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CITY OF BETHEL

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TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION/PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE JOINT MEETING MINUTES

April 21, 1993

CALL TO ORDER

Public Safety Committee Chairman Abrant called the joint Transportation Commission/Public Safety Committee meeting of April 21, 1993, to order at 7:38 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: (Transportation) Don Constantine, Allen Glore, Wally Richardson, Dave Trantham; (Public Safety) John Abrant, Sherron Smith, Gary Vanasse
Absent: (Transportation) Chris Devlin, Warren Manwill, Johnny Watts; (Public Safety) Susan Rapoza, Peter Twitchell

APPROVAL/AGENDA

M/M by Vanasse, 2nd by Smith to approve the agenda as presented. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Item A: ATV's
and Sno-gos

REGULATION OF ATV'S AND SNO-GO'S AND PUBLIC USE THEREOF

Mr. Vanasse suggested the issue should go to the Transportation Commission for a motion and/or submission to the Bethel Municipal Code.

Chairman Abrant opened the Public Hearing on the issue.

-Steve Gruber stated that ATV's and snowmachines should be allowed on city roads, and agreed with stipulations of sixteen years of age, valid operator's license, vehicle inspection and helmet.

-Tom Beck spoke in support of allowing three wheelers/ATV's on the roads, with the Bethel Municipal Code setting requirements for speed limits, operator's licenses, and vehicle permits.

-Bruce Perry also supported an amendment

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to the BMC to allow ATV's and snowmachines on the City streets with an operator's license and vehicle inspection, adding that this approach works in Kotzebue and Nome.

-Chris Sum stated that as long as an ATV or snowmachine was operated in a safe and sober manner, they were no more dangerous than a car.

-Ron Horvath reminded the body that ATV's were allowed on City roads on the early 1980's with good results. He also supported an ordinance allowing these vehicles on City roads, but did not support operator's licenses, vehicle inspections and permits.

-Brad Loll stated that the roads are too bad to support cars and, since the City can't afford to keep them fixed, they should allow ATV's and snowmachines on the roads.

Chairman Abrant asked if any other people wanted to be heard. Hearing none, Chairman Abrant closed the public hearing and opened the meeting up to Commissioner's comments:

-Mr. Constantine expressed his concern of the effect of an ordinance on the police department.

-Ms. Smith stated she would support an ordinance allowing ATV's and snowmachines on the City streets with safeguards such as helmets and slower speed limits for the vehicles.

-Mr. Trantham said that he would entertain an ordinance restricting ATV and snowmachine use on City streets to going to and from work or grocery stores. He also said he would like to see a recommendation from the Public Safety Committee.

-Mr. Glore stated he had a problem with ATV and snowmachine use on City streets and would not support an ordinance allowing such use.

-Mrs. Richardson also stated that she would not support such an ordinance,

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adding that state laws were already in effect and that the City and the Police department do not need the added strain.

-Mr. Vanasse spoke in favor of an ATV ordinance with restrictions, maintaining that people should be responsible for themselves. He added that the age factor is the single most important restriction. Mr. Vanasse spoke against allowing snowmachines on the roads and in support of helmet laws.

-Chairman Abrant stated he would not support an ordinance allowing ATV's and snowmachines to operate on City roads.

motion

M/M by Trantham, 2nd by Constantine to recommend an ordinance allowing ATV's and snowmachines on City streets be forwarded to Council. Poll vote. Motion failed, 1-yes (Trantham), 3-no.

motion

M/M by Richardson, 2nd by Glore to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.



Connie Tucker
Commission Clerk