

ORDINANCE NO. 1901

**AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE USE OF GOLF CARTS ON COUNTY ROADS
IN CROW WING COUNTY**

Section 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.1 Authority. This Ordinance is adopted pursuant to Minnesota Statute 169.045.

1.2 Purpose. The purpose of this ordinance is to provide authority for the use of motorized golf carts on County Roads that are located within cities or townships that have:

- a. Adopted an ordinance establishing standards and permitting the use of such vehicles on designated roadways within its jurisdiction pursuant to the authority granted by Minnesota Statute 169.045; and
- b. Formally requested the County to allow use of such vehicles on certain roadways within city or township limits through an official council/board action. The provisions of this ordinance are intended to promote the general health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Crow Wing County.
- c. The County, through an official board action of record, approves the city/township request to designate specific county roads for use by golf carts.
- d. The County, through an official board action of record, shall decide on all requests in the First Assessment District and Second Assessment District.

Section 2: DEFINITIONS

2.1 “Motorized Golf Cart” means any electric or gas powered vehicle with: (1) three or four low pressure or non-pneumatic tires; (2) an engine displacement less than 800 cubic centimeters; (3) and not capable of reaching speeds greater than 20 miles per hour.

2.2 “County” means the County of Crow Wing, Minnesota.

2.3 “County Road” means a road that is under the jurisdiction of Crow Wing County and is classified as a “county state-aid highway”, “county highway”, or “county road”.

2.4 “Designated County Roads” means county roads approved by the County Board for use by motorized golf carts.

Section 3: OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS ON COUNTY ROADS IN CROW WING COUNTY

3.1 Use of motorized golf carts may be allowed on County Roads only if the following conditions are met:

- a. The city or township in which the County Road is located has adopted an ordinance allowing the use of said vehicles on its roadways.
- b. The city or township, through an official council action of record, has requested that the County allow the use of said vehicles on the designated County Road.
- c. The County, through an official board action of record, approves the city/township request to designate specific county roads for use by golf carts.

3.2 Every person operating a motorized golf cart under permit on designated County Roads has all the rights and duties applicable to the driver of any other vehicle under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 169, except when those provisions cannot reasonably be applied to motorized golf carts.

3.3 Motorized golf carts may only be operated on the right shoulder or the extreme right-hand side of the road.

3.4 Motorized golf carts may only be operated on designated County Roads from sunrise to sunset, unless equipped with original equipment headlights, taillights and rear-facing brake lights.

3.5 Motorized golf carts may not be operated in inclement weather or when visibility is impaired by weather, smoke, fog, or other conditions, or at any time when there is insufficient light to clearly see persons and vehicles on the roadway at a distance of 500 feet.

3.6 Motorized golf carts shall display the slow-moving vehicle emblem provided for in Minnesota Statutes, §169.522, and shall be equipped with a mirror so located as to reflect to the driver a view of the highway for a distance of at least 200 feet to the rear of such vehicle as required by Minnesota Statutes, §169.70.

Section 4: PERMITS REQUIRED

4.1 It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motorized golf cart on County Roads except when the vehicle is traveling on designated County Roads and is prominently displaying a valid permit on the rear of the cart obtained from the city or township in which the designated County Road is located.

4.2 The city or township shall be required to collect the following information from applicants requesting a permit:

- a. The name and address of the applicant;
- b. The model, make, year and number of the motorized golf cart;
- c. Current driver's license; and
- d. Proof of insurance for the motorized golf cart that complies with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, §65B.48, subd. 5 (motorcycle coverage).

4.3 At the end of each calendar year the city or township shall submit to the County a summary of motorized golf cart permits that were issued.

4.4 The applicant may be required to submit any other information and pay any fees as required by the city or township.

4.5 Permits may be granted for a period not to exceed three years, and may be renewed. A permit may be revoked at any time if there is evidence that the permittee cannot safely operate the motorized golf cart on the designated County Roads.

4.6 The operator of a motorized golf cart may, under permit, cross any street or highway intersecting a designated County Road.

Section 5: PENALTIES

5.1 Any person or persons who shall violate any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a Misdemeanor.

5.2 Any person or persons who violate any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be liable for the cost of any restoration of any damage to property caused by said violation. The payment of these costs is in addition to any provision of Section 6.1.

Section 6: SEVERABILITY

6.1 If any provision of this Ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, said invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of the Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application and for this purpose, the provisions of the Ordinance are severable.

Section 7: EFFECTIVE DATE

8.1 This Ordinance shall be in effect from and after the date of its passage by the Crow Wing County Board of Commissioners and publication according to Minnesota Statutes.

Adopted by the County Board on May 14, 2019.

Amended by the County Board on May 23, 2023.