

VEHICLES FOR HIRE

Chapter 24

VEHICLES FOR HIRE

Art. I. In General, §§ 24-1—24-15

Art. II. Taxicabs, §§ 24-16—24-50

Div. 1. Generally, §§ 24-16—24-30

Div. 2. Permit, §§ 24-31—24-50

VEHICLES FOR HIRE

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. This definition includes, but is not limited to taxicabs and limousines. Excluded from this definition are buses and vehicles exclusively regulated by the Georgia Public Service Commission.

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.

Sec. 24-17. Insurance requirements.

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any taxicab within the city 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 in accordance with state law.

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

All taxicabs shall have a legible and identifiable identification of the vehicle as a taxicab affixed to the exterior of the vehicle.

Sec. 24-19. Operational requirements.

- (a) 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 mid-size 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).
- (b) 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.
- (c) 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.
- (d) 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.

VEHICLES FOR HIRE

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.

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.

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.

Sec. 24-34. Term; renewal

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

Sec. 24-35. Not transferable.

A permit issued under this division shall not be transferable.

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 this chapter or for the violation of any driving or motor vehicle laws of the City of Forsyth, Monroe County, 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 municipal court of the City of Forsyth or any other court.