

## ORDINANCE 2026-06

### AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE ARTICLE V (GOLF CARTS) OF CHAPTER 264 (VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC) OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF HOBART, BROWN COUNTY, WISCONSIN

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**Purpose:** The purpose of this Ordinance is to regulate the operation of golf carts on Village roadways to promote public safety while allowing limited recreational and residential transportation.

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The Village Board of the Village of Hobart, Brown County, Wisconsin, does ordain as follows:

**Section 1:** Article V (Golf Carts) of Chapter 264 (Vehicles and Traffic) is hereby created to read as follows:

#### § 264-15. Purpose and Authority.

A. Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to regulate the operation of golf carts on Village roadways to promote public safety while allowing limited recreational and residential transportation.

B. Authority. This Article is adopted pursuant to Wis. Stat. §349.18, which authorizes municipalities to regulate the operation of golf carts on highways within their jurisdiction. Where this chapter conflicts with Wisconsin Statutes, the Wisconsin Statutes shall control.

#### § 264-16. Definitions.

As used in this article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

#### ALLOWING, PERMITTING AND DIRECTING

Includes any of the following

- (1) Providing the golf cart;
- (2) Giving verbal or implied permission;
- (3) Failing to take reasonable steps to prevent unauthorized operation by a minor;
- (4) Leaving the golf cart accessible in a manner that a reasonable person would expect to prevent unsupervised operation.

#### GOLF CART

A small motor vehicle designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and not capable of exceeding 25 miles per hour, and does not include the following:

- (1) All-terrain vehicles (ATVs)
- (2) Utility terrain vehicles (UTVs)
- (3) Low-speed vehicles regulated separately under Wisconsin law

#### VILLAGE

The Village of Hobart and its employees, appointed officials and elected officials

#### § 264-17. Permitting.

##### A. Village Permit Required

- (1) No golf cart may operate on a Village roadway without a Village Golf Cart Permit.
- (2) The permit shall:
  - (a) Be valid for one calendar year from January 1st to December 31st of the year the permit is issued.
  - (b) Be displayed in a visible location on the golf cart
  - (c) Be issued only after submission of required documentation and photographs
- (3) The cost of a permit will be fifty (50) dollars.

##### B. Permit Display.

- (1) The Village golf cart permit shall be issued as a numbered decal or sticker. The decal must be:
  - (a) Affixed to the front driver-side area of the golf cart
  - (b) Visible from at least 25 feet
- (2) Failure to properly display the permit constitutes a violation.

##### C. Documentation & Photo Submission.

- (1) Applicants must submit the following to the Clerk's Office when applying for or renewing a permit:
  - (a) Photographs of the golf cart clearly showing:
    1. Front view
    2. Rear view
    3. Driver-side view
    4. Passenger-side view
    5. Headlights

6. Taillights

7. Slow Moving Vehicle emblem (if applicable)

(b) Proof of liability insurance covering the golf cart.

(c) A completed Village permit form.

(d) Payment of applicable fees.

(2) The Clerk shall review the submitted photographs and documents to verify:

(a) Required safety equipment is present

(b) The cart meets the definition of a golf cart under Wisconsin law

(c) Insurance is valid

(3) The Clerk may request additional photos if needed to confirm compliance.

§ 264-18. Equipment, Operation and Roadway Use.

A. Equipment Requirements. Golf carts operated on Village roadways must have:

(1) White headlights visible for 500 feet

(2) Red taillights visible for 500 feet

(3) Slow Moving Vehicle emblem (if required)

(4) A properly functioning muffler

(5) Operational brakes

(6) Steering mechanism in safe operating condition

B. Insurance Requirement. Owners must maintain liability insurance covering operation of the golf cart. Proof must be provided at registration and upon request by law enforcement.

C. Operator Requirements. Operators must:

(1) Be at least 16 years old

(2) Possess a valid driver's license

(3) Not be under an instruction permit, suspension, or revocation status. If the operator holds a probationary driver's license, they must comply with all restrictions listed on the back of their license.

(4) Comply with all Wisconsin traffic laws

D. Adult Responsibility for Underage Operators. No owner, parent, guardian, or person in charge of a golf cart may permit, direct, or allow any person who does not meet the minimum operator requirements of this chapter to operate a golf cart on a Village roadway. When a violation of this chapter involves an operator who is a minor, the citation shall be issued to the owner, parent, guardian, or person responsible for allowing or permitting the operation, and not to the minor. The minor operator may be cited only when the investigating officer determines that the minor operated the golf cart without the knowledge or permission of any owner, parent, guardian, or person responsible for the cart.

E. Authorized Roadways. Golf carts may operate only on Village roadways with speed limits of 25 mph or less.

F. State Trunk Highway Prohibition. Golf carts may not operate on or cross any state trunk highway or connecting highway.

G. Crossing of Other Highways. Golf carts may cross higher speed roads only if:

- (1) The crossing occurs at approximately a right angle
- (2) The operator yields to all traffic
- (3) The crossing provides immediate access to a permitted roadway

H. Prohibited Areas. Golf carts may not operate on:

- (1) Sidewalks
- (2) Pedestrian walkways
- (3) Recreational or walking trails
- (4) Terrace areas between sidewalk and curb
- (5) Village parks except where specifically designated

I. Rules of Operation. Operators must:

- (1) Drive on the extreme right side of the roadway
- (2) Travel in single file
- (3) Yield to vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians
- (4) Obey all traffic laws
- (5) Headlights and taillights must be on while driving.

J. Direct Travel Requirement. Golf carts must travel directly between destinations. Repetitive driving without purpose ("cruising") is prohibited.

K. Unattended Vehicles. Golf carts may not be left unattended on public roadways unless lawfully parked and secured – complying with all other vehicle parking requirements outlined in Village code.

L. Hours of Operation. Golf carts may not operate between 10:00 PM and 7:00 AM, unless otherwise authorized by Village Board ordinance or resolution.

§ 264-19. Enforcement and Liability.

A. Permit Revocation. The Village may revoke a permit if:

- (1) Equipment requirements are not maintained
- (2) Insurance coverage lapses
- (3) Repeated ordinance violations occur

B. Enforcement. This chapter shall be enforced by the Hobart-Lawrence Police Department.

C. Penalties. Violations shall be subject to forfeitures under the Municipal Code and Wisconsin Statutes.

D. Liability and Assumption of Risk. Golf cart operation on Village roadways is a privilege and not a right. Persons operating or riding in golf carts do so at their own risk. Nothing in this chapter waives governmental immunity protections under Wis. Stat. §893.80.

E. Vehicle Modifications Prohibited. Golf carts may not be modified to:

- (1) Exceed 25 mph
- (2) Function as another class of motor vehicle
- (3) Create unsafe conditions
- (4) Minor accessories such as mirrors or windshields are permitted.

F. Alcohol and Open Intoxicants. No person may consume alcohol or possess an open container of alcohol in a golf cart operating on a Village roadway.

G. Passenger Limitations. No golf cart may carry more passengers than the manufacturer's designated seating capacity. All passengers must be seated.


§ 264-20. Severability.

If any provision of this chapter is declared invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in effect.

**Section 2:** Any Ordinance or parts thereof, inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

**Section 3.** This Ordinance shall be effective from and after its passage by the Village Board and publication as required by law.

Passed and approved on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2026.

  
Richard Heidel, Village President

Attest:



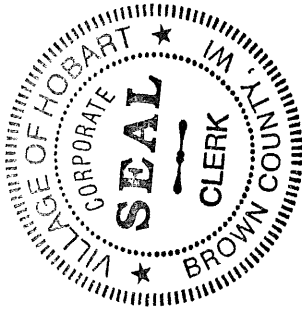
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Aaron Kramer, Village Administrator

**CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned, being the duly appointed Clerk of the Board of the Village of Hobart, certifies that the aforementioned is the original ordinance adopted by the Village Board.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have executed this Certificate in my official capacity on April 21, 2026.

(Seal)



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Lisa Vanden Heuvel, Village Clerk