

Earlham Public Safety Committee
October 7, 2020

The Earlham Public Safety Committee met on Wednesday, October 7 2020, at Earlham City Hall. Chairperson Payne called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following answered roll: Payne, Baskin, Swalla. Also present: Mayor Lillie, Clerk Hibbs, Chief Heimdal.

1. Approve agenda.

Motion by Swalla, second by Baskin, to approve agenda.

Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.

2. Further discussion on new ordinance for golf carts, ATVs, UTV's and snowmobiles.

Mayor stated he asked for this meeting, to give Committee a chance to make sure the ordinance is tight and to try to prevent loopholes. He asked what happens if someone ignores ordinance and doesn't get permit? Chief said that would be a violation of the City Ordinance and they would get a citation, owe the penalty (\$50), and could go to court if fine isn't paid. Payne suggested the registration form include a copy of the ordinance, which applicant must sign acknowledging they have read the ordinance. Baskin said to get ahead of any possible problems, we need to get the word out about the ordinance. Discussion continued on what was the best way to do that. Also, discussion on the amount of the registration fee and the penalty. Chief suggested Clerk contact Attorney Braland regarding whether the city can impound vehicles of continued violators.

Mayor stated he received email from Madison County Health regarding the positivity rate for Covid-19 which has been rising and was up to 12.2% on Monday. In light of this, he asked if Council should re-consider Halloween/Trick or Treat-ing. Consensus was that everyone hated to cancel the traditional evening, since it provides some sense of normalcy during this Covid time. Mayor mentioned city hall placed information on Facebook, website, and in the Echo on ideas to help make it a safe evening. Mayor said as he continues to get emails from Madison County, he will keep Council informed. There are several weeks before Council, if need be, decides to cancel the event.

Payne also talked about enclosed mobility scooters and if they would be covered by the new ordinance. Clerk Hibbs found these in a discussion on Clerknet. They look like small Smartcars with lights, blinkers, doors, windshield, heating, A/C. They have a max speed of 18mph, weighing around 500 pounds. Chief said he believed these would be similar to a golf card and would fall under the ordinance.

3. Adjourn

Motion by Swalla, second by Baskin, to adjourn.

Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.

Being there was no further business, meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Brant Payne, Chairperson

Attest: _____
Mary Sue Hibbs, Clerk