Chapter 17

TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES

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ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

Section 17.1 Adoption of Uniform Rules of the Road.

The Uniform Rules of the Road, as set out in O.C.G.A. § 40-6-370, O.C.G.A. §§ 40-6-1 through 40-6-395, are hereby adopted as and for the traffic regulations of the City with like effect as if recited in this chapter.

Section 17.2 Temporary Traffic Regulations.

(a) In cases where traffic upon the roads of the City may become congested upon occasions of parades, athletic events, and other public assemblages where large numbers of vehicles are assembled, the Sheriff may make temporary rules directing and regulating the traffic in these congested districts, and any person who, after being warned of the temporary traffic regulations, shall violate them, shall be guilty of a violation of the Code of Municipal Ordinances and shall be ordered to pay a fine not to exceed $1,000.00 and/or serve not more than 6 months in the Early County jail.

(b) When necessary, the Sheriff may temporarily close certain roads or portions of roads of the city for the purpose of construction, road repairs or other similar activities being performed on such public roads or rights-of-way. The Sheriff or his designee may erect or install temporary traffic control devices including barriers, signs, signals and other such devices which clearly indicate closure of the road or portion on road. Any driver who shall enter a roadway or portion of roadway closed in the above manner, either willfully or negligently, shall be guilty of a violation of the Code of Municipal Ordinances and shall be ordered to pay a fine not to exceed $1,000.00 and/or serve not more than 6 months in the Early County jail.

Section 17.3 Traffic, Speed, Safety, and Other Zones; Signs and Traffic Control Devices.

a. The speed limit shall be 30 miles per hour on all streets, roads, and highways within the corporate limits of the City of Blakely unless otherwise determined by ordinance, with the following exceptions:

1. The speed limit on certain residential streets within the City of Blakely shall be 25 mph. The Chief of Police is authorized to identify those streets for which 25 mph is an appropriate limit and submit them for approval by the Mayor and Council. A list of those streets shall be maintained in the office of the City Clerk.

2. The speed limit on Arlington Ave. Shall be 35 mph from SR 1 bus. to SR 62.

3. The speed limit on Cedar Springs Rd. shall be 55 mph from the SW Blakely City Limit to Odom Ln., 50 mph from Odom Ln. to Chattahoochee Ave., and 40 mph from Chattahoochee Ave. to SR39.

4. The speed limit on Dean Ave. Shall be 35 mph from Ft. Gaines St. to Washington Ave.

5. The speed limit on Freeman Rd. Shall be 40 mph from SR 62 byp. to Flowers Dr.

6. The speed limit on Old Lucille Rd. shall be 55 mph from the SW City limits of Blakely to SR 39.

7. The speed limit on that portion of River St. that is in the City Limits of Blakely shall be 30 mph.

8. The speed limit on Liberty St. from S. Church St. to S. Main St. shall be 25 mph. The speed limit on E. Liberty St. From St. Main St. to where E. Liberty street dead ends shall be 25 mph.

The Mayor, with the advice and assistance of the Chief of Police, is instructed to post speed limit signs in those areas deemed appropriate for adequate notice of the speed limit.

b. Upon approval of the Mayor and Council, the Chief of Police is authorized to designate and maintain by appropriate traffic control signs, markings, and devices:

1. Crosswalks at intersections where there is particular danger to pedestrians crossing the roadway.

2. Other safety zones for pedestrians.

3. Traffic lanes.

4. Speed, parking, truck, or other traffic control zones.

5. Stop, yield, one-way, and other directional devices.

6. Any other sign, marking, device, or zone necessary for orderly and safe conditions on the roads and streets of the City.

c. All traffic control signs, signals, devices, and markings shall conform to specifications in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices adopted by the state transportation Board. All signs and signals required under this chapter for a particular purpose shall so far as practicable be uniform as to type and location throughout the City. All traffic control devices so erected and not inconsistent with the provisions of state law or this Code shall be official traffic control devices of the City.

d. The City Clerk shall keep and maintain an accurate official map setting out all traffic zones, markings, signs, and other traffic control devices. The map and any amendments or changes thereto shall be adopted by the Mayor and Council and the map shall be known as the official traffic control map of the City. An official copy thereof shall be kept in the office of the City Clerk; shall be available to the public; and copies certified by the City Clerk shall be admissible in court as proof of the location of any traffic zone, marking, sign, or other traffic control device.

e. No person shall be charged with violating a traffic zone, marking, sign, or other traffic control device unless appropriate signs, markings, or devices are in fact operating or in existence on the streets involved.

f. Any violation of any traffic zone, marking, sign, or other traffic control device established under this chapter shall be a violation of this Code.

Section 17.4 Speed Detection Devices.

a. The City is hereby authorized to use speed detection devices for the purpose of traffic control on the roads and streets in the City.

b. Such speed detection devices shall be used only for the purpose of public safety and traffic control and shall not be used for the purpose of raising revenue.

Section 17.5 Covering of Loads.

No person shall operate or load any vehicle on the public streets and roads of the City unless the vehicle is constructed, loaded, and securely covered so as to prevent any of its load from dropping, escaping, or shifting in such a manner as to create a safety hazard or in such a manner so as to litter the streets and roads of the City.

Section 17.6 One Way Streets.

The Mayor and Council may establish such one way streets as is necessary and proper for traffic flow in the City.

Section 17.7 School Zones.

a. The school zone speed limit shall be enforced from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on school days only.

b. The Mayor and Council may establish school zones on the public streets and roads of the City by resolution establishing such speed limits and times for enforcement as is necessary to protect the health and safety of school children in the City.

Section 17.8 Motorized Carts and Personal Transportation Vehicles.

a. For the purposes of this ordinance, the definition of Motorized Cart" shall be the same as provided by O.C.G.A. §_40-1-1(32), that being every motor vehicle having no fewer than three wheels and an unladen weight of 1,300 lbs or less which cannot be operated at more than 20 miles per hour.

b. Motorized Carts may be operated on city streets where the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less.

c. Motorized Carts may not be operated on State Highways under the jurisdiction and control of the Department of Transportation, even in areas where the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less, except that these highways may be crossed in designated areas specified below.

d. Motorized Carts may cross State highways which are under the jurisdiction and control of the Department of Transportation only at designated areas and may not cross _____, even where these Highways come through town, until such a time as the Department of Transportation designates such crossing areas.

e. Motorized Carts may be operated on city streets only during daylight hours unless such motorized carts are equipped with two operating headlights (one on each side of the front) and two operating tail lights with brake lights (one on each side of the rear) which are visible from a distance of 550 feet.

f. Motorized Carts must be equipped with a rear view mirror, which shall be a permanent fixture on the vehicle.

g. It shall be the duty of every owner of an electric or gasoline powered motorized cart that is operated in an authorized driving zone, as set forth herein, to register the cart with the city within five (5) business days of the date of purchase. A record of each motorized cart, along with the name and address of the owner, shall be maintained by City Hall. Proof of registration shall be kept with the cart at all times the cart is being operated in an authorized driving zone. The failure to have current city registration while operating I an authorized driving zone shall be a violation of this section and subject the owner of such cart to a fine of $50.

h. The annual registration fee for motorized carts owned by city residents shall be $15.00 and the registration shall be valid from January 1st until December 31st.

i. All funds collected for registration of motorized carts pursuant to this ordinance shall be deposited in the City's general fund.

j. Operators of Motorized Carts and Personal Transportation Vehicles on city streets must have a valid driver's license or learner's permit and shall be subject to the Uniform Rules of the Road and all other State and Local traffic regulations applicable to a driver of any other motorized vehicle.

Sections 17.9 - 17.15 Reserved.

ARTICLE II. TRUCK ROUTES

Section 17.16 Definition of Commercial Trucks.

a. The following classes of vehicles are hereby declared to be commercial trucks:

1. *Pole trailer* - Every vehicle without motive power designed to be drawn by another vehicle and attached to the towing vehicle by means of a reach or pole, or by being boomed or otherwise secured to the towing vehicle and ordinarily used for transporting long or irregular shaped loads, such as poles, pipes, or structural members capable, generally, of sustaining themselves as beams between the supporting connections.

2. *Semi-trailer - Every vehicle with or without motive power, other than a* pole trailer, designed for carrying persons or property and for being drawn by a motor vehicle and so constructed that some part of its weight and that of its load rests upon or is carried by another vehicle.

3. *Tractor* - Any self-propelled vehicle designed for use as a traveling power plant or for drawing other vehicles but having no provision for carrying loads independent.

4. *Truck* - Every motor vehicle designed, used, or maintained primarily for the transportation of property; **except**, that class of vehicles known as pickup trucks shall not constitute commercial trucks unless they are towing a pole trailer or a semi-trailer.

5. *Truck tractor* - Every motor vehicle designed and used primarily for drawing other vehicles and not so constructed as to carry a load other than a part of the vehicle and load so drawn.

6. *Dump trucks, earth movers, crane trucks, and other heavy equipment* when such vehicle or equipment is not necessary for the construction, renovation, or maintenance of the road or structures within the subdivision.

7. Any vehicle not included within the above categories, but which is classified as a Commercial Motor Vehicle by Title 49, Part 390.5 of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSR). This section defines a commercial motor vehicle as:

   - Having a manufacturers gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) or gross combination weight rating (GCWR) of 10,000 or more pounds, or
   - Designed or used to transport more than 8 passengers (including the driver) if for compensation, or

- Designed or used to transport more than 15 passengers (including the driver) if not for compensation, with the exception of school buses, or
- Used to transport hazardous materials in a quantity requiring placards.

Section 17.17 Operation Prohibited.

The operation or parking of a commercial truck or other vehicle, as defined in Section 17.16 of this ordinance, upon the residential streets of the City of Blakely is hereby prohibited; provided, however, commercial trucks, while being used in making deliveries or taking on cargo for transportation from within a residential subdivision, shall not be prohibited. In such case of making deliveries or taking on cargo for transportation from within a residential subdivision, deliveries or taking on cargo shall be incidental and not a regular delivery. Upon completion of the delivery or taking on cargo, a commercial truck or other vehicle shall return to the truck route from which it entered said residential subdivision using the same route over residential streets used to access the delivery location, or as near thereto as possible. This section shall not be construed to allow travel by a commercial truck or vehicle on residential street for the purpose of pick up or delivery to any commercial or industrial site.

Nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to prohibit the operation of school buses on residential streets for the purposes of picking up and dropping off students.

Section 17.18 Truck Routes.

Those portions of U.S. Hwy 27, Georgia State Route 62, Georgia State Route 39, Georgia State Route 200, and Georgia State Route 363 within the corporate limits of the City of Blakely are designated as truck routes. IN addition, Arlington Street from the intersection of Arlington and U.S. Highway 27 heading in a southeasterly direction to the railroad tract and continuing from the railroad tract a distance of 1465 feet is designated as a truck route. A sign will be erected a this point designating the end of the truck route. Maple Street from the intersection of Business U.S. Highway 27 to Arlington Street is designated as a truck route. The operation of commercial trucks shall be permitted on designated truck routes only.

Section 17.19 Violation of Ordinance.

Any person convicted of a violation of any provision of this ordinance shall be punished by a fine of nor more than $1,000 and/or imprisonment for not more than 180 days. Each incident shall be construed to be a separate violation.

Section 17.20 Reserved.

ARTICLE III. PARKING

Section 17.21 Establishment of Limited or Restricted Parking Areas.

a. Signs are Required. When the Mayor and Council shall determine that parking in any area should be limited or restricted it shall by resolution direct the Police Chief to have appropriate signs placed in or near such area in an manner that any ordinarily observant person may readily see such signs. The signs shall clearly indicate the restriction imposed in the area affected but no one parking in such areas shall be subject to prosecution until such signs have been so placed. Upon the adoption of such resolution, it shall be the duty of the Police Chief promptly to have such signs prepared and placed.

b. Obedience to Signs It shall be unlawful to park any vehicle in a restricted or limited parking area in violation of parking restrictions or regulations established by resolution of the Mayor and Council when such area and limitational restriction is clearly indicated by appropriate signs or markings.

c. Parking in Area Marked with Yellow Paint. In addition to signs it shall be unlawful for any motor vehicle to park on any public street or road in any area that has been painted with yellow paint by the city as authorized by the Mayor and Council. Yellow paint shall be the marking that establishes no parking zones.

Section 17.22 Vehicles to Be Parked Within Limit Lines.

All vehicles shall be parked within the areas designated by the Police Chief for such purposes by limit lines drawn or painted upon the pavement of the streets of the City. Where no such lines have been painted or marked designating such parking spaces, then each vehicle shall be parked in a manner that shall not impede the flow of traffic on the City street and in compliance with this article.

Section 17.23 Encroaching on Street, Alley, Crossing or Crosswalk.

No vehicles shall be parked in such manner as to close or encroach upon any intersecting street, alley, crossing, or crosswalk.

Section 17.24 Parking in Public Driveways.

No vehicle shall be parked in any public driveway.

Section 17.25 Double Parking; Center Parking.

It shall be unlawful to double park or center park any vehicle in any street; that is no vehicle shall be parked between the lines of vehicles parked adjacent to the curb on one side of such street and the line of vehicles parked adjacent to the curb on the opposite side of the street.

Section 17.26 Parking Vehicle of Excessive Length.

No vehicle shall have a length greater than the standard automobile, measured from its from bumper to the extreme rear of the body and load of such vehicle, shall be parked at an angle in any of the streets and ways of the City but such vehicle should be parked adjacent to and parallel to the curb on the right hand side of the street in which such vehicles preceding.

Section 17.27 Unlawful Parking.

It shall be unlawful for any person to park any automobile, truck or any other motor or other vehicle upon the paved streets in the City, or leave such vehicle parked upon the streets between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.

Section 17.28 Authority Establishing Loading and Unloading Zones, Bus Stops and Taxi Cab Stands.

Nothing in this article shall be construed as prohibiting the Mayor and Council from providing for parking space for unloading and loading commercial vehicles, for bus stops, for taxi cab stands, or for other matters of similar nature.

Section 17.29 Parking Within Fire Lanes.

It shall be unlawful for any vehicle to park within any fire lane at any time for any purpose. This section does not apply to any emergency vehicle of the City or vehicle of any utility company or ambulance providing service to any occupants of any building adjacent to a fire land during an emergency.

Section 17.30 Parking in Deceleration Lanes.

a. It shall be unlawful for any person to park any automobile, truck, bus, truck tractor, trailer, tractor/trailer combination, motorcycle, moped, or other motor vehicle within or upon the deceleration or acceleration lanes lying in the incorporated areas of the City.

b. Deceleration and acceleration lanes shall be defined for the purpose of this section as those strips of pavement lying adjacent to and to the east of the northbound lanes of traffic and adjacent to and to the west of the southbound lanes of traffic which are not part of the regular roadway but afford access into and out of the driveways and side roads along the highway.

Sections 17.31 - 17.40 Reserved.