

ORDINANCE 2013-6

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 3 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF BELLE MEADE TO ESTABLISH BY ORDINANCE SPEED LIMITS FOR TRUCKS WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS.

WHEREAS, the City of Belle Meade has long regulated the speed of trucks in the City to acknowledge that the size, weight and mass of a vehicle driving the residential streets of the City of Belle Meade is an important factor in assuring that its streets are safe for all concerned;

WHEREAS, the City of Belle Meade has, pursuant to Ordinance 54-4, entitled "An Ordinance to Amend An Ordinance Entitled 'An Ordinance to Fix the Maximum Speed Limit for Motor Vehicles in the city of Belle Meade, to Provide ore Greater Maximum Speed on Certain Roads and Highways; to Provide for the Erection of Road Signs, and to fix Penalties for the Violation Thereof, and Repealing All Ordinances in Conflict therewith, So as to Provide for Lower Maximum Speed Limits for Trucks and Defining Such Trucks, posted pursuant to order of the Commissioners speed limits for trucks within the City of Belle Meade;

WHEREAS, Section 15-301 of the Code of the City of Belle Meade provides that the Commissioners may by resolution post speed limits;

WHEREAS, the Commissioners of the City of Belle Meade have authorized, and hereby ratify the authorization, of special speed limits for trucks;

WHEREAS, Section 15-112 of the Code of the City of Belle Meade provides a presumption that a traffic-control sign is official and has been properly placed by the proper authority;

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee has defined in Tennessee Code Annotated §55-8-152 "truck" as "any motor vehicle of one-and-one-half ton rated capacity or more;

WHEREAS, the City of Belle Meade, upon recommendation of the Police Chief, has determined that this definition of truck appropriately classifies vehicles of sufficient mass, size and weight to be required to move at slower speeds when coursing winding residential streets in order to assure that the truck can be stopped safely within the line of sight;

WHEREAS, the City of Belle Meade, upon advice of the Police Chief, has affirmed its decision that the appropriate speed limit for trucks in the City of Belle Meade is twenty (20) miles per hour throughout the City of Belle Meade, and hereby authorizes the posting of official signs throughout the City of Belle Meade setting the speed limits for trucks at twenty (20) miles per hour;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Belle Meade as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 3 of Title 15 of the Municipal Code for the City of Belle Meade is hereby amended to add section 15-305 as follows:

15-305. Speed Limits for Trucks. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or drive a "truck" upon any highway, street, or public way in the City of Belle Meade at a rate of speed in excess of twenty (20) miles per hour except where official signs authorized by resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners, have been posted indicating other speed limits, in which cases, the posted speed limit shall apply.

(a) For the purposes of this ordinance, "truck" is defined as any motor vehicle of one and one-half (1 ½) ton rated capacity or more.

(b) Other than the provisions of Section 15-301 of this Code, all other provisions governing the speed and operation of motor vehicles within the City of Belle Meade shall continue to apply to operations of trucks.

Section 2. Be it further ordained that Section 15-301 of Chapter 3 of Title 15 of the Municipal Code of the City of Belle Meade is amended to reference the speed limits specific to the operation of trucks. Section 15-301 of Chapter 3 of Title 15 of the Municipal Code that currently reads as follows:

15-301. In general. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or drive a motor vehicle upon any highway, street, or public way in the City of Belle Meade at a rate of speed in excess of thirty (30) miles per hour except where official signs authorized by resolution adopted by the board of commissioners, have been posted indicating other speed limits, in which cases the posted speed limit shall apply.

is hereby amended to read:


15-301. In general. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or drive a motor vehicle other than a truck (as defined in 15-305(a)) upon any highway, street, or public way in the City of Belle Meade at a rate of speed in excess of thirty (30) miles per hour except where official signs authorized by resolution adopted by the board of commissioners, have been posted indicating other speed limits, in which cases the posted speed limit shall apply.

(a) "Motor vehicle" as used in this code shall not include "truck" as defined by Section 15-305(a).

(b) The special, lower speed limits for trucks shall be governed by Section 15-305.


Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

Passed on first reading
July 17, 2013



Mayor James V. Hunt

Passed on second reading
August 21, 2013



Linda Berner, City Recorder