Chapter 13

Motor Vehicles and Traffic

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Article I, In General

Sec. 13.1. Definitions.

For the purpose of this Chapter the definitions of the South Carolina Code of Laws are hereby adopted and made a part of the Code of Laws of the Town.

Sec. 13.2. Jurisdiction of Municipal Court

The municipal court may try and determine criminal cases involving violations of the provisions of this chapter or of S.C. Code 1976 relating to motor vehicles and traffic occurring within the town limits when the penalty prescribed by state law for such violations does not exceed the penalties provided by section 14.5. The municipal court may have trial jurisdiction over such criminal cases the same as magistrates.

Sec. 13.3. Powers and Duties of Mayor and Council.

The mayor and council, except as otherwise directed by this chapter and subject to the authority of state and federal highway authorities, shall have the power, and is hereby authorized, to regulate the operation and parking of vehicles within the corporate limits of the Town by the erection or placing of signs or markers indicating prohibited or limited parking, restricted speed one-way streets, play streets, through or arterial streets, parking meter spaces in parking meter zones, "U" turns, school zones, hospital zones, loading and unloading zones, quiet zones and other signs, marker and official traffic control devices indicating the place or manner of operating or parking vehicles the Town.

The mayor and council, except as otherwise directed by this chapter, and subject to the authority of state and federal highway rules and regulations, shall have power to regulate the movement of pedestrians upon the streets and sidewalks of the Town by the erection or placing of proper signs or markers the flow of pedestrian traffic.

The mayor and council, except as otherwise directed by this chapter and subject to the authority of state and federal highway rules and regulations, shall have power to designate bus stops and taxicab stands and to erect signs prohibiting the parking of vehicles other than buses and taxicabs at their respective stops and stands.

The mayor and council, except as otherwise directed by this chapter and subject to the authority of state and federal highway rules and regulations, shall have the power to mark off traffic lanes on streets and parts of streets indicating and directing the flow of traffic, when in the judgment of the mayor and council such action is necessary.

The mayor and council shall have power to secure all necessary signs, markers or official traffic control devices to be erected or placed on any street or part of a street when such action is deemed necessary.

The existence of such signs, markers or official traffic-control devices at any place within the Town shall be prima facie evidence that such signs, markers or official traffic control devices were erected or placed by and at the direction of the mayor and council and in accordance with the provisions of this section.

Sec. 13.4. State Driver's License and Vehicle License Required.

No person shall operate a motor vehicle on any street in the Town without a state driver's license to operate the vehicle, which vehicle shall have valid state license tags.

Sec. 13.5 Glass and Other Foreign Matter in Streets.

It shall be unlawful to place, throw or deposit upon any street within the Town any glass bottle, glass, nails, wire, tacks, cans or any other substance likely to injure any person, animal or vehicle upon such street. Any person who drops or permits to be dropped or thrown upon any street within the Town any destructive or injurious material shall immediately remove it or cause it to be removed. Any person removing a wrecked or damaged vehicle from a street shall remove any glass or other injurious substance dropped upon the highway from such vehicle.

Sec. 13.6 Responsibility of Vehicle Owner.

No person shall allow, permit or let any vehicle registered in his name violate any of the ordinances of the Town: provided, all violations of parking ordinances shall be presumed to be with the knowledge of the owner of such vehicle.

Article II, Moving Traffic

Sec. 13.20 Adoption of State Laws

The Town hereby adopts by reference and makes a part of this code as fully and completely as if set forth herein verbatim those provisions of state law contained in Title 56, Chapter 5 of South Carolina Code, 1976, as amended from time to time, cited as the "Uniform Act Regulating Traffic on Highways".

Sec 13.21. Blocking Intersections.

No driver shall enter an intersection or a marked cross walk unless there is sufficient space on the other side of the intersection or cross walk to accommodate the vehicle he is operating without obstructing the passage of other vehicles or pedestrians, notwithstanding any traffic control signal indication to proceed.

Sec. 13.22. Bicycles Prohibited on Sidewalks, in Fire Zones.

It shall be unlawful for any person to ride a bicycle on any sidewalk and/or in the fire zone in the Town.

Sec. 13.23. Reckless Operation of Bicycles.

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any bicycle in the Town in a reckless or dangerous manner.

Sec. 13.24. Driving Across Private Property.

It shall be unlawful for any person driving a vehicle to use the driveway of any filling station or service station in the Town as a roadway or thoroughfare.

It shall be unlawful for any person driving a vehicle to make any "U" turn or other turn prohibited at any point where such turn is prohibited, and it shall be unlawful to accomplish a "U" turn by deviously going into or through private property adjoining the street where such turn is prohibited.

Sec. 13.25. Permit Required for Certain Vehicles.

It shall be unlawful to operate any motor-powered vehicle within the Town limits without first obtaining a permit to operate same from the Town clerk-treasurer; this section does not pertain to those vehicles which have been licensed to operate by the State of South Carolina.

Article III, Parking, Standing, Stopping

Sec. 13.40. Blocking Streets and Alleys.

No person shall stop, stand, or park any vehicle upon a street other than an alley, in such a manner or under such conditions as to obstruct the well traveled portion of the roadway, except that a driver may stop temporarily during the actual loading or unloading of passengers or when necessary in obedience to traffic regulations or traffic signs or signals of a police officer. No person shall park a vehicle within an alley in such a manner or under such conditions as to leave available less than ten (10) feet of width of the roadway for the free movement of vehicular traffic.

Sec. 13.41. Display for Sale, Washing, Greasing, Etc. Beside Roadway.

No person shall stand or park a vehicle alongside any roadway for the principal purpose of: (1) displaying it for sale; (2) washing, greasing, or repairing such vehicle except repairs necessitated by an emergency.

Sec. 13.42. Manner of Parking.

Where parking is permitted on streets not marked off for parking, the operator of any vehicle shall park such vehicle with the right front and right rear wheels as near as possible to the curb and parallel thereto. Vehicles parked within marked areas shall not occupy any part of more than one space. The operator of any parked vehicle shall back out into the roadway only when the roadway is clear.

Sec. 13.43. Loading Zones.

No person shall stop, stand, or park a vehicle for any purpose or period of time other than for the expedition of unloading or loading passengers in any place marked as a passenger zone during hours when the regulations applicable to such passenger zone are effective, and then only for a period not to exceed three (3) minutes.

No person shall stop, stand, or park a vehicle for any purpose or length of time other than for the expeditious unloading and delivery or pickup and loading of materials in any place marked as a loading zone are in effect. In no case shall the stop for unloading of materials exceed thirty (30) minutes.

Sec. 13.44 Special Parking Spaces.

Mayor and council may, in its discretion, designate special parking places for the handicapped, fire, emergency and law enforcement officers, doctors and any other person for which sufficient cause is found to exist.

Sec. 13.26. Careless Operation of a Vehicle

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any vehicle without care and caution and full regard for the safety of persons and property. Any person failing to do so shall be guilty of careless operation. The operation of any vehicle when the same or any of its equipment is not in proper or safe condition shall be prima facia evidence of careless operation. Careless operation shall be unlawful and may be lesser included offense of reckless driving.

Sec. 13.45. Parking After Notice to Remove.

Any motor vehicle remaining parked on a paved street for twelve hours after notice to remove has been given by a policeman or the superintendent of the street department shall be removed and stored at the owner's expense. The notice may be given to the owner or the agent in charge of the vehicle by leaving a copy of the notice on the vehicle or at the residence of the owner or agent.

Sec. 13.46. Parking Meters; Treatment and Operation.

It is unlawful to deface, tamper with, damage, open, break, destroy, or impair the usefulness of any parking meter. Only coins of the United States may be deposited. All other coins or devices are unlawful.

Sec. 13.47. Taxis; Parking Stands.

The mayor and council shall designate suitable parking places on the streets as taxi stands. Taxis licensed to do business, when not in motion or doing business, shall be parked in the places assigned to them. It is unlawful for any unauthorized person to park in any place set apart for taxi use.

Sec. 13.48. Bus Stops; Receiving and Discharging Passengers.

No bus entering or leaving the Town on a regular schedule that is published by the company operating the bus shall stop to receive or discharge passengers except at the regular bus station used by the company. This provision shall not apply to emergency stops or to stops at places in the Town specifically designated as bus stops by the street committee.