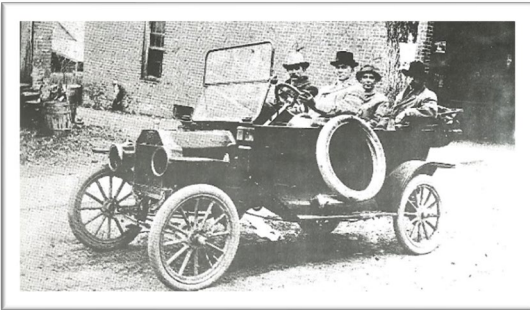


## Updates to Streets, Vehicle & Traffic Requirements Begin January 1, 2023

Did you know that the Town of Mount Pleasant was incorporated in 1859? That is the year that the Town began adopting ordinances regarding public health, safety, and welfare. Over time, many of the ordinances have been updated to reflect current technology, trends, and issues that were not present in 1859. Many amendments were made to the ordinances of the Town of Mount Pleasant in the 1920s and 1930s as the automobile was becoming more common and the issues that came with them needed to be addressed. One issue today is that many of Mount Pleasant's streets came into being at a time between the horse-and-cart and Model T. They were not designed for the weight and size of modern passenger and emergency vehicles. They started out as dirt paths within narrow or non-existent rights-of-way that were later paved with minimal base preparation. Streets constructed after 2001 (there is currently only one in Town) have been subject to more thorough requirements in the Town's Development Ordinance that are intended to keep them in better shape for a longer period of time.



**Vehicles Then**



**Vehicles Now**



**Fire Trucks Then**



**Fire Trucks Now**

For many years, the Town has only received about \$50,000 annually in state Powell Bill funds to repair and pave Town-maintained streets and maintain existing sidewalks. That \$50,000 doesn't go as far as it used to thanks to inflation of materials and labor costs. In recent years, this has only covered necessary street patch repairs and a few sidewalk repairs. With the rate of funding that was in place, it would take 187 years to pave all the streets and construct the sidewalks identified in the adopted Pedestrian Plan. In an effort to implement the Infrastructure & Services Goal of the Town's Comprehensive Plan, and thanks to a small increase in tax base from redevelopment and new infill development, in 2021 the Town Board began budgeting additional funds to add to state allocated Powell Bill money to make progress on needed street and sidewalk improvements. Starting in 2023, paving and shoulder improvements will be made street-by-street, where possible. Priority will be given to streets that have the greatest need based on a technical rating system implemented by the Town Engineer and Public Works Manager, as accrued funds are available. Paving will also be coordinated with upcoming planned utility projects as water and sewer lines are replaced. The Town is also working towards adding sidewalk, curb and gutter to N. Washington Street between Franklin Street and Park Drive. This project is being made possible by a federal transportation grant in anticipation of park projects along N. Washington Street.

## Summary of Updates

In addition to working on street improvements, the Town Board of Commissioners recently took a comprehensive look at vehicle and traffic regulations in the Code of Ordinances to improve safety and accommodate multi-modal transportation, given current and future street conditions.

**The following updates will take effect January 1, 2023** (pending installation of signage at applicable locations):

- Town-maintained residential streets will have a posted speed limit of 25mph, except for E. Walnut and S. Washington Streets, which will have a 10mph speed limit. A Town-wide speed limit of 35mph remains in place for all other streets, unless otherwise posted.
- No through traffic will be permitted on E. Walnut Street and Park Drive.
- No commercial truck through traffic will be permitted on the Town-maintained streets of Barringer Drive, College Street (North & South), Cook Street, Eastover Drive, Elm Street, Hillside Drive, Jackson Street, Kluttz Street, Ludwig Street, MPCJ Street, New Street, Summer Street, W. Walnut Street, Washington Street (North & South), and any street within a residential major subdivision as defined by the Mount Pleasant Development Ordinance (MPDO).
- Kluttz Street will become a one-way street with traffic flowing west from Jackson Street.
- No parking is permitted on streets that have less than 18 feet of pavement width. This is in order to carry out the existing regulation that a minimum of 10 feet of clearance be maintained for emergency vehicles to pass. Signs will be posted at the beginning and end of each affected street. Parking is not permitted on curbs, sidewalks, or straddling the edge of pavement or ditches, as this causes damage to street infrastructure.
- Bicycles are permitted on sidewalks/sidepaths.
- Low speed vehicles are permitted subject to state law. **Golf Carts are permitted on streets of 35mph or less, subject to registration and liability waiver** with the Town and compliance with North Carolina General Statute 160A.300.6. Golf carts are not permitted to be used on numbered highways (NC Highway 73 and NC Highway 49). Golf cart operators must have a **driver's license** and golf carts must be "**street legal**" with headlights and taillights, a vehicle ID or serial number, rearview mirror, rear triangle reflector, proof of ownership, liability insurance, as set forth in the state model ordinance. (Registration forms will be available starting in January 2023 by contacting Town Hall.)
- Loading/unloading areas will be designated for downtown.
- All state traffic laws regarding vehicle movement prevail.



Enforcement of new rules by the Sheriff's Department will not begin on a street until applicable signs are installed over the course of 2023. Warnings will be issued for first offenses during 2023 to give everyone a chance to get used to the new rules. If you have any questions, please call Town Hall at 704-436-9803.

The full Part 7 of the Code of Ordinances can be viewed at:

<https://www.mtpleasantnc.org/wp-content/uploads/Part-7-Amended-9-12-22.pdf>