

# MANISTEE CITY COUNCIL

## WORK SESSION AGENDA

Tuesday, July 9, 2019 - 7:00 p.m. - Council Chambers, City Hall

**I. Call to Order.**

**II. Work Session Items.**

- a.) PUBLIC COMMENTS ON WORK SESSION RELATED ITEMS.
- b.) DISCUSSION ON GOLF CARTS IN THE CITY OF MANISTEE – City Manager Thad N. Taylor
- c.) DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL FOR ANOTHER HOLLANDER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT – City Manager Thad N. Taylor.
- d.) DISCUSSION ON DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD – City Manager Thad N. Taylor.
- e.) OTHER.

**III. Adjourn.**

Arthur Periard  
9 Cottage Lane  
231-887-5013



To: Thad Taylor

Thad, I understand that Kyle Mosher has expressed my interest to you about permitting golf carts in Manistee. He asked me to communicate to you my thoughts for legalizing golf carts.

My wife and I have spent the spring and summers in Manistee since 1989. At first it was a boat at Seng's Marina, then a building with a condo on the Riverwalk at 356 River Street which Kyle just bought, and last fall to the cottages in Harbor Village. I currently spend my winters in Florida. It is my belief that allowing golf carts in Manistee can only enhance the business downtown. Where else can they go on a golf cart? Furthermore, I see other advantages for golf carts.

My wife and I are in our late 70's. Although I can still ride a bike, my wife is very less mobile. Walking any distance is difficult for her. Her primary option is an auto as is the case of many residents in Manistee. We would like to enjoy Manistee and the neighborhood without having to use the car. There is no doubt that the Manistee population is getting older in nature. Why not give them the same opportunity to enjoy the town as we give those riding bicycles?

I know the downtown merchants need traffic to generate business. I have to believe that allowing golf carts can do nothing but generate more traffic. We all know that numbers of people attract people. There is nothing worse than having empty stores and restaurants. We are fortunate to have some nice stores and restaurants downtown, and this definitely should have a positive impact on their businesses. In addition, I would think that golf carts being smaller in nature would allow more people downtown in busy times and provide more people at slow times during the week.

It is my understanding that Ludington had a 1 year trial period and then passed the law in 2016. I had conversations with several residents in Ludington and they were very positive about the use of golf carts. As you know golf carts in Florida are very common and provide much enjoyment to many people. They even have parades for different style carts.

Manistee should be an ideal town for golf carts. It is a small town with much to see and lots to offer. With proper regulation it should be an enjoyable and profitable venture. I have spoken to others in Manistee and have had a positive response. I am available to help in whatever capacity is needed to further advance golf carts for Manistee. I am attaching a copy of the regulations from Ludington and some other information. I hope this will help initiate a new opportunity for Manistee and its residents.

Sincerely Yours:

Art Periard

**MICHIGAN VEHICLE CODE (EXCERPT)**  
**Act 300 of 1949**

**257.657a Operation of golf cart on village, city, or township streets.**

Sec. 657a.

(1) A village or city having a population of fewer than 30,000 individuals based upon the 2010 decennial census may by resolution allow the operation of golf carts on the streets of that village or city, subject to the requirements of this section. A township having a population of fewer than 30,000 individuals based upon the 2010 decennial census may by resolution, unless disapproved by the county board of commissioners under subsection (3), allow the operation of golf carts on the streets of that township, subject to the requirements of this section.

(2) If a village, city, or township allows the operation of golf carts on the streets of that village, city, or township, that village, city, or township may require those golf carts and the operators of those golf carts to be recorded on a list maintained by that village, city, or township. A village, city, or township shall not charge a fee for listing golf carts or the operators of those golf carts.

(3) A county board of commissioners may, by resolution, disapprove the operation of golf carts on the streets of a township located within that county if the county board of commissioners conducts a hearing and determines that 1 or more of the following apply:

(a) The operation of golf carts on the streets of that township would cause significant environmental damage.

(b) The operation of golf carts on the streets of that township would cause a significant concern of public safety.

(4) The county board of commissioners shall provide public notice of a hearing under subsection (3) at least 45 days before the hearing is conducted. The county board of commissioners shall also provide written notice of a hearing under subsection (3) to the township at least 45 days before the hearing is conducted.

(5) A person shall not operate a golf cart on any street unless he or she is at least 16 years old and is licensed to operate a motor vehicle.

(6) The operator of a golf cart shall comply with the signal requirements of section 648 that apply to the operation of a vehicle.

(7) A person operating a golf cart upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction.

(8) A person shall not operate a golf cart on a state trunk line highway. This subsection does not prohibit a person from crossing a state trunk line highway when operating a golf cart on a street of a village, city, or township, using the most direct line of crossing.

(9) Where a usable and designated path for golf carts is provided adjacent to a highway or street, a person operating a golf cart may, by local ordinance, be required to use that path.

(10) A person operating a golf cart shall not pass between lines of traffic, but may pass on the left of traffic moving in his or her direction in the case of a 2-way street or on the left or right of traffic in the case of a 1-way street, in an unoccupied lane.

(11) A golf cart shall not be operated on a sidewalk constructed for the use of pedestrians.

(12) A golf cart shall be operated at a speed not to exceed 15 miles per hour and shall not be operated on a highway or street with a speed limit of more than 30 miles per hour except to cross that highway or street. A village, city, or township may, by resolution, designate roads or classifications of roads for use by golf carts under this subsection.

(13) A golf cart shall not be operated on the streets of a city, village, or township during the time period from 1/2 hour before sunset to 1/2 hour after sunrise.

(14) A person operating a golf cart or who is a passenger in a golf cart is not required to wear a crash helmet.

(15) This section does not apply to a police officer in the performance of his or her official duties.

(16) A golf cart operated on a street of a village, city, or township under this section is not required to be registered under this act for purposes of section 3101 of the insurance code of 1956, 1956 PA 218, MCL 500.3101.

(17) As used in this section, "golf cart" means a vehicle designed for transportation while playing the game of golf. A golf cart is not required to meet the vehicle safety requirements of a low-speed vehicle for approval under this section.

ORDINANCE NO. 311-15

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 58, ARTICLE V  
OF THE LUDINGTON CITY CODE TO  
AUTHORIZE THE OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS  
ON CERTAIN CITY STREETS PURSUANT TO MCL 257.657a; TO PROVIDE  
PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF  
AND TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH

THE CITY OF LUDINGTON ORDAINS:

Section 1. Chapter 58, Article V is hereby amended to read as follows:

**Sec. 58-176. Operation of golf carts on city streets.**

A person may operate a golf cart on city streets, subject to the following restrictions:

- (a) A person shall not operate a golf cart unless he or she is at least 16 years old and licensed to operate a motor vehicle.
  - (b) The operator of a golf cart shall comply with the signal requirements of MCL 257.648 that apply to the operation of a vehicle.
  - (c) A person operating a golf cart upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction.
  - (d) A person shall not operate a golf cart on a state trunk line highway (including Ludington Avenue, South James Street, and North Lakeshore Drive). This subsection does not prohibit a person from crossing a state trunk line highway when operating a golf cart on a city street, using the most direct line of crossing.
  - (e) Where a usable and designated path for golf carts is provided adjacent to a highway or street, a person operating a golf cart shall be required to use that path.
  - (f) A person operating a golf cart shall not pass between lines of traffic, but may pass on the left of traffic moving in his or her direction in the case of a two-way street or on the left or right of traffic in the case of a one-way street, in an unoccupied lane.
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- (g) A golf cart shall not be operated on a sidewalk constructed for the use of pedestrians or on or across a cemetery or burial ground.
- (h) A golf cart shall be operated at a speed not to exceed 15 miles per hour and shall not be operated on a highway or street with a speed limit of more than 30 miles per hour except to cross that highway or street.
- (i) A golf cart shall not be operated on city streets during the time period from one-half (1/2) hour before sunset to one-half (1/2) hour after sunrise.
- (j) A person operating a golf cart or who is a passenger in a golf cart is not required to wear a crash helmet.
- (k) This ordinance does not apply to a police officer in the performance of his or her official duties.
- (l) A golf cart operated on a city street under this ordinance is not required to be registered under the Michigan Vehicle Code for purposes of section 3101 of the insurance code of 1956, 1956 PA 218, MCL 500.3101.
- (m) As used in this ordinance, "golf cart" means a vehicle designed for transportation while playing the game of golf. A golf cart is not required to meet the vehicle safety requirements of a low-speed vehicle for approval under this ordinance.
- (n) All golf carts intended for street use shall be registered and the owners or operators of those golf carts shall register such golf carts prior to operating the same on any city street, at no cost, with the Ludington Police Department and receive a registration sticker. The registration sticker must be affixed in plain view on the back of the golf cart at all times it is operated on city streets.
- (o) Violation of any of the provisions of this section shall be penalized as a civil infraction

**Section 2.** All ordinances and/or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

**Section 3.** This ordinance can be repealed or modified at any time, has a sunset provision, and is not effective one (1) year after enactment unless reauthorized by ordinance of City Council.

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Arthur Periard  
9 Cottage Lane  
Manistee, MI. 49660



To: Thad Taylor

Thad, I would like your impression of my letter and the additional information that I provided you on golf carts in Manistee. Do you think this a reasonable venture? If so, how might I proceed?

I am prepared to provide additional packets of information similar to what I gave to you including the letter to you, to each of the members of the city council. I would do this only if you think it would be helpful to informing each member. I am wondering whether city hall has an input box for the council members? I do not want to waste your time or mine if you think efforts are misguided or futile. I do think I can generate positive support.

I am enclosing one additional article from Ludington that I do not remember enclosing. I would appreciate your response either by telephone, meeting, or e-mail. I did leave a phone message on Fri. and I apologize for getting your last name wrong. Not sure whether message actually got to your office.

Telephone #: 231-887-5013

e-mail: [amperiard@yahoo.com](mailto:amperiard@yahoo.com)

Thanks:

Art Periard

# City Of Ludington Approves Ordinance Allowing ORV And Golf Carts On City Roads

September 28, 2016 by (<https://www.9and10news.com/author/>)

After a year test trial, a Mason County city has approved a new law for city road ways, they think will be convenient for many.

ORV and golf carts are officially allowed to drive down city roads in Ludington.

"The city of Ludington decided to try it, so we tried it for a year and it was successful," says Chief Mark Barnett, Ludington Police Department.

After a trial year with ORV and golf carts allowed on city roads, the city of Ludington has approved an ordinance for these vehicles to drive on city roads.

The Ludington police chief says over the last year there have been no issues or accidents.

"Initially, I was hesitant to be honest with you, because like anything it was new, but I was interested in seeing what the results were and it's been highly successful," says Barnett.

Dan Quinn, owner of U-Win Motorsports has been working on making this happen for two years. He says these vehicles are convenient for people in Ludington.

"It's getting to be more and more people are using these to run down from their house to the store rather than getting in their pickup truck, 10 miles a gallon, they can jump on their golf cart or side by side and run to the store or just go for a ride with their spouse," Says Dan Quinn.

But with the new long standing law, there are rules to be followed.

Some include driving on the far right side of the road, driving in daylight hours and not driving more than 15 miles per hour for golf carts and 25 miles per hour for ORVs.

"With any vehicle, they should be aware of what other traffic is doing, they shouldn't make the assumption that other people see them they should always drive defensively. But my hope is that people will be responsible with them and they will be a good alternative transportation source," says Barnett.