

ORDINANCE NO. 20120927-074

AN ORDINANCE READOPTING AND EXTENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 13-2, SUBPART G (ELECTRIC LOW-SPEED VEHICLES), AND AMENDING CITY CODE SECTIONS 13-2-287 THROUGH 13-2-289 REGARDING CERTAIN SAFETY EQUIPMENT AND ISSUANCE OF CITY OPERATING AUTHORITY FOR ELECTRIC LOW-SPEED VEHICLES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

PART 1. City Code Chapter 13-2, (GROUND TRANSPORTATION PASSENGER SERVICES), Article 2, Division 2 (*Ground Transportation Services Generally*), Subpart G (Electric Low-Speed Vehicles), as adopted by Ordinance No. 20111020-053, as amended by this ordinance, is readopted, extended and continued in effect.

PART 2. City Code Section 13-2-287 (*Requirements of Electric Low-Speed Vehicle Service*) is amended to amend Subsections (D) and (E) to read:

§13-2-287 REQUIREMENTS OF ELECTRIC LOW-SPEED VEHICLE SERVICE.

(D) An electric low-speed vehicle driver must:

- (1) comply with Section 13-2-55 (*Rest Periods for Drivers*); and
- (2) display current state vehicle registration and city [~~state~~] safety inspection documentation within the electric low-speed vehicle.

(E) An electric low-speed vehicle driver may not:

- (1) operate at a maximum speed greater than 25 miles per hour;
- (2) load or unload passengers or stop or stand:
 - (a) at the curb or the edge of a roadway, except in legal parking areas;
or
 - (b) in a driveway, unless the driveway is signed and marked as a legal parking area;

- (3) operate in any manner, including loading or unloading passengers or stopping or standing, on a sidewalk or sidewalk area;
- (4) carry more passengers than the number of approved seatbelts installed in the vehicle, not to exceed a maximum of 6 [4] passengers, excluding the driver;
- (5) tow a trailer; or
- (6) operate a vehicle on a roadway other than a roadway authorized by Section 13-2-287 (*Requirements of Electric Low-Speed Vehicle Service*).

PART 3. City Code Section 13-2-288 (*Electric Low-Speed Vehicle Additional Equipment Minimum Standards*) is amended to amend Subsections (D) and (G) to read:

§13-2-288 ELECTRIC LOW-SPEED VEHICLE ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT MINIMUM STANDARDS.

- (D) An electric low-speed vehicle is limited to a maximum passenger capacity equal to the number of approved seatbelts installed in the vehicle, not to exceed a maximum of 6 [4], excluding the driver.
- (G) An electric low-speed vehicle must be equipped with the following equipment, or equipment that the department determines is equivalent:
 - (1) hinged doors that are solid molded plastic or metal, with latches;
 - (2) U.S. Department of Transportation approved 3-point shoulder harness seatbelts for the driver and each passenger;
 - (3) rack and pinion steering;
 - (4) four U.S. Department of Transportation approved street tires of 10 inch minimum diameter;
 - (5) a U.S. Department of Transportation-approved windshield, made of scratch-resistant acrylic or AS-1 safety glass;
 - (6) motorized windshield wipers;
 - (7) a horn;
 - (8) driver's side, passenger side, and inside rearview mirrors;

- (9) front disc and rear drum brakes, or four wheel disc brakes, which must be able to stop the electric low-speed vehicle within 10 feet at speeds up to 25 miles per hour;
- (10) a separate emergency brake pedal/handle system capable of keeping the electric low-speed vehicle in a fixed position on both an incline and level terrain;
- (11) a volt or amp meter, turn signal indicator, headlight switch, and horn button, each of which must be fixed to the dash;
- (12) a slow-moving vehicle emblem compliant with Section 547.104 of the Texas Transportation Code, which must be mounted on the rear of the vehicle in a manner approved by the department;
- (13) two-way communication equipment, while providing service; and
- (14) the following equipment:
 - (a) two headlights;
 - (b) two front turn signals;
 - ~~[(c) two side turn signals;]~~
 - (c) ~~[(d)]~~ two reflectorized rear turn signals;
 - (d) ~~[(e)]~~ two reflectorized brake lights;
 - (e) ~~[(f)]~~ two reverse lights; and
 - (f) ~~[(g)]~~ unobstructed four-way hazard lights.

PART 4. City Code Section 13-2-289 (*Operating Authority Limitations*) is amended to repeal Subsection (B) to read:

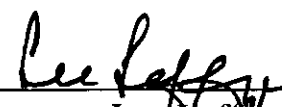
§ 13-2-289 OPERATING AUTHORITY LIMITATIONS.

~~[(A)]~~ The department may issue an operating authority to a maximum of three electric low-speed vehicle services.

~~[(B)]—The department may cancel the operating authority of an electric low speed vehicle service if, at any time before September 30, 2012, the use of electric low speed vehicles for hire is deemed to be unsafe or unworkable.]~~

PART 5. The city council finds that the need to continue in effect the electric low-speed vehicle ordinance constitutes an emergency. Accordingly, this ordinance takes effect immediately upon its passage for the preservation of public peace, health, and safety.

PASSED AND APPROVED

_____, September 27, 2012 §
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 § _____ 
 Lee Leffingwell
 Mayor

APPROVED:  ATTEST: 
 Karen M. Kennard Shirley A. Gentry
 City Attorney City Clerk