

MAY 26, 2015 YOUTH AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

4:30 p.m., Council Chamber, Members present: M. Platteter, B. Stoneberg. Others present: T. Carter, A. Christianson, K. Gorsegrner, A. Lobermeier, D. Parker, D. Williams.

Call to Order:

Committee Chair Platteter called the meeting to order at 4:44 p.m.

ATV Routes:

Terry Carter appeared on his own behalf to ask that consideration be given to opening all City streets to ATV/UTV (hereinafter "ATV") traffic except on numbered highways and except those in the downtown (not defined) area. In the discussion that followed the following were among comments made or questions raised:

*Who will enforce this?

*Do you feel it is safe for 12-15 year olds without driver's licenses to operate these vehicles alongside cars on City streets.

*State law allows 12-15 year olds to operate on City streets if they have a certificate indicating that they have completed the safety course. Can local law be more restrictive in this regard?

*Do ATV manufacturer's not recommend against operating ATVs on paved streets? Yes.

*How many cities and villages in WI are open to ATV traffic on most or all streets?

*12-16 year olds operating on streets must be accompanied by "guardians".

*If Ladysmith doesn't allow 12-16 year olds to ride, groups passing through with riders in that age group would have to somehow go around the City or turn back.

*ATV rules are not the same as those for snowmobiles; probably because they have had clubs or support groups in place longer. For example, younger snowmobile riders aren't believed to be required to be accompanied by a guardian.

*A Ladysmith News poll found 13% of respondents in support of opening all City streets.

*Although the State increased allowable speed limits for ATVs in cities from 10 to 25 a couple of years ago, Ladysmith stayed with 10 m.p.h.

*Birchwood, Ashland, Tomahawk and Park Falls are believed to be among communities where most or all streets are open to ATV traffic. More information on their experience will be sought before the Committee meets again on this subject.

*Current law requires that signs be posted at the beginning and ending of each designated "route". If this means each street, the costs of signs could be prohibitive. The local club paid for signs installed thus far. If signs could just be posted at main entrances to the City, as with winter parking regs, posting those signs would be immensely more affordable.

Mr. Platteter stated that he is and will likely remain very opposed to allowing 12-15 year olds to operate ATVs on City streets.

Adjourn:

Upon motion by Stoneberg, which was seconded by Platteter and carried by voice vote the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.