VILLAGE OF MARATHON CITY, MARATHON COUNTY, WISCONSIN
AN ORDINANCE CREATING SECTION 10.4.4 OF THE GENERAL ORDINANCES ENTITLED *AUTHORIZED USE OF GOLF CARTS*

The Village Board of the Village of Marathon City, Marathon County, Wisconsin, do ordain as follows:

SECTION 1: Section 10.4.4 of the General Ordinances of the Village of Marathon City, Wisconsin, entitled *Authorized Use of Golf Carts* is hereby created to provide as follows:

Sec. 10.4.4 AUTHORIZED USE OF GOLF CARTS

(A) **Intent.** The Village of Marathon City, Marathon County, Wisconsin, adopts the following ordinance permitting golf carts to be operated upon Village roadways, pursuant to the authority granted the Village under Wis. Stat. § 349.18(1m).

(B) **Definitions.** For purposes of this section, this definition shall also apply throughout this section:

Golf Cart. A vehicle designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and that is not capable of exceeding 20 miles per hour.

(C) **Operation of Golf Carts Allowed; Exceptions.**

(1) The operation of golf carts on the public streets within the Village in compliance with the provisions of this section shall be permitted; however, it shall be unlawful to operate any golf cart that is not properly registered with the Village or to operate any golf cart at any place or in any manner not authorized herein.

(2) The operation of golf carts is not subject to the provisions of this section under the following circumstances:

(a) The operation of golf carts at golf courses, private clubs or on private property, with the consent of the owner; or

(b) The use of a golf cart in connection with a parade, a festival or other special event, provided the consent of the sponsor is obtained and provided such vehicle is only used during such event.

(D) **License Required.** No person who does not have a valid driver's license issued under or granted by the laws of Wisconsin or some other state may operate a golf cart on any public street within the Village. For purposes of this section, a learner's permit shall not be considered as a valid driver's

license nor shall any license that has been revoked, temporary or otherwise, or suspended for any reason, be considered as a valid driver's license during the period of suspension or revocation.

(E) **Registration.**

(1) No golf cart may be operated on any public street within the Village unless the golf cart has first been registered with the Marathon City Police Department as required herein. The registration shall be renewed thereafter in accordance with the provisions of this section. To evidence the registration, the owner shall be issued an annual permit which shall be displayed in a prominent, visible place on the rear fender of the golf cart or at such other place as may be approved by the Police Department. The permit may contain a registration number assigned for the particular golf cart and may contain an expiration date.

(2) A registration fee in the amount as may be established and published in the Fee Schedule[1] adopted by the Village Board from time to time, as amended, shall be paid to the Village at the time the application for registration is filed with the Marathon City Police Department or for any renewal of the application.

(3) The application for registration shall be made to the Marathon City Police Chief, or to some other person designated, on forms provided by the Village. The application may, among other things, require the owner's name, street address, mailing address, a phone number, the make, model and identification or serial number of the golf cart, proof of insurance and such other information as may be reasonably required as well as a release or disclaimer of liability by the Village for accidents involving the registered golf cart.

(4) The Marathon City Police Chief may establish written procedures, consistent with this section, setting out the process and the procedure, including the form of the application, the checklist for items to be inspected and the type of sticker, plate or tag evidencing the issuance of the registration permit.

(5) Prior to issuing the initial registration permit, the golf cart shall be inspected at the owner's home or at the Marathon City Police Department, to determine the golf cart is equipped with:

[1] Editor's Note: The Fee Schedule is as from time to time amended by the Village Board and on file with the Village Clerk.

(a) Rear view mirror;

(b) One head light, two tail lights, two red reflectors (rear), two yellow reflectors (front) red and yellow reflectors must be at least three inches in width and height;

(c) The golf cart is equipped with orange "slow moving sign" on the rear of the cart.

(d) The brakes provided by the manufacturer of the golf cart are in proper working order;

(e) The golf cart has all of the standard safety features provided by the manufacturer and has not been modified to exceed a speed of 20 miles per hour, nor otherwise modified in any way that creates a hazard; and

(f) The golf cart is equipped with all mechanical systems and safety equipment required by this section.

(6) The initial registration of a golf cart may be denied or subsequently revoked by the Marathon City Police Department if it is determined that:

(a) The application contains any material misrepresentation;

(b) Financial responsibility requirements of the State of Wisconsin (liability insurance) have not been met;

(c) The golf cart is not in compliance with the requirements set out above;

(d) The golf cart has been altered or customized and no longer meets the definition of a golf cart;

(e) Equipment supplied by the manufacturer, especially safety equipment, has been removed from the golf cart or the vehicle identification or serial number removed; or

(f) Other good cause shown including repeated violations of this section.

(7) The owner of a golf cart required to be registered with the Village for use on the public streets of the Village shall maintain liability insurance in full force and effect and continuously throughout any period of registration.

(8) ATVs, four-wheel utility vehicles and other similar utility vehicles are not manufactured for operation on a golf course and golf carts which have been modified so that it no longer meets the definition of a golf cart may not be registered as a golf cart nor shall such vehicles be operated on the public roads within the Village unless such vehicles are otherwise registered with and allowed under the motor vehicle laws of the State of Wisconsin.

(F) **Manner of Operation.** Golf carts shall only be operated on the public streets of the Village when such operation is in full compliance with the provisions of this section.

(1) Golf carts may be driven on approved public streets from sunrise until sunset, except that golf carts equipped with at least one operating headlight, having at least a fifty-five-watt halogen, or equal, bulb on the front of the golf cart, and two operating tail lights on either side of the rear of the golf cart, all of which are visible for a distance of not less than 250 feet, may be operated from 1/2 hour before sunrise until 1/2 hour after sunset. Golf carts may not be operated when fog, smog, smoke or other conditions reduce visibility so that the golf cart is not visible for a distance of 250 feet.

(2) Golf carts may not be operated on any of the following streets or sections of any street except for the sole purpose of crossing such street either at a signalized intersection or at a perpendicular crossing at a through intersection:

(a) State Highway 107; and

(b) Any street where the posted speed limit is more than 25 miles per hour.

(3) All laws regarding the use of motor vehicles in the State of Wisconsin and all ordinances regarding the use of motor vehicles in the Village, not inconsistent therewith, shall be observed, except that no golf cart may be operated at a speed in excess of 15 miles per hour.

(4) The operator of a golf cart shall yield the right-of-way to overtaking motor vehicles.

(5) Golf carts shall not be operated on any sidewalk, pedestrian walkway, jogging path, greenway, park, trail except for official police business or by Village personnel while on Village business. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, golf carts shall not

be operated on property owned or leased by the Village except with the express written consent of the Village Administrator and/or the Police Chief and upon the terms and conditions as may be set forth in such written permission.

(6) The seating capacity (normally no more than four passengers) shall not be exceeded nor shall the operator or any passenger be permitted to stand while the golf cart is in operation.

(7) Golf carts may not be used as a taxicab or bus or for the commercial carrying of passengers or the hauling of freight.

(8) Golf carts may only be parked in the same manner and at the same places designated for the parking of motor vehicles. The stopping, standing or parking of golf carts in areas where parking is not allowed or in any place that impedes the flow of traffic, pedestrian walkways or a passageway is prohibited.

(9) Golf carts may not be used for the purpose of towing another cart, trailer or vehicle of any kind including a person on roller skates, skateboard or bicycle.

(G) **Disclaimer and Liability.**

(1) Golf carts are not designed for nor manufactured to be used on public streets and the Village neither advocates nor endorses the golf cart as a safe means of travel on public streets, roads and highways. The Village in no way shall be liable for accidents, injuries or death involving the operation of a golf cart.

(2) Any person who owns, operates or rides upon a golf cart on a public street, road or highway within the Village does so at his or her own risk and peril and assumes all liability resulting from the operation of the golf cart.

(H) **Violations and Penalties.** Any person violating this section shall be subject to the penalty provisions of § 10.1.50-10.1.51 of this Code.

SECTION 2: If any provision of this Ordinance is invalid or unconstitutional, or if the application of this Ordinance to any person or circumstances is found invalid or unconstitutional by a Court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the provisions or application of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid or unconstitutional provision or application.

SECTION 3: All Ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4: This Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication or posting as required by law.

Adopted this 3rd day of June, 2026.

VILLAGE OF MARATHON CITY

By: _____
Kurt Hendrick Jr., President

ATTEST:

_____
Cassandra "Cassie" Lang, Clerk

ADOPTED: 6-3-26

PUBLISHED: 6-10-26