MOUNT CARMEL

A place to put down roots

ORDINANCE # 26 – 551

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MOUNT CARMEL, TENNESSEE REPLACING ORDINANCE NO. 23-518 AND REGULATING PARKING ON PUBLIC STREETS

WHEREAS, the Town of Mount Carmel previously adopted Ordinance No. 23-518 to prohibit parking upon designated public streets, roadways, and rights-of-way within the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen desires to preserve the general parking prohibition established by Ordinance No. 23-518 while revising the ordinance to recognize limited exceptions for commercial and service vehicles, parties and private gatherings, special events, emergencies, and extreme weather conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Board further desires to authorize law-enforcement officers to exercise reasonable discretion in applying these exceptions while protecting traffic movement, emergency access, adjoining property, and public safety; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds it appropriate to repeal and replace Ordinance No. 23-518 in its entirety to incorporate these revisions and provide clear and consistent enforcement standards;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF MOUNT CARMEL, TENNESSEE, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. No parking is allowed on the paved portion of any street within the Town of Mount Carmel.

SECTION 2. The prohibition established by Section 1 shall not apply to the following temporary parking:

1. **Commercial and Service Vehicles.** A commercial, delivery, contractor, utility, moving, or service vehicle temporarily parked while its operator or occupants are actively engaged in loading, unloading, pickup, delivery, construction, repair, maintenance, landscaping, utility work, moving activities, or another lawful commercial or service activity at or near the location;
2. **Parties and Private Gatherings.** Vehicles temporarily parked in connection with a party, family gathering, funeral, wedding, religious gathering, or other private gathering;

3. **Special Events.** Vehicles temporarily parked in connection with a community activity or other public or private special event;
4. **Governmental and Emergency Activities.** Authorized emergency-response vehicles, law-enforcement vehicles, government vehicles, public-utility vehicles, and vehicles being used for road construction, public maintenance, or another governmental or public purpose;
5. **Extreme Weather Conditions.** Vehicles temporarily parked because of snow, ice, flooding, severe storms, extreme temperatures, or other hazardous weather conditions, when such parking is reasonably necessary to protect persons or property or to permit the safe movement, shelter, or operation of the vehicle;
6. **Emergencies and Mechanical Failures.** A vehicle temporarily stopped or left standing because of an emergency, mechanical failure, traffic condition, collision, or the direction of a law-enforcement officer; and

SECTION 3. An exception under Section 2 shall apply only for the period reasonably necessary to accomplish the activity or address the circumstances giving rise to the exception.
No exception authorizes a vehicle to:

1. Obstruct the safe and orderly movement of traffic;
2. Prevent or materially restrict access by emergency vehicles;
3. Block a driveway, fire hydrant, fire lane, intersection, or traffic-control device;
4. Create an unreasonable hazard to motorists, pedestrians, or adjoining property; or
5. Violate any other applicable federal, state, or local law.

SECTION 4. A law-enforcement officer may exercise reasonable discretion in determining whether parking qualifies for an exception under this ordinance and whether the location or continued presence of a vehicle creates a public-safety or access concern.

A law-enforcement officer may direct that a vehicle be moved, relocated, or removed if the officer reasonably determines that the vehicle creates a traffic hazard, obstructs the roadway, restricts emergency access, unreasonably interferes with access to adjoining property, or otherwise threatens public safety. Failure to comply with an officer's lawful direction constitutes a violation of this ordinance. As such, a violation of this ordinance shall be enforced as illegal parking pursuant Title 15, Chapter 7 of the Mount Carmel Municipal Code, as amended, including the citation procedures and penalties established therein.

SECTION 5. Any person violating this ordinance shall be subject to the penalties and enforcement remedies authorized by the municipal code and applicable law. Each day that a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

SECTION 6. Ordinance No.23-518 is hereby repealed and replaced in its entirety by this ordinance. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are repealed to the extent of the conflict.

SECTION 7. This ordinance shall take effect upon publication after its final passage in a newspaper of general circulation, the public welfare requiring it.

Voting by the Board, as follows, September 24, 2026, First Reading:

	AYES	NAYS	OTHER
Alderman Darby Patrick	x		
Alderman James Cross	x		
Alderman Mindy Shugart	x		
Alderman Philip Binstock	x		
Alderman Jim Gilliam	x		
Vice-Mayor Jim Bare	x		
Mayor John Gibson	x		

Voting by the Board, as follows, October 22, 2026, Second Reading:

	AYES	NAYS	OTHER
Alderman Darby Patrick			Absent
Alderman James Cross	x		
Alderman Mindy Shugart	x		
Alderman Philip Binstock	x		
Alderman Jim Gilliam	x		
Vice-Mayor Jim Bare	x		
Mayor John Gibson	x		

John K. Gibson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tiffany Bishop
Town Recorder

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Matthew Matney, Town Attorney