ORDINANCE NO. 2026-120

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 476 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY, OHIO, TITLED, "SNOWMOBILES AND ALL-PURPOSE VEHICLES"; SPECIFICALLY, ESTABLISHING SECTION 476.02, TITLED, "OPERATION RESTRICTED FOR LOW-SPEED VEHICLES AND UNDER-SPEED VEHICLES".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY, THE COUNTY OF LAKE, AND THE STATE OF OHIO:

SECTION 1. That Chapter 476 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Willoughby, Ohio, titled, "Snowmobiles and All-Purpose Vehicles" is hereby amended; specifically, to establish Section 476.02, titled, "Operation Restricted for Low-Speed Vehicles and Under-Speed Vehicles"; to read and provide as follows:

476.02 OPERATION RESTRICTED FOR LOW-SPEED VEHICLES AND UNDER-SPEED VEHICLES.

Low-speed vehicles and under-speed vehicles may be operated on a public street or highway only if the requirements of this section and ORC Section 4511.215 are met.

(a) For purposes of this ordinance, the terms "low-speed vehicle" and "under-speed vehicle" shall be defined as follows:

(1) "Low-speed vehicle" means a three- or four-wheeled motor vehicle with an attainable speed in one mile on a paved level surface of more than twenty miles per hour but not more than twenty-five miles per hour and with a gross vehicle weight rating less than three thousand pounds.

(2) "Under-speed vehicle" means a three- or four-wheeled vehicle, including a vehicle commonly known as a golf cart, with an attainable speed on a paved level surface of not more than twenty miles per hour and with a gross vehicle weight rating less than three thousand ponds.

(b) No person shall operate a low-speed vehicle or under-speed vehicle upon any street or highway having an established speed limit above twenty-five miles per hour. This section does not prohibit operating a low-speed vehicle or under-speed vehicle proceeding across an intersection of a street or highway having a speed limit greater than twenty-five miles per hour.

(c) Low-speed and under-speed vehicles operated on the streets, highways, and public property within the corporate limits of the City, shall have a minimum of the following functional equipment thereon:

(1) Two working rear red-colored taillights;

(2) License plate in the rear of the low-speed or under-speed vehicle bracketed to the vehicle;

(3) A light to illuminate the rear license plate and make the plate legible from a distance of 50 feet;

(4) Two working brake lights;

(5) Two headlights, white or clear in color;

(6) A horn;
(7) A rearview mirror;
(8) A windshield;
(9) A windshield wiper;
(10) Turn signals;
(11) Brakes sufficient to stop within 40 feet;
(12) An emergency brake sufficient to hold the vehicle on any grade;
(13) Working exhaust system if the unit has an internal combustion system;
(14) One seat belt per occupant of the vehicle;
(15) A child safety seat installed to manufacturer specifications for any occupant under the age of four or under 40-pounds in weight;
(16) A child booster safety seat installed to manufacturer specifications for any occupant between the ages of four and eight or under 4'9" in height.

(d) The owner of a low-speed vehicle or under-speed vehicle who wishes to operate on a public street or highway must first submit the vehicle to an inspection by the Willoughby Police Department that complies with the requirements established by the Ohio Department of Public Safety under Chapter 4513. Such inspection shall be made with respect to the equipment requirements established herein, and shall take place at the Willoughby Police Department. It shall be the responsibility of the Owner to transport any low-speed vehicle or under-speed vehicle to the Police Department for such inspection. The cost of such inspection shall be $20.00. The Police Department shall issue a sticker or other similar device to the owner of any low-speed vehicle or under-speed vehicle once it has been inspected. The sticker shall signify compliance with this section. The owner of each low-speed or under-speed vehicle shall display the sticker in a conspicuous place on the rear of the low-speed or under-speed vehicle.

(e) No person shall operate any low-speed vehicle or under-speed vehicle in any public park.

(f) Low-speed vehicles and under-speed vehicles must have a seat safety belt installed at each designated seating position.

(g) Low-speed vehicles and under-speed vehicles must successfully pass the vehicle inspection required herein, must be plated and registered in accordance with ORC Chapter 4503, and must be titled in accordance with ORC Chapter 4505.

(h) The driver of any low-speed vehicle or under-speed vehicle shall be responsible for ensuring that all passengers are in compliance with any child restraint law in effect for motor vehicles. Rear-facing child restraint seats are not permitted.

(i) Any person operating a low-speed vehicle or under-speed vehicle must have a valid operator's license under ORC Section 4510.12 and show proof of insurance covering the low-speed vehicle or under-speed vehicle while on the public streets of the City.

(j) No low-speed vehicle or under-speed vehicle may be stored or kept for more than two (2) hours on the grass-covered portion of a residential property.

(k) The use of low-speed vehicles or under-speed vehicles is prohibited during periods when roadways are snow or ice covered.

(l) Except as otherwise provided, all sections of the traffic code or substantially similar offenses shall apply to under-speed vehicles operated on any street, highway, or private property used for vehicular travel.

SECTION 2. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this Ordinance were conducted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such actions were conducted in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements including Chapter 107 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Willoughby.

SECTION 3. That this Ordinance shall be in full force and take effect immediately upon its passage by Council and its approval by the Mayor, or at the earliest period allowed by law.

Passed: September 15, 2026 _____
President of Council

Attest: _____
Clerk of Council

Date: 9.16.26 Approved: _____
Mayor

Submitted to the Mayor for his approval on this 16th day of September, 2026.

_____
Clerk of Council

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