

Notice of Public Hearing

Authorizing the Use of Wheeled All-Terrain Vehicles on City Roadways by Creating Forks Municipal Code Chapter 10.35

Forks City Council
Tuesday, 26 May 2015
7:30 P.M.
Forks City Council Chambers

The City Council is giving notice that it will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, 26 May 2015 at 7:30 p.m. (date changed due to Memorial Day). The purpose of the hearing is to obtain public comment on the creation of a new chapter to the Forks Municipal Code, Chapter 10.35, that would permit and authorize wheeled All-Terrain Vehicles on all City streets having a posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less as permitted by State Law. A copy of the proposed ordinance can be found on the City's website www.forkswashington.org under the [public notice/current issues](#) tab.

The proposed ordinance would:

1. Permits the use, as authorized within the State's Revised Code of Washington (RCW) Chapter 46.09.360, et al., of wheeled all-terrain vehicles on streets having a speed limit of less than 35 miles per hour.
2. Defines applicable terms, with the Wheeled All-Terrain Vehicle (WATV) being defined in a manner similar to RCW 46.09.310 which can best be described as all-terrain vehicles that have been manufactured for use on public streets, or have been subsequently equipped for such use, and are properly registered with the State's Department of Licensing, and compliant with the required safety inspections.
3. Requires a WATV operator to meet all of the requirements found within RCW 46.09.457 to include:
 - a. Operating a WATV with state required specific equipment to include:
 - i. Headlights;
 - ii. At least one tail lamp (light);
 - iii. A brake light;
 - iv. Turn signals if operating at night;
 - v. Rearview mirror;
 - vi. Windshield or goggles;
 - vii. Horn;
 - viii. Brakes;
 - ix. Muffler;
 - x. For some vehicles, seat belts;
 - b. Be at least 16 years old;

- c. Signed and filed a release of liability with the State's Department of Licensing;
 - d. Carry on their person, or in the vehicle, a copy of the WATV's registration;
 - e. Wear an approved helmet, unless the WATV is equipped with seat belts, roll bars, etc.;
 - f. Operate the vehicle with all applicable traffic regulations.
4. Prohibits:
- a. Activities that are not compliant with the ordinance or state law regarding use of WATVs;
 - b. Transporting minors on WATVs, unless the WATV is properly equipped to include seat belts, for transporting passengers; or,
 - c. Pulling behind a WATV a sled, toboggan, inner tube, or wagon, nor pull in such devices a passenger; UNLESS, the WATV is using a device.
5. Exempts:
- a. Agencies utilizing WATVs, or similar devices, in emergency management, or those individuals working with such agencies as part of search and rescue operations; or,
 - b. Parades authorized by the City and/or State.
6. Establishes parental liability for violations of the ordinance by minors resulting in injury to individuals, property and/or animals.

The City is seeking to hear from citizens interested in these issues at this hearing. Comments may also be submitted in writing and left with the City up through the public hearing period. Individuals wanting to mail comments to the City, may do so as long as they arrive prior to the hearing. Send comments to City of Forks - Animal Ordinance comments, 500 East Division Street, Forks, WA 98331

The Council Chamber is ADA accessible. Arrangements for reasonable accommodations for special needs, including handicap accessibility or interpreter, will be made upon receiving 24-hour advance notice. Contact Mr. Fleck at 360/374-5412, ext. 245, in person at the address noted above.