

VEHICLES FOR HIRE

Chapter 24

VEHICLES FOR HIRE*

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***Cross references**—License fee for automobiles operated for hire and buses, § 12-21; motor vehicles and traffic, Ch. 13; railroads, Ch. 18; streets and sidewalks, Ch. 21.

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ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

Sec. 24-1. Vehicles for hire, definition.

Vehicle for hire shall mean any motor vehicle, or other vehicle or device, designed or used for the transportation of passengers for hire, the charges for the use of which are determined by agreement, mileage or by the length of time for which the vehicle is engaged. Included within the definition of "vehicle for hire" are taxicabs and limousines, but excluded from this definition are intraurban buses and vehicles exclusively regulated by the Georgia Public Service Commission.

Those provisions of Article II of Chapter 24 of the Code of the City of Forsyth which relate to taxicabs shall also apply to limousines, except where otherwise specifically excluded.
(Ord. of 10-1-96, § 1)

Secs. 24-2—24-15. Reserved.

ARTICLE II. TAXICABS

DIVISION 1. GENERALLY

Sec. 24-16. Purpose of article.

The purpose of this article is to assure the general public of safe, responsible and lawful commercial transportation within the corporate limits of the city.
(Code 1967, § 25-1)

Sec. 24-17. Insurance requirements.

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate in the city limits any taxicab for the transportation of passengers for hire, unless such vehicle is covered by an insurance policy, issued by an insurance company licensed in Georgia, providing liability and property damage insurance of at least fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) per person, thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) per accident and ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) property damage.
(Code 1967, § 25-7)

Sec. 24-18. Information to be displayed on taxi cabs.

All taxicabs (but not those vehicles deemed limousines) shall have affixed to the exterior a legible and identifiable identification of the vehicle as a taxicab.
(Ord. of 10-1-96, § 2)

Sec. 24-19. Operational requirements.

- (a) The interior of each vehicle for hire shall be maintained in a clean condition, free of foreign matter and offensive odors. There shall be no litter in the vehicle or trunk, and the seats shall be kept clean and without holes or large wear spots.

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- (b) All vehicles for hire shall present a clean environment for passengers.
- (c) No taxicab or vehicle for hire shall have less than three (3) doors for loading passengers, and each vehicle for hire or taxicab must be either a station wagon, a sedan (meaning a sedan-type vehicle which has a seating capacity of not more than five (5) passengers and the driver), or a minivan (meaning any vehicle other than a station wagon or sedan with a designed seating capacity of not more than fifteen (15) passengers).
- (d) No vehicle operated as a taxi cab shall be more than ten (10) years old. The determination of age shall be as of December 1 of each year with reference to model years.
- (e) Within twenty-four (24) hours of the discovery of any personal property left by a passenger in a vehicle for hire, a driver shall forward such property to passenger, if known, and if not, then to the Forsyth Police Department.
- (f) The driver of a vehicle for hire shall take the most direct route to a passenger's destination unless otherwise authorized or directed by the passenger.
- (g) It shall be unlawful for any driver to carry a number of passengers that exceeds the seating capacity of the vehicle for hire according to the vehicle manufacturer's specifications.
(Ord. of 10-1-96, § 2)

Secs. 24-20—24-30. Reserved.

DIVISION 2. PERMIT

Sec. 24-31. Required.

No taxicab shall be operated within the city unless the owner thereof has a current permit issued under this division for such vehicle. Such permit is in addition to any license required under chapter 12 of this Code.

(Code 1967, §§ 25-2, 25-6)

Sec. 24-32. Application.

Application for a permit required by this division shall be made to the city clerk. Such application shall contain a description of the vehicle to be used as a taxicab and the name and address of the owner and operator of such vehicle.

(Code 1967, § 25-5)

Sec. 24-33. Fee.

The fee for a permit required by this division, in such amount as is prescribed from time to time by the city council, shall be paid at the time of filing the permit application.

(Code 1967, § 25-5)

Sec. 24-34. Term; renewal.

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A permit issued under this article shall be valid for the remainder of the calendar year, unless sooner revoked. Application shall be made to the city clerk, not later than December fifteenth of each year, for renewal of such permit for the succeeding year.

(Code 1967, § 25-5)

Sec. 24-35. Not transferable.

A permit issued under this division shall not be transferable.

(Code 1967, § 25-6)

Sec. 24-36. Revocation and suspension.

A permit issued by the city to any person to operate a taxicab or vehicle for hire may be suspended or revoked for the failure to abide by and follow the provisions of Chapter 24 of the Code of the City of Forsyth, or for the violation of any driving or motor vehicle laws of the City of Forsyth, Monroe County, or the State of Georgia, or any other jurisdiction with regard to traffic and motor vehicle offenses, or upon other grounds which directly relate to the operation of taxi cabs or vehicles for hire and danger to the public.

Any revocation or suspension of a permit shall be heard by the city council, or any designated hearing officer appointed by the city council, after the driver or person charged has been given at least five (5) days prior written notice of the date of the hearing and the specific charges and grounds. Such hearings are administrative in nature, and the strict rules of evidence as applied in court trials shall not necessarily apply; but all testimony and evidence presented shall be under oath with the right to and subject to cross examination. Such administrative hearings with regard to a suspension or revocation of any license or permit hereunder shall be deemed separate and apart from any criminal prosecutions which may be related to or a result of the same activity or grounds, including prosecution in the recorder's [municipal] court of the City of Forsyth or any other court.

(Code 1967, § 25-3; Ord. of 10-1-96, § 3)

Secs. 24-37—24-50. Reserved.

ARTICLE III. TOWING SERVICES*

Sec. 24-51. Intent and purpose.

From time to time, the police department requires that motor vehicles be towed, and such times include (without being limited to) accidents when it is necessary to clear the path of a roadway, driving under the influence cases when the vehicle cannot be released to the occupant, and abandoned vehicles on or along public roads. In such circumstances, the city has determined that there should be specific guidelines and policies for businesses to be included on a list of available towing services which the city police department can call upon. Such services shall be called upon on a rotating basis as often as possible. None of such services shall charge a fee to the city. Any inclusion upon a list of the city is not to be considered an endorsement by the city in any form whatsoever of such service.

***Editor's note**—A resolution adopted Feb. 1, 1994, enacted provisions pertaining to towing services on city's approved (rotation) list. Such provisions did not specify manner of codification; hence, inclusion as Art. III, §§ 24-51—24-56, has been at the discretion of the editor.

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cash, certified check or money order, bank check, credit card, or personal check if the owner or occupant is a resident of the State of Georgia. A receipt shall be given in all cases when cash is the form of payment.

(Res. of 2-1-94, § 1 (D))

Sec. 24-55. Response time.

Towing services on the city's list must provide towing services within a reasonable time after notice from the city police, and within a time not more than sixty (60) minutes from notice.

(Res, of 2-1-94, § 1(E))

Sec. 24-56. Revocation and suspension of privilege.

If any towing service on the city's approved list violates any city regulations with regard to this procedure, or related to towing services, then the city administrator, after affording the service written notice of the charges and an opportunity to be heard with respect to the charges may, if the city administrator finds a violation by the service or its agent or employees, revoke the privilege of being upon the city's approved list, or suspend the privilege for a specified period of time, or place the service on a probation upon such conditions as are reasonable and appropriate, and levy an administrative fine in an amount not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00). If the service is dissatisfied with the decision of the city administrator, then the service shall have ten (10) days from the written decision of the city administrator to appeal to the public safety committee of the city council.

(Res. of 2-1-94, § 1(E))