

APPROVED

CITY OF STARBUCK

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED GOLF CART ORDINANCE

Monday, September 14, 2015

The City of Starbuck held a public hearing on Monday, September 14, 2015 at 6:30 pm at the Starbuck Community Center located at 307 E 5th Street in Starbuck, MN. Present: Mayor Swenson; Councilmen: Katzenmeyer, Gorder and Razink as well as City Clerk, Andrew Langholz and City Treasurer, Joan Kerkvliet; absent: none. Quorum is present.

Mayor Swenson stated that the public hearing was to get feedback from the community on the proposed golf cart ordinance. Mayor Swenson asked if anyone in the audience would like to speak.

The first speaker stated that he had been in contact with representatives from MnDOT and stated that the State would rebuke any city ordinance that was created to allow golf carts on the pedestrian/bicycle trail since there are not suppose to be any motorized vehicles on that trail.

Police Chief Mitch Johnsrud fielded several questions and comments from the podium. He stated that the City is allowed to create an ordinance that would allow golf carts to operate on city streets; however they are not permitted to travel along State Highways.

The topic of lights, signals, and mirrors was discussed at length during the public hearing. It was stated that to convert a golf cart to add those features it would be over \$600. Chief Johnsrud made it clear that you only needed to have working lights if the golf cart was being operated after sunset.

Bruce Bakewell stated that the majority of golf cart users do take the necessary precautions while driving, but some people may not acknowledge the right of way to pedestrians and bicyclists.

Discussion was held at length revolving around insurance, licenses, and permit fees. It was made clear that there has been no set permit fee yet; however an amount of \$30 was mentioned by the council to cover the cost of the paperwork and purchasing of the stickers. The proposed ordinance states that to obtain a permit the person would need to present a valid driver's license; there was little discussion about this topic. Insurance was discussed for a brief period with people stating it would cost between \$100 and \$400 per year, but it all depends on the type of insurance purchased.

One speaker said that he wasn't aware that the trails were not for motorized vehicles and asked if there was an alternative route to get to the downtown area since people at Hobo Park and further South rely on that path to get there currently. The first commenter stated that there is a path on the back side of Hobo Park that can be utilized; however others commented that after a rainfall event, the path becomes muddy and impassable. Chief Johnsrud offered another alternative, which is to cross Hwy 29 by the Dairy Queen and go one block and turn right, he stated it would be a longer route, but it would be one way to avoid the pedestrian/bicycle path. Conversation was then diverted to the topic of driving golf carts by the beach area. It was stated that golf carts are not allowed to ride on a State Hwy and are not allowed on the pedestrian/bicycle path. One person asked if they could just drive on the grass next to the pedestrian/bicycle path, but it was said that the land is still in the right of way of Hwy 29 and that they are not allowed to operate there without the proper license.

No further discussion was held.

Mayor Swenson said that all of the input from the public hearing would be taken under advisement and that the City will update the stakeholders with any further changes.

Mayor Swenson closed the public hearing for the proposed golf cart ordinance at 7:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Langholz,

City Clerk