

TITLE 15

MOTOR VEHICLES, TRAFFIC AND PARKING¹

CHAPTER

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CHAPTER 1

MISCELLANEOUS²

SECTION

- 15-101. Motor vehicle requirements.
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¹Municipal code reference

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

²State law references

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

- 15-113. Driving through funerals or other processions.
- 15-114. Clinging to vehicles in motion.
- 15-115. Riding on outside of vehicles.
- 15-116. Backing vehicles.
- 15-117. Projections from the rear of vehicles.
- 15-118. Causing unnecessary noise.
- 15-119. Vehicles and operators to be licensed.
- 15-120. Passing.
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- 15-122. Bicycle riders, etc.
- 15-123. Use of Carter Street crossing to cross Southern Railroad tracks prohibited for school buses, etc.
- 15-124. Private motor vehicles prohibited on public property.
- 15-125. Loading and unloading students and/or passengers in front of Bluff City Elementary School prohibited.
- 15-126. Compliance with financial responsibility law required.
- 15-127. Commercial vehicles on residential streets restricted.

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. (1980 Code, § 9-101)

15-102. Driving on streets closed for repairs, etc. Except for necessary access to property abutting thereon, no motor vehicle shall be driven upon any street that is barricaded or closed for repairs or other lawful purpose. (1980 Code, § 9-106)

15-103. [Deleted.] (1980 Code, § 9-107, as deleted by Ord. #2006-019, Sept. 2006)

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. (1980 Code, § 9-108)

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 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. (1980 Code, § 9-109)

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. (1980 Code, § 9-110)

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. (1980 Code, § 9-111)

15-108. 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 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. (1980 Code, § 9-112)

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,² published by the U. S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and shall, so far as practicable, be uniform as to type

¹Municipal code references

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

²This manual may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

and location throughout the town. This section shall not be construed as being mandatory but is merely directive. (1980 Code, § 9-113)

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. (1980 Code, § 9-114)

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 authority. All presently installed traffic-control signs, signals, markings and devices are hereby expressly authorized, ratified, approved and made official. (1980 Code, § 9-115)

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. (1980 Code, § 9-116)

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 they are in motion and when such vehicles are conspicuously designated. (1980 Code, § 9-117)

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. (1980 Code, § 9-119)

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. (1980 Code, § 9-120)

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. (1980 Code, § 9-121)

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 ($\frac{1}{2}$) hour after sunset and one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) hour before sunrise, there shall be displayed in place of the flag a red light plainly visible under normal atmospheric conditions at least two hundred (200) feet from the rear of such vehicle. (1980 Code, § 9-122)

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. (1980 Code, § 9-123)

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." (1980 Code, § 9-124)

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. (1980 Code, § 9-125)

15-121. Damaging pavements. No person shall operate or cause to be operated upon any street of the town any vehicle, motor propelled or otherwise, which by reason of its weight or the character of its wheels, tires, or track is likely to damage the surface or foundation of the street. (1980 Code, § 9-118)

15-122. Bicycle riders, etc. Every person riding or operating a bicycle, motorcycle, or motor driven cycle shall be subject to the provisions of all traffic ordinances, rules, and regulations of the 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, or motor driven cycles.

No person operating or riding a bicycle, motorcycle, or motor driven cycle shall ride other than upon or astride the permanent and regular seat attached thereto, nor shall the operator carry any other person upon such vehicle other than upon a firmly attached and regular seat thereon.

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

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

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

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

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

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

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or ride on any vehicle in violation of this section and it shall also be unlawful for any parent or guardian knowingly to permit any minor to operate a motorcycle or motor driven cycle in violation of this section. (1980 Code, § 9-126)

15-123. Use of Carter Street crossing to cross Southern Railroad tracks prohibited for school buses, etc. It shall be unlawful for any school bus or other general public transportation vehicle to use the Carter Street crossing for the purpose of crossing the Southern Railroad tracks. (1980 Code, § 9-127)

15-124. Private motor vehicles prohibited on public property. The operating and driving of privately owned motor vehicles over public parks and other undeveloped public property within the corporate limits of the town is hereby prohibited. Public notice of this prohibition shall be posted where practicable but the absence of such posting shall not be a defense to the violation of this section. Each separate violation of this section shall be punished and penalized by the assessment of a fine not to exceed \$50.00 plus court costs. (Ord. #93-003, April 1993)

15-125. Loading and unloading students and/or passengers in front of Bluff City Elementary School prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any operator of any vehicle with the exception of a school bus to load or unload students and/or passengers at the Maple Street entrance of Bluff City Elementary School. (as added by Ord. #2002-001, Jan. 2002)

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

(5) Evidence of compliance after violation. On or before the court date, the person 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. (as added by Ord. #2002-004, March 2002, and replaced by Ord. #2006-021, Nov. 2006)

15-127. Commercial vehicles on residential streets restricted.

(1) No commercial vehicles shall be permitted on residential streets within the corporate limits of the city with the exception of the following activities:

(a) Making deliveries to residences located on a residential street or residences in the immediate area of that street;

(b) The operation of school buses and buses used to transport persons to and from a place of worship;

(c) The operation of vehicles transporting children to and from places where they gather, including but not limited to, recreational centers and activities and boys and girls clubs;

(d) Moving cans or trucks; and

(e) All emergency vehicles are exempt from the provisions of this section.

(2) The mayor, city manager or their designee shall have the authority to post appropriate signs notifying the public that commercial traffic is prohibited on any street affected by this section. The absence of such a sign shall not constitute a defense to the violation of the provisions of this section.

(3) The violation of this section shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding fifty dollars (\$50.00). (as added by Ord. #2010-1, Feb. 2010)

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. (1980 Code, § 9-102)

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

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

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

(4) The foregoing provisions shall not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons, nor shall such provisions protect the driver from the consequences of his reckless disregard for the safety of others. (1980 Code, § 9-103)

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 (500) feet or drive or park any vehicle within the block where fire apparatus has stopped in answer to a fire alarm. (1980 Code, § 9-104)

15-204. Running over fire hoses, etc. It shall be unlawful for any person to drive over any hose lines or other equipment of the fire department except in obedience to the direction of a fireman or policeman. (1980 Code, § 9-105)

CHAPTER 3

SPEED LIMITS

SECTION

15-301. In general.

15-302. At intersections.

15-303. In school zones.

15-304. In congested areas.

15-305. On specific streets.

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. (1980 Code, § 9-201)

15-302. At intersections. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or drive a motor vehicle through any intersection at a rate of speed in excess of fifteen (15) miles per hour unless such person is driving on a street regulated by traffic-control signals or signs which require traffic to stop or yield on the intersecting streets. (1980 Code, § 9-202)

15-303. In school zones. Generally, pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-153 special speed limits in school zones 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.

When the board of mayor and aldermen has not established special speed limits as provided for above, any person who shall drive at a speed exceeding fifteen (15) miles per hour when passing a school during a recess period when a warning flasher or flashers are in operation, or during a period of forty (40) minutes before the opening hour of a school or a period of forty (40) minutes after the closing hour of a school, while children are actually going to or leaving school, shall be prima facie guilty of reckless driving. (1980 Code, § 9-203)

15-304. In congested areas. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or drive a motor vehicle through any congested area at a rate of speed in excess of any posted speed limit when such speed limit has been posted by authority of the town. (1980 Code, § 9-204)

15-305. On specific streets. The following speed limits shall be set on the streets named herein:

Hillcrest 15, mph
Old 11E, 25 mph
Duty Drive, 25 mph
Harr Drive, 15 mph
Neal Drive, 15 mph
Ridgeview Circle, 15 mph
Jarrell Drive, 15 mph
Woodland Drive, 15 mph
Dogwood Hill, 15 mph
Elizabethton Highway, 35 mph
Highway 19E from .2 of a mile west of the intersection of Old Elizabethton Highway and 19E to the intersection with Highway 11E, 45 mph
19E from the .2 of a mile west of the intersection of Old Elizabethton Highway and 19E to the Carter County line, 55 mph
Route 44 from the intersection with 19E to the intersection with 11E, 35 mph
Route 44 from Lakeview Drive to the intersection with Highway 19E, 45 mph
Highway 44/Highway 390, from Lakeview Drive to the Holston River bridge, 35 mph
Lakeview Drive, 30 mph
Fleming Drive, 15 mph
Railroad Street from Fleming Drive to the city garage, 25 mph
Highland Drive, 15 mph
Lakeview Circle, 15 mph
Highland Circle, 15 mph
Jonesboro Drive, 25 mph except as noted herein below from 238 Jonesboro Drive to 340 Jonesboro Drive, 15 mph
Fox Drive, 15 mph
From Cedar Street from Jonesboro Road to Maple Street, 15 mph
From Cedar Street to Maple Street, 15 mph
From Cedar Street from Carter Street to E Street, 15 mph
From Carter Street from Main Street to Old Elizabethton Highway, 15 mph
Kentucky, 15 mph
Summit Drive, 15 mph
Smith Street, 15 mph
East E. Street, 15 mph
McClellan Street, 15 mph
Smith Street Ext., 15mph
Arnold Road, 15 mph

Main Street, 25 mph

Holston Drive, 25 mph

Bridge Street, 10 mph

Railroad Street from Maple to Fleming, 15 mph

Hill Street, 15 mph

Union Street, 15 mph

Parks Worley Road, 15 mph

Cherokee Drive, 15 mph

Shawnee Drive, 15 mph

Mill Street, 15 mph

Pineola Avenue, 15 mph

Morning View Drive, 15 mph.

Highway 11E from the middle of the Charlie Worley Bridge to Pardner's
Bar-B-Que and Steak Restaurant, Inc., 55 miles per hour

Highway 11E from Pardner's Bar-B-Que and Steak Restaurant, Inc., to
the Piney Flats crossroads, 45 miles per hour.

(Ord. #97-009, Sept. 1997, as amended by Ord. #2000-012, Sept. 2000; Ord.
#2002-06, Aug. 2002; and Ord. #2004-009, Oct. 2004)

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 (1980 Code, § 9-301)

15-402. Right turns. Both the approach for a right turn and a right turn shall be made as close as practicable to the right hand curb or edge of the roadway. (1980 Code, § 9-302)

15-403. Left turns on two-way roadways. At any intersection where traffic is permitted to move in both directions on each roadway entering the intersection, an approach for a left turn shall be made in that portion of the right half of the roadway nearest the center line thereof and by passing to the right of the intersection of the center line of the two roadways. (1980 Code, § 9-303)

15-404. Left turns on other than two-way roadways. At any intersection where traffic is restricted to one direction on one or more of the roadways, the driver of a vehicle intending to turn left at any such intersection shall approach the intersection in the extreme left hand lane lawfully available to traffic moving in the direction of travel of such vehicle and after entering the intersection the left turn shall be made so as to leave the intersection, as nearly as practicable, in the left hand lane lawfully available to traffic moving in such direction upon the roadway being entered. (1980 Code, § 9-304)

15-405. U-turns. U-turns are prohibited. (1980 Code, § 9-305)

¹State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-143.

CHAPTER 5

STOPPING AND YIELDING

SECTION

15-501. [Deleted.]

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. Stops to be signaled.

15-501. [Deleted.] (1980 Code, § 9-401, as deleted by Ord. #2006-014, Aug. 2006)

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. (1980 Code, § 9-402)

15-503. To prevent obstructing an intersection. No driver shall enter any intersection or marked crosswalk unless there is sufficient space on the other side of such intersection or crosswalk to accommodate the vehicle he is operating without obstructing the passage of traffic in or on the intersecting street or crosswalk. This provision shall be effective notwithstanding any traffic-control signal indication to proceed. (1980 Code, § 9-403)

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

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

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

(3) A railroad train is approaching within approximately fifteen hundred (1500) feet of the highway crossing and is emitting an audible signal indicating its approach.

(4) An approaching railroad train is plainly visible and is in hazardous proximity to the crossing. (1980 Code, § 9-404)

15-505. At "stop" signs. The driver of a vehicle facing a "stop" sign shall bring his vehicle to a complete stop immediately before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or, if there is no crosswalk, then immediately before entering the intersection, and shall remain standing until he can proceed through the intersection in safety. (1980 Code, § 9-405)

15-506. At "yield" signs. The drivers of all vehicles shall yield the right of way to approaching vehicles before proceeding at all places where "yield" signs have been posted. (1980 Code, § 9-406)

15-507. At traffic-control signals generally. Traffic-control signals exhibiting the words "Go," "Caution," or "Stop," or exhibiting different colored lights successively one at a time, or with arrows, shall show the following colors only and shall apply to drivers of vehicles and pedestrians as follows:

(1) Green alone, or "Go":

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

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

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

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

(b) Pedestrians facing such signal shall not enter the roadway.

(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 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 will 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.

(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.

(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. (1980 Code, § 9-407)

15-508. At flashing traffic-control signals. (1) Whenever an illuminated flashing red or yellow signal is used in a traffic sign or signal placed or erected in the town, it shall require obedience by vehicular traffic as follows:

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

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

(2) This section shall not apply at railroad grade crossings. Conduct of drivers of vehicles approaching railroad grade crossings shall be governed by the rules set forth in § 15-504 of this code. (1980 Code, § 9-408)

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. (1980 Code, § 9-409)

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 the Town of Bluff City shall be so parked that its right wheels are approximately parallel to and within eighteen (18) inches of the right edge or curb of the street. On one-way streets where the town has not placed signs prohibiting the same, vehicles may be permitted to park on the left side of the street, and in such cases the left wheels shall be required to be within eighteen (18) inches of the left edge or curb of the street.

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

Furthermore, no person shall wash, grease, or work on any vehicle, except to make repairs necessitated by an emergency, while such vehicle is parked on a public street. (1980 Code, § 9-501)

15-602. Angle parking. On those streets which have been signed or marked by the town for angle parking, no person shall park or stand a vehicle other than at the angle indicated by such signs or markings. No person shall angle park any vehicle which has a trailer attached thereto or which has a length in excess of twenty-four (24) feet. (1980 Code, § 9-502)

15-603. Occupancy of more than one space. No person shall park a vehicle in any designated parking space so that any part of such vehicle occupies more than one such space or protrudes beyond the official markings on the street or curb designating such space unless the vehicle is too large to be parked within a single designated space. (1980 Code, § 9-503)

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.
- (2) In front of a public or private driveway.
- (3) Within an intersection or within fifteen (15) feet thereof.
- (4) Within fifteen (15) feet of a fire hydrant.
- (5) Within a pedestrian crosswalk.
- (6) Within fifty (50) feet of a railroad crossing.
- (7) Within twenty (20) feet of the driveway entrance to any fire station, and on the side of the street opposite the entrance to any fire station within seventy-five (75) feet of the entrance.
- (8) Alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when other traffic would be obstructed.
- (9) On the roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge or curb of a street.
- (10) Upon any bridge.
- (11) Alongside any curb painted yellow or red by the town.
- (12) Parking shall be prohibited in a fire lane so designated and marked or painted by the Town of Bluff City, Tennessee.
- (13) Parking shall be prohibited on main Street in the Town of Bluff City, Tennessee between the hours of 6:00 P.M. and 7:00 A.M. for any vehicle used primarily for commercial purposes.
- (14) Parking shall be prohibited on McClelland Lane in the Town of Bluff City, Tennessee.
- (15) Parking shall be prohibited on that portion of Kentucky Avenue which lies between Carter Street and Summit Drive in the Town of Bluff City, Tennessee. (1980 Code, § 9-504, as amended by Ord. #97-014, Nov. 1997, Ord. #2005-002, March 2005, Ord. #2007-003, July 2007, and Ord. #2007-004, July 2007)

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. (1980 Code, § 9-505)

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. (1980 Code, § 9-506)

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. Violation 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. (1980 Code, § 9-601)

15-702. Failure to obey citation. It shall be unlawful for any person to violate his written promise to appear in court after giving said promise to an officer upon the issuance of a traffic citation, regardless of the disposition of the charge for which the citation was originally issued. (1980 Code, § 9-602)

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. (1980 Code, § 9-603, modified)

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

¹State law reference

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

vehicle whose operator is arrested or any unattended vehicle which is parked so as to constitute an obstruction or hazard to normal traffic. Any impounded vehicle shall be stored until the owner or other person entitled thereto, claims it, gives satisfactory evidence of ownership or right to possession, and pays all applicable fees and costs, or until otherwise lawfully disposed of. The fee for impounding a vehicle shall be five dollars (\$5.00) and the storage cost shall be one dollar (\$1.00) for each twenty-four (24) hour period or fraction thereof that the vehicle is stored. (1980 Code, § 9-604)

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. (1980 Code, § 9-605)

15-706. Violation and penalty. Any violation of this title shall be a civil offense punishable as follows: (1) Traffic citations. Traffic citations shall be punishable by a civil penalty up to fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each separate offense.

(2) Parking citations. For parking violations, the offender may waive his right to a judicial hearing and have the charges disposed of out of court but the fine shall be ten dollars (\$10.00). (1980 Code, § 9-603, modified)

CHAPTER 8

TRAFFIC CONTROL PHOTOGRAPHIC SYSTEMS

SECTION

15-801. Definitions.

15-802. Administration.

15-803. Offense.

15-804. Procedure.

15-805. Penalty.

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

(1) "Citations and warning notices" shall mean the documents of notice of violation and shall 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 sworn statement signed by an officer or contractor of the Town of Bluff City Police Department that based on inspection, the subject motor vehicle was being operated in violation of the applicable enumerated section(s) of the Bluff City Municipal Code; and
- (i) Information advising the person alleged to be liable for violations of the enumerated sections(s) of the Bluff City Municipal Code of the manner and time in which the liability alleged in the citation may be contested in city court, and warning 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.

(b) "Recorded images" means images recorded by a traffic control photographic system.

- (a) On a photograph, microphotograph, electronic image, videotape, or any other medium; and
- (b) At least one (1) image or portion of tape, clearly identifying the registration plate number, or other identifying designation of the license plate, on the motor vehicle.

(3) "System location" is on the roadway, or the approach to an intersection toward which a traffic control photographic system device, including

but not limited to a photographic video, or electronic camera, is directed and is in operation.

(4) "Traffic control photographic system" is an electronic system consisting of a photographic, video or electronic camera and a vehicle sensor installed to work on a roadway for speed enforcement, or in conjunction with an official traffic control sign, signal or device, and to automatically produce photographs, video or digital images of each vehicle violating a standard traffic control sign, signal or device.

(5) "Vehicle owner" is the person identified on records maintained by the State of Tennessee and other states, department of safety, as registered owner of a motor vehicle. (as added by Ord. #2009-002, April 2009)

15-802. Administration. (1) The Bluff City Police Department shall administer the traffic control photographic and video system and shall maintain a list of all system locations where traffic control photographic systems are installed. The town may contract with third parties to perform administrative and clerical functions.

(2) No third party contractor shall have to be authority to issue citations and no citations shall issue except upon review of the photograph(s), digital and/or video images by the Bluff City Police Department. Upon review of such images by the Bluff City Police Department, on each case, and upon express approval for the issuance of a citation by the Bluff City Police Department, a third party contractor may perform the ministerial functions of preparing, mailing, serving and/or processing citations.

(3) Signs to indicate the use of the traffic control photographic and video system may be clearly posted in the discretion of the Bluff City Police Department.

(4) All fines paid and/or collected shall be paid to the Town of Bluff City, Tennessee.

(5) The Town of Bluff City, Tennessee: shall have all necessary power and authority to contractually provide for the purchase, lease, rental, acquisition and/or to enter a service contract(s) so as to fully and necessarily implement the provisions of the traffic control photographic system authorized hereby. (as added by Ord. #2009-002, April 2009)

15-803. Offense. (1) It shall be unlawful for any vehicle to travel through a system location at a rate of speed in excess of that rate of speed established or posted for any such system location(s).

(2) It shall be unlawful for a vehicle to cross the stop line at a system location, in disregard or disobedience of the traffic control sign, signal or device at such location, or to otherwise violate any section of the Bluff City Municipal Code with respect to obedience to traffic lights, stop signs or traffic signals. (as added by Ord. #2009-002, April 2009)

15-804. Procedure. (1) The town shall adopt procedures for the issuance of uniform citations and, if deemed appropriate, warning notices hereunder. Such system may include the use of third party contractors to perform ministerial tasks.

(2) A citation or warning notice so issued, alleging an offense hereunder in violation of § 15-803 of the Bluff City Municipal Code, which is sworn to or affirmed by an officer of the Bluff City Police Department based on inspection of records, images produced by the traffic control photographic systems and which includes copies of such recorded images shall be prima facie evidence of the facts contained therein and shall be admissible in any proceeding alleging a violation hereunder. The citation or warning notice shall be forwarded by first-class mail, within twenty (20) business days after the occurrence of the violation, absent exigent circumstances arising from registration irregularities to the vehicle owner's address as given on the motor vehicle registration records maintained by the State of Tennessee Department of Safety and other state motor vehicle registration departments. Personal delivery to or personal service of process on the owner of the vehicle will not be required.

(3) A person who receives a citation or warning notice may:

(a) Pay the assessed fine and civil penalty, in accordance with instructions on the citation.

(b) Elect to contest the citation for the alleged violation.

(4) Liability hereunder shall be determined based upon preponderance of the evidence. Admission into evidence of a citation or warning notice, together with proof that the defendant was at the time of the violation the registered owner of the vehicle, shall permit the trier of fact in its discretion to infer that such owner of the vehicle was the driver of the vehicle at the time of the alleged violation. Such an inference may be rebutted if the owner of the vehicle:

(a) Testifies under oath in open court that he or she was not the operator of the vehicle at the time of the alleged violation; and

(b) Submits to the court prior to the return date established on the citation and warning notice the owner's sworn notarized statement that the vehicle was in the care, custody or control of another person or entity at the time of the violation and accurately identifying the name and accurately stating the current address and relationship to or affiliation with the owner, of the person or entity who leased, rented or otherwise had such possession of the vehicle at the time of the alleged violation; or

(c) Presents to the court prior to the return date established on the citation and warning notice a certified copy of a police report showing that the vehicle had been reported to the police as stolen prior to the time of the alleged violation. (as added by Ord. #2009-002, April 2009, and amended by Ord. #2011-027, Jan. 2012)

15-805. Penalty. (1) Any offense hereunder shall be deemed a non-criminal violation for which a civil penalty of fifty dollars (\$50.00) shall be assessed. Court costs of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) shall be assessed only if the person cited does not prevail in court or fails to appear. Failure to pay the civil penalty or appear in court to contest the citation or warning notice on the designated date shall result in the imposition of the stated fine by default, and court costs if applicable, as otherwise provided for by ordinance for citations to the City Court of the Town of Bluff City, Tennessee. The town may establish procedures for the trial of civil violators and may enforce and collect all penalties in the nature of a debt as otherwise provided by law.

(2) All revenues generated from penalties and assessments associated with the enforcement of this chapter shall go into the general fund.

(3) A violation for which a civil penalty is imposed hereunder shall not be considered a moving violation and may not be recorded by the division of police services or the Tennessee Department of Safety on the driving record of the owner or driver of the vehicle and may not be considered in the provision of motor vehicle insurance coverage.

(4) All recorded images generated by the traffic control photographic system, including, but not limited to photographs, electronic images, and videotape, shall be solely owned by the Town of Bluff City, Tennessee. (as added by Ord. #2009-002, April 2009, and amended by Ord. #2010-011, Dec. 2010, Ord. #2011-027, Jan. 2012, and Ord. #2013-011, Dec. 2013)