

ORDINANCE NO. 14309

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHATTANOOGA CITY CODE, PART II, CHAPTER 35, ARTICLE VI, HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGES; SECTION 35-186, DEFINITIONS; SECTION 35-203, REQUIREMENTS FOR HORSES IN SERVICE; AND SECTION 35-204, ANIMAL WORKING CONDITIONS.

WHEREAS, the City of Chattanooga wishes to amend its regulation of Horse-Drawn Carriages for the purpose of bringing the City Code in harmony with the humane and accepted standard of care and working conditions generally accepted by the veterinary community for the horses' pulling carriages within the limits of the City of Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chattanooga has a legitimate interest in protecting the health and safety of animals engaged in the work of drawing horse carriages and of the general public; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chattanooga has determined that it is in the best interests of the City to amend Chapter 35, Article VI, Sections 35-186, 35-203, and 35-204 regarding article definitions, requirements for carriage horses in service and animal working conditions;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. That Chattanooga City Code, Chapter 35, Section 35-203(a), be amended by inserting the following definition into the section in alphabetical order:

“Geriatric Horse” means a horse that has reached the age of twenty years (20 years).

SECTION 2. That Chattanooga City Code, Chapter 35, Section 35-203(a), be amended by creating a new subsection (e) stating as follows:

Sec. 35-203(e).

(e) Upon reaching the age of twenty (20) years, horses shall be deemed to be geriatric. No horse shall be permitted to operate as a carriage horse upon reaching the age of twenty-five (25) years, which shall be the forced retirement age of a carriage horse:

- (1) Geriatric horses shall be required to undergo examinations by a licensed veterinarian pursuant to Section 35-203(b)(2) every six (6) months instead of annually;
- (2) Geriatric horses shall be retired and shall not be permitted to work at pulling carriages upon receiving any diagnosis from a licensed veterinarian that indicates the geriatric horse has a chronic condition that affects and negatively impacts the cardiac system, respiratory system, or the musculoskeletal system;
- (3) The ambient temperature maximum limit found in Sec. 35-204(f) shall be lowered from ninety-five degrees (95°) Fahrenheit to a maximum of ninety degrees (90°) Fahrenheit for geriatric horses. The ambient temperature or wind chill factor, whichever is lower, minimum limit found in Sec. 35-204(f) shall be raised from a minimum of twenty degrees (20°) Fahrenheit to a minimum of thirty degrees (30°) Fahrenheit for geriatric horses;
- (4) Geriatric horses shall not be permitted to pull a carriage at a speed faster than a walk; and
- (5) Geriatric horses shall be identified as such by placing a silver stripe with tape, paint, or other similar method of marking on both sides of the horse's bridle that is at least two (2") inches thick in diameter.

SECTION 3. That Chattanooga City Code, Chapter 35, Section 35-203(c)(2) is hereby amended by deleting the language of the subsection entirely and replacing it with the following language:

Sec. 35-203(c)(2).

- (c)(2) Inspected and maintained by a farrier at least every thirty (30) days. Records must be kept by the owner of the dates and the name of the farrier who shod the animal and are subject to inspection.

If a horse loses a shoe while working, an "easy" type boot may be used to finish the scheduled workday. After completion of that scheduled workday using an "easy" type boot, the horse shall not be permitted to work until reshod and inspected by a farrier.

SECTION 4. That Chattanooga City Code, Chapter 35, Section 35-203(c)(10) is hereby amended by deleting the language of the subsection entirely and replacing it with the following language:

(10) Must have a Henneke Body Condition Scale rating of 4–7 ranging from four (moderately thin) to seven (fleshy) and must not exhibit signs of exhaustion.

SECTION 5. That Chattanooga City Code, Chapter 35, Section 35-203(c)(23) is hereby inserted into this section with the following language added:

Sec. 35-203(c)(23).

After each tour that is conducted by the owner or handler, they shall be required to take the body temperature of the horse. If the body temperature of the horse meets or exceeds one hundred and three degrees (103°) Fahrenheit, the horse shall be removed from duty until the horse's body temperature is lowered to one hundred one and a half degrees (101.5°) Fahrenheit or less. If after two hours the horse's body temperature has not been lowered to one hundred one and a half degrees (101.5°) Fahrenheit or less, then the owner or handler shall take the horse to an emergency veterinarian or have an emergency veterinarian arrive on site to render emergency care.

SECTION 6. That Chattanooga City Code Chapter 35 Section 35-203(c)(14) shall be amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety and substituting the following language:

Sec. 35-203(c)(14).

Carriages shall not be pulled by stallions, pregnant mares over one hundred eighty days (180 days) of gestation, or mares that are within one hundred eighty (180) days after foaling.

SECTION 7. That Chattanooga City Code, Chapter 35, Section 35-203(a), be amended by creating a new subsection (f) stating as follows:

Sec. 35-203(f).

Pregnant mares under one hundred eighty days (180) days of gestation that are permitted to work shall be subject to the same restrictions for geriatric horses found within Section 35-203(e). Pregnant mares shall also be required to undergo an ultrasound from a licensed veterinarian between forty to fifty days (40-50 days) of gestation to confirm the pregnancy.

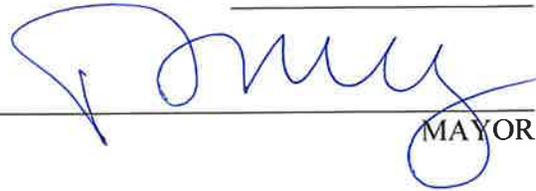
SECTION 8. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That this Ordinance shall take effect two weeks from and after its passage.

Passed on second and final reading: January 6, 2026



CHAIRPERSON

APPROVED: DISAPPROVED:



MAYOR

CM/mem/v3