

ORDINANCE NO. 20-__

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA, CREATING A NEW SECTION 21-60.2, CHAPTER 21, ARTICLE III OF THE OKALOOSA COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, AUTHORIZING THE USE OF GOLF CARTS WITHIN DESIGNATED AREAS OF UNINCORPORATED FT. WALTON BEACH; MAKING FINDINGS; ESTABLISHING CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS FOR THE USE OF GOLF CARTS WITHIN DESIGNATED AREAS OF UNINCORPORATED FT. WALTON BEACH; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION, SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, section 316.212, Florida Statutes, authorizes counties to designate certain county roads for lawful operation of golf carts if the County first determines that golf carts may travel on or cross such county roads upon considering the speed, volume and character of the motor vehicle using those county roads;

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners (the “Board”) has determined, after considering factors including speed, volume, and the character of motor vehicle traffic within certain designated areas of unincorporated Ft. Walton Beach that golf carts may safely travel on or cross certain public roads and streets subject to the restrictions contained herein;

WHEREAS, section 316.212, Florida Statutes, provides that appropriate signs shall be posted to indicate that golf cart operation is allowed;

WHEREAS, the Board believes that regulations proposed in this Ordinance promote and enhance the health, safety, welfare and quality of life of its citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. RECITALS. The above recitals are incorporated by reference herein.

SECTION 2. CREATION OF SECTION 21-60.2 OF THE OKALOOSA COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES. The Board hereby creates a new section 21-60.2 of the Okaloosa County Code of Ordinances, to read as follows:

Sec. 21-60.2. Use of golf carts within designated areas of unincorporated Ft. Walton Beach.

Golf carts may travel on county-maintained roads within certain designated areas in unincorporated Ft. Walton Beach as shown in Exhibit A with the following restrictions:

- (1) A golf cart is defined as a motor vehicle that is designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and that is not capable of exceeding speeds of 20 miles per hour.
- (2) A golf cart may be operated on county-maintained roads only between the hours of 30 minutes before sunrise and 30 minutes after sunset.
- (3) A golf cart may only be operated upon a residential roadway with a posted speed limit of 25 mph or less that is clearly posted for use by golf carts.
- (4) A golf cart may not be operated upon Carmel Drive, Denton Boulevard, James Lee Road, Lewis Street, Mayflower Avenue, and Navy Street and signs shall be posted to notify drivers of this restriction.
- (5) The number of passengers shall be restricted to the number of seats on the golf cart. All passengers shall remain seated during operation of the golf cart. No person shall ride on the exterior of the golf cart.
- (6) Golf carts must be equipped with efficient brakes, operable headlights, reliable steering apparatus, safe tires, a rearview mirror, and red reflector warning devices both front and rear.
- (7) Golf cart operators must obey all traffic regulations applicable to motor vehicles and must have a valid driver's license or be over the age of 14 with direct supervision of a parent or legal guardian who holds a valid driver's license and is over the age of 21.
- (8) No person shall drive any golf cart upon any publicly owned area not designated for motor vehicle use or not specifically designated for golf cart use, including but not limited to state roads, walking trails, and pedestrian sidewalks.

SECTION 3. INCLUSION INTO THE OKALOOSA COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES. It is the intention of the Board, and it is hereby ordained that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Okaloosa County Code of Ordinances, and that the sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered to accomplish such intent.

SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY. Should any section or provision of this Ordinance or any portion thereof, or any paragraph, sentence, or word be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be

invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remainder hereof other than the part declared to be invalid.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall be effective as provided by law.

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED in this _____ day of _____, 2020.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

J.D. Peacock II, Clerk

Robert A. "Trey" Goodwin III
Chairman

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Lynn M. Hoshihara
County Attorney

EXHIBIT A

