

**CITY OF LA GRANGE, KENTUCKY**  
**ORDINANCE NO. 3, SERIES 2023**  
**AN ORDINANCE REGULATING HORSE-DRAWN VEHICLES**

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WHEREAS, the City of La Grange desires to permit horse-drawn vehicles to travel on city streets for purposes of economic development and tourism.

NOW THEREFORE, THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCE IS HEREBY ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA GRANGE, KENTUCKY:

**CHAPTER 120: HORSE-DRAWN VEHICLES**

- 120.01 License established; compliance with regulations
- 120.02 Application for license
- 120.03 Inspection of vehicles to assure conformance with safety regulations
- 120.05 Responsibilities of licensee
- 120.06 Minimum standards
- 120.99 Penalty

**§ 120.01 LICENSE FOR HORSE DRAWN VEHICLE BUSINESS ESTABLISHED; COMPLIANCE WITH BUSINESS LICENSE AND COMPENSATION TAX REGULATIONS.**

- (A) A license for a horse drawn vehicle business is hereby established for the city of La Grange for the privilege of operating within the city limits.
- (B) The horse-drawn vehicle business shall be subject to the rules and regulations set out in this Chapter which must be complied with as a condition for a license.
- (C) The horse drawn vehicle business is subject to the business license tax under Chapter 110 and the compensation tax under Chapter 118, if applicable.
- (D) No license may be transferred or assigned to a third party without the prior written consent of the city Code Enforcement Officer.

**§ 120.02 APPLICATION FOR HORSE DRAWN VEHICLE LICENSE.**

Owners of horse-drawn vehicle businesses shall apply to the city for a license to use the public streets of the city. Each carriage and horse must have a permit issued by the Code Enforcement Officer. The owners shall supply the city with the following.

- (A) A description of each horse to be used in this business.
- (B) A description of each vehicle to be used and its seating capacity.
- (C) The names of all persons other than the applicant who will operate or control any of the horses, vehicles, or other property used in the business.
- (D) The proposed routes for the owner's vehicles, the hours of operation, and the station or office from which the vehicles shall be operated; all of which shall be approved by the city Code Enforcement Officer.
- (E) When deciding to approve or deny the proposed routes the Code Enforcement Officer shall take into account those factors which are in the best interest of the city, including but not limited to, public health and safety, traffic flow, damage to roadways and infrastructure, waste management, and animal care.
- (F) A copy of an approved insurance policy and indemnity bond. The insurance policy shall provide liability insurance coverage, defense and indemnity of the City for injury to persons or property, including death of individuals or animals, in accidents resulting from

any causes for which the driver or owner of the horse-drawn vehicle business would be liable on account of liability imposed on them by law in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000, where the City of La Grange shall be listed as an additionally named insured.

#### § 120.03 INSPECTION OF VEHICLES TO ASSURE CONFORMANCE WITH SAFETY REGULATIONS.

Each vehicle to be used in the horse-drawn vehicle business shall be inspected by the city designated agent prior to the issuance of any license. An inspection shall verify that the vehicle conforms with the safety requirements set out below. As a minimum standard and to be included in these regulations are the following.

- (A) Vehicles will have no less than 1-3/8 inch spoke wheels with a rubber covering thick enough to protect the streets from damage and to keep noise to a minimum.
- (B) All vehicles will be equipped with front lights on both sides that are capable of illuminating an object 100 feet in front of the carriage; turn signals on the front and the rear of the vehicle; flashing warning lights on the front and the rear of the vehicle; taillights; and brake lights.
- (C) All vehicles will be equipped with hydraulic brakes on the rear axle of the vehicle and with a horn or other device capable of making an abrupt sound sufficiently loud to be heard under all ordinary traffic conditions.
- (D) Each vehicle will be equipped with a device to catch horse manure from falling to the pavement.
- (E) Each vehicle will be equipped with the slow-moving vehicle emblem required by the Commonwealth of Kentucky to be attached to the rear of the vehicle.
- (F) No vehicle shall be wider than eight feet, including fenders, running boards, and safety mirrors and devices.
- (G) All vehicles and carriages must be in safe working order upon presentation and shall pass inspection by the city Code Enforcement Officer.

#### § 120.05 RESPONSIBILITIES OF LICENSEE.

A licensee, having been issued a license under this chapter to engage in the business of operating horse-drawn vehicles or driving horse-drawn vehicles, shall be responsible for the following.

- (A) Ensuring that the horse and vehicle are attended at all times including when loading or discharging passengers.
- (B) Requiring that all passengers be seated except when boarding or discharging.
- (C) Making available to any person, upon request, the rates for all tours and trips offered by the business.
- (D) Spraying all liquid waste from the horse immediately with the appropriate chemical to eliminate all noxious odor and bacteria.
- (E) Disposing of manure from the manure-catching device on the horse-drawn vehicle upon return to its base of operations.
- (F) Preventing the driver from soliciting patronage or in any manner annoying or obstructing the movement of any person or following any person for the purpose of soliciting patronage.
- (G) Operating safe and sanitary horse-drawn vehicles at all times.
- (H) Otherwise conducting the horse-drawn vehicle business in accordance with this chapter and other requirements of law.

(I) All drivers must be over 16 years of age, possess a current driver's license to operate vehicles on the highways of Kentucky, and submit evidence of sufficient training and capability of handling the horse and carriage in a safe manner.

§ 120.06 MINIMUM STANDARDS; VETERINARY CARE.

A licensee shall, in addition to other requirements of this chapter, comply with the minimum standards of this section.

- (A) All horses shall be provided with daily food and water, free from contamination. The food shall be wholesome, palatable, and of sufficient quantity and nutritive value to meet the normal daily requirements for the condition and size of the horse.
- (B) (1) Licensed horses under this chapter shall be exempt from the prohibition of farm animals under §90.09 of the ordinance code. No stabling or pasturing of horses shall be allowed within the city limits, without a special permit from the Code Enforcement Officer.  
  
(2) The licensee shall not permit any horse or horses to be kept, maintained, stored, or remain inside the limits of the city between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 6:00 a.m., unless a horse trailer permit is issued by the code enforcement officer.
- (C) All horses used in the horse-drawn vehicle business must have a veterinarian examination not more than six months old affirming the general good health of the horse, having sufficient body weight and strength to pull the carriage, with no lameness, open sores or nasal discharge. The veterinary records must provide proof of coggins, vaccinations, and certificate of good health.
- (D) Horses shall be properly shod with four (4) rubber compound type horseshoes, borium shoes, or similar nonslip-type shoes that are a proper fit to keep the animal from slipping on the pavement. The hooves shall be kept trimmed.
- (E) Horses shall be kept clean and in particular, the areas in contact with the harness or other tack.
- (F) Horses shall not be worked more than two hours without being given a cumulative total of 30 minutes of rest. The maximum working period for any one horse shall be 8 hours out of every 24 hours.
- (G) The speed at which any horse is driven shall not exceed a slow trot.
- (H) No horse shall be over-ridden or driven to result in overheating or exhaustion.
- (I) Horses shall be provided water at the loading site and on routes at all times that they are working.
- (J) All harnesses and bridles shall be kept oiled and clean so as to be soft at all times.
- (K) All harnesses will be properly fitted and maintained, and kept free of makeshift-like wire, sisal rope, and rusty chain.
- (L) No horse is to be worked with equipment causing an impairment of vision other than normal blinders.
- (M) No one horse shall ever pull more than eight adult passengers. No carriage shall be overloaded with more passengers than there are seats. No person shall hang on or upon the outside of the carriage.
- (N) Unsanitary conditions shall not be permitted to be present on any town route, horse rest area or any area where the horses are kept. All these areas shall be kept clean and free of conditions which might harbor or be conducive to the breeding of insects or rodents.
- (O) No horse shall be subject to any cruel or harassing treatment, including any violation of the mandatory rest periods, feeding and watering schedules, and workload limits established pursuant to this section.

§ 120.99 PENALTY.

(A) Any individual who shall violate any provision of this chapter shall be guilty of a violation and shall be subject for each offense to a fine or penalty not to exceed \$500 per offense as determined by the La Grange Code Enforcement Board, or other remedial orders, including a stop work order or other injunctive relief.

(B) Violation of the provisions of this chapter or failure to comply with any of its requirements shall subject the offender to the above civil penalty, plus court or administrative costs and reasonable attorney’s fees, which may be recovered by the city in a civil action in the nature of a debt if not paid by the offender within 30 days following a final order by the Code Board.

This ordinance shall become effective 30 days from its date of publication as required by KRS 424.

First Reading: March 6, 2023

Second Reading: May 1, 2023

Vote: For 6 Against 1 Abstain 0

So Approved This 1<sup>st</sup> day Of May 2023.

CITY OF LA GRANGE, KENTUCKY

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JOHN W. BLACK, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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STEPHANIE COOPER, CITY CLERK