any sidewalk or street. They shall not proceed to drive onto the sidewalk or street until they can safely do so without colliding or interfering with approaching pedestrians or vehicles. (1994 Code, § 15-502)

15-502. To prevent obstructing an intersection. No driver shall enter any intersection or marked crosswalk unless there is sufficient space on the other side of such intersection or crosswalk to accommodate the vehicle he is operating without obstructing the passage of traffic in or on the intersecting street or crosswalk. This provision shall be effective notwithstanding any traffic-control signal indication to proceed. (1994 Code, § 15-503)

15-503. At railroad crossings. Any driver of a vehicle approaching a railroad grade crossing shall stop within not less than fifteen feet (15') from the nearest rail of such railroad and shall not proceed further while any of the following conditions exist:

- (1) A clearly visible electrical or mechanical signal device gives warning of the approach of a railroad train.
- (2) A crossing gate is lowered or a human flagman signals the approach of a railroad train.
- (3) A railroad train is approaching within approximately one thousand five hundred feet (1,500') of the highway crossing and is emitting an audible signal indicating its approach.
- (4) An approaching railroad train is plainly visible and is in hazardous proximity to the crossing. (1994 Code, § 15-504)

15-504. At "stop" signs. The driver of a vehicle facing a "stop" sign shall bring his vehicle to a complete stop immediately before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or, if there is no crosswalk, then immediately before entering the intersection, and shall remain standing until he can proceed through the intersection in safety. (1994 Code, § 15-505)

15-505. At "yield" signs. The drivers of all vehicles shall yield the right-of-way to approaching vehicles before proceeding at all places where "yield" signs have been posted. (1994 Code, § 15-506)

15-506. At traffic-control signals generally. Traffic-control signals exhibiting the words "Go," "Caution," or "Stop," or exhibiting different colored lights successively one at a time, or with arrows, shall show the following colors only and shall apply to drivers of vehicles and pedestrians as follows:

(1) Green alone, or "Go":

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

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

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

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

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

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

(a) Vehicular traffic facing the signal shall stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or, if none, then before entering the intersection and shall remain standing until green or "Go" is shown alone.

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

(4) Steady red with green arrow:

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

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

(5) In the event an official traffic-control signal is erected and maintained at a place other than an intersection, the provisions of this section shall be applicable except as to those provisions which by their nature can have no application. Any stop required shall be made at a sign or marking on the pavement indicating where the stop shall be made, but in the absence of any such sign or marking the stop shall be made a vehicle length short of the signal. (1994 Code, § 15-507)

15-507. At flashing traffic-control signals. (1) Whenever an illuminated flashing red or yellow signal is used in a traffic sign or signal placed or erected in the city it shall require obedience by vehicular traffic as follows:

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

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

(2) This section shall not apply at railroad grade crossings. Conduct of drivers of vehicles approaching railroad grade crossings shall be governed by the rules set forth in § 15-504 of this code. (1994 Code, § 15-508)

15-508. At pedestrian-control signals. Wherever special pedestrian-control signals exhibiting the words "Walk" or "Wait" or "Don't Walk" have been placed or erected by the city, such signals shall apply as follows:

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

(2) Wait or Don't Walk. No pedestrian shall start to cross the roadway in the direction of such signal, but any pedestrian who has partially completed his crossing on the walk signal shall proceed to the nearest sidewalk or safety zone while the wait signal is showing. (1994 Code, § 15-509)

15-509. Stops to be signaled. No person operating a motor vehicle shall stop such vehicle whether in obedience to a traffic sign or signal or otherwise, without first signaling his intention in accordance with the requirements of the state law,¹ except in an emergency. (1994 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. Parking at curb.
- 15-607. Lawful parking in parking space.
- 15-608. Parking time limited upon certain streets.
- 15-609. Presumption with respect to illegal parking.
- 15-610. Unlawful parking in residential areas.
- 15-611. Parking vehicles on city streets; restrictions.

15-601. Generally. Except as hereinafter provided, every vehicle parked upon a street within this city shall be so parked that its right wheels are parallel to and within eighteen inches (18") of the right edge or curb of the street. On one-way streets where the city has not placed signs prohibiting the same, vehicles may be permitted to park on the left side of the street and in such cases the left wheels shall be required to be within eighteen inches (18") of the left edge or curb of the street.

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

Furthermore, no person shall wash, grease, or work on any vehicle, except to make repairs necessitated by an emergency, while such vehicle is parked on a public street. (1994 Code, § 15-601)

15-602. Angle parking. On those streets which have been signed or marked by the city for angle parking no person shall park or stand a vehicle other than at the angle indicated by such signs or markings. No person shall angle park any vehicle which has a trailer attached thereto or which has a length in excess of twenty-four feet (24'). (1994 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. (1994 Code, § 15-603)

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

- (1) On a sidewalk;
- (2) In front of a public or private driveway;
- (3) Within an intersection or within fifteen feet (15') thereof;
- (4) Within fifteen feet (15') of a fire hydrant;
- (5) Within a pedestrian crosswalk;
- (6) Within fifty feet (50') of a railroad crossing;
- (7) Within twenty feet (20') of the driveway entrance to any fire station, and on the side of the street opposite the entrance to any fire station within seventy-five feet (75') of the entrance;
- (8) Alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when other traffic would be obstructed;
- (9) On the roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge or curb of a street;
- (10) Upon any bridge; or
- (11) Alongside any curb painted yellow or red by the city.
- (12) Along the rights-of-way of Highways 19 and 51. (1994 Code, § 15-604, modified)

15-605. Loading and unloading zones. No person shall park a vehicle for any purpose or period of time other than for the expeditious loading or unloading of passengers or merchandise in any place marked by the city as a loading and unloading zone. (1994 Code, § 15-605)

15-606. Parking at curb. It shall be unlawful for any vehicle to angle park with the front tire more than six inches (6") from the curb. (1994 Code, § 15-606)

15-607. Lawful parking in parking space. The owner or operator of any vehicle shall obey the instructions of any official parking sign applicable thereto placed in accordance with this title, and other traffic ordinances of the city, unless otherwise directed by a police officer. (1994 Code, § 15-607)

15-608. Parking time limited upon certain streets. (1) The board of mayor and aldermen may establish restrictions concerning the length of time a person may park a vehicle and the hours during which those restrictions are applicable.

(2) When signs are erected giving notice thereof, no person shall park a vehicle for longer than the period indicated at any time between the specified hours. (1994 Code, § 15-608)

15-609. Presumption with respect to illegal parking. When any unoccupied vehicle is found parked in violation of any provision of this chapter, there shall be a prima facie presumption that the registered owner of the vehicle is responsible for such illegal parking. (1994 Code, § 15-612)

15-610. Unlawful parking in residential areas. No eighteen (18) wheel tractor or trailer, either connected or separated, shall be parked on any city street in any zoned residential area in the City of Ripley. (1994 Code, § 15-613)

15-611. Parking vehicles on city streets; restrictions. (1) No truck or bus or recreational vehicle having a declared maximum gross weight, including vehicle and load, of more than twenty-six thousand pounds (26,000), or being other than of single axle construction, shall be parked or left unattended on any public street for a period of time longer than two (2) hours consecutively, except while being actively loaded or unloaded, or while such a vehicle is being used in connection with any work or service being performed within the immediate area.

(2) No vehicle of any type being used for the purpose of transporting any volatile, toxic, gaseous, explosive or flammable material shall be parked or left unattended on any public street or public right-of-way for any period of time, except while being actively loaded or unloaded, or while such vehicle is being used in connection with any work or service being performed within the immediate area.

(3) No person shall park, leave standing or store any other vehicle in any public right-of-way or upon any street within a residential zone area of the city, except those commonly referred to as passenger vehicles, or pickup trucks, one (1) ton capacity or less, and only in a manner otherwise consistent with this title.

(4) No person shall leave standing or store any equipment, machinery or material, except as provided for by subsections (1)-(3) of this section on any street or public right-of-way within a residential zone area of the city.

(5) The provisions of this section shall not be deemed to prohibit the parking of such equipment upon any street for the actual purpose of loading or unloading of goods, wares or merchandise or the accomplishment of repairs within a residential area; provided, however, "loading," "unloading," and "accomplishment of repairs," as used in this section, shall be limited to the actual time consumed in such operation.

(6) This section shall not prohibit such parking when reasonably necessitated by a breakdown or other emergency, provided the chief of police is promptly notified of the circumstances.

(7) Vehicles used for the delivery of city services or expansion of city services are specifically exempted from provisions of this section.

(8) Each day on which such violation continues shall constitute a separate offense. (Ord. #537, Dec. 2019)

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. Violations and penalty.

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. (1994 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. (1994 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 ten (10) days during the hours and at a place specified in the citation.

Unless otherwise provided herein, the following fines shall be levied for the different offenses, and for these parking violations the offender may waive his right to a judicial hearing and have the charge disposed of out of court by paying the following fines, in addition to court costs:

- | | | |
|-----|------------------|---------|
| (1) | Overtime parking | \$10.00 |
| (2) | Double parking | \$10.00 |

¹State law reference

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

(3)	Improper parking	\$10.00
(4)	Parking in restricted zone	\$10.00
(5)	Parking at fire plug	\$10.00

(1994 Code, § 15-703, modified)

15-704. Impoundment of vehicles. Members of the police department are hereby authorized, when reasonably necessary to prevent obstruction of traffic, to remove from the streets and impound any vehicle whose operator is arrested, or any vehicle which is illegally parked, abandoned, or otherwise parked so as to constitute an obstruction or hazard to normal traffic. Any vehicle left parked on any street or alley for more than seventy-two (72) consecutive hours without permission from the chief of police shall be presumed to have been abandoned if the owner cannot be located after a reasonable investigation. Such an impounded vehicle shall be stored until the owner claims it, gives satisfactory evidence of ownership, and pays all applicable fines and costs. The fee for impounding a vehicle shall be all charges incurred by the towing agency and if stored at the city impound lot storage costs of ten dollars (\$10.00) per day shall also be charged. (1994 Code, § 15-704)

15-705. Violations and penalty. Any violations of this title shall be a civil offense punishable as follows:

(1) Traffic citations and handicapped parking citations. Traffic citations and handicapped parking citations shall be punishable under the general penalty provisions of this code. These citations require a court appearance.

(2) Other parking citations. A ten dollar (\$10.00) fine shall be levied for parking citations other than handicapped parking citations. Provided the offender makes payment of the fine for a parking citation, other than a handicapped parking citation, within ten (10) days and waives his/her right to a judicial hearing at the office of the Ripley City Court Clerk, no court costs will be assessed. If a hearing is requested, court costs may be assessed, within the discretion of the Judge of the Ripley City Court.

(3) Each day a separate offense. With regard to traffic and parking citations, each day's violation constitutes a separate offense, punishable by a separate fine. (Ord. #535, Sept. 2019, modified)