

Town of Union
PLAN COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING
Thursday, May 27, 2021

The Town of Union Plan Commission monthly meeting was called to order by Chairman Alvin Francis at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 27, 2021 at the Town of Union Town Hall, 15531 W. Green Bay Rd., Evansville. Members in attendance included Francis, Don Krajeck, Dave Pestor, and Ray Legris. Board member Kim Gruebling was also in attendance. Ed Levin was absent.

Review and approval of April 29, 2021 Minutes

Motion to approve minutes of April 29, 2021 as written made by Pestor/Legris. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. February minutes approval on next month's agenda.

Public comment (5 minutes max. per issue)

Dave Pestor would like minutes read in at each meeting. Motion to add as an action item to next month's agenda made by Pestor/Legris. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Public Hearing: Recommendation to the Town Board Adoption of Code of Ordinances Chapter 10, Section 10.40, An Ordinance to Designate All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) and Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) Routes and Regulate ATV/UTV Operation Within the Town of Union, Rock County, Wisconsin

Public hearing opened at 6:40 p.m.

Tiffany Engelkens, Territorial Rd.: is in favor of the ordinance; would like to be able to legally operate ATVs/UTVs in their neighborhood. Has become more of an issue during quarantine, getting outside into nature when there are fewer options for activities. Is optimistic it may bring in revenue for local businesses as well.

John Meyers, Glacier Dr: also in favor of the ordinance. Lafayette and Grant Counties have been very successful with their ATV usage. Will be older people using the ATV/UTVs and not irresponsible kids as some people may assume. Believes it will support local businesses.

Luke Holman, Travis Trace: just because there isn't access in some areas (i.e. getting across Hwy 104) without going on county roads, there are options like private landowners putting in trails. Feels the reason for the ordinance is really to benefit the Town residents, not necessarily to hook into an established trail route or get to another county.

Renee Exum, County Rd. C: used to be on the Plan Commission. Has concerns about placement of additional signage in her yard, would like it placed on the existing post if possible or located past her property. Does not want another post to mow around, has concerns about burning their prairie grass and damaging the sign.

Kim Gruebling: clarified that signage is located in the road right-of-way and must be placed according to state regulations. With that in mind, efforts will be made to accommodate her request.

Gruebling had the following suggestions:

Remove reference to State statute 350.18, as it refers specifically to snowmobiles. Expressed concerned about installation/payment of posts for signage – Legris stated the club will pay for and install posts as well as signs.

Section (8) (C): change to “ATV/UTV operators shall observe posted speed limits not to exceed 35 miles per hour.”

Section (8) (E): regarding turn signals, Gruebling inquired why they are not required at all times vs. dusk to dawn. Legris clarified that hand signals are used during the day, and many ATVs/UTVs are not factory equipped with lighted turn signals. Agreed by all that the statement should be changed to “ATV/UTVs must be equipped with illuminated turn signals if operating on roadways from dusk to dawn, and said illuminated turn signals must be utilized from dusk to dawn.”

Section (8) (H): Gruebling questioned the routes being opened at 4 a.m., believes this is too early. Exum agreed that 4 a.m. is too early to open routes. Engelkens noted that individuals may wish to be leaving that early to hunt.

Section (10): Include notifying the Evansville Police Department.

Public hearing closed at 7:16 p.m.

Motion to change operating hours to 5:30 a.m.-10 p.m. made by Legris/Pestor. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion to make changes to Chapter 10 ATV/UTV Routes as suggested by Kim Gruebling and recommend approval to the Board made by Legris.

Krajeck asked if Legris is a member of the ATV club active in our area (he is), and he questioned whether it was appropriate for him to be voting on the ordinance; Krajeck feels he has a conflict of interest in doing so. Gruebling’s opinion was that since there is no financial incentive for Legris involvement in the club, there should be no conflict of interest.

To resolve the issue, a motion to make changes to Chapter 10 ATV/UTV Routes as suggested by Kim Gruebling and recommend approval to the Board was made by Francis/Pestor. Francis requested that Legris abstain from voting.

Roll call: Krajeck – No; Pestor – Yes; Francis – Yes. Motion carried 2-0.

Discussion: Updates to Comprehensive Plan

Riedel is meeting with Rock County Planning regarding the map updates next week, is about halfway through text and statistics updates.

Francis thinks that solar farms should be added to the zoning ordinance, perhaps as a conditional use. He requested that the item be added to the next agenda.

Francis would also like to actively engage the City in the idea of reforming the Extra Territorial Jurisdiction Committee.

Motion to adjourn made by Krajeck/Pestor. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.