

**MEETING DATE: 08/03/22**

**ITEM: 10A**

---

**AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

---

**Subject: First reading of Ordinance 1162 amending Chapter 75 of the code of ordinances pertaining to UTV and ATV**

---

---

**Background Summary:**

The state of Iowa recently made changes to UTV regulations and we need to amend our UTV ordinance to match those changes. The city can no longer charge a permit fee to UTV owners or regulate the hours of operation. Ordinance 1162 repeals our Chapter 75 and adopts a new Chapter 75 that will incorporate the changes the state recently made. We are recommending that we waive the second and third readings of this ordinance and adopt it at the August 3 meeting since the state's new law took effect July 1.

CITY OF CHARLES CITY

ORDINANCE NO. 1162

**AN ORDINANCE REPEALING CHAPTER 75 OF THE CHARLES CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES AND ADOPTING A NEW CHAPTER 75 WHICH AMENDS THE PROVISIONS OF THE REPEALED CHAPTER TO PROVIDE RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES, OFF ROAD UTILITY VEHICLES, AND SNOWMOBILES WITHIN THE CITY OF CHARLES CITY, IOWA.**

**BE IT ENACTED** by the City Council of the City of Charles City, Iowa:

**SECTION 1.** Chapter Repealed. Chapter 75 of the Charles City Code of Ordinances is hereby repealed and the following new Chapter 75 adopted:

**CHAPTER 75**  
**ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES, OFF ROAD UTILITY VEHICLES, AND**  
**SNOWMOBILES**

75.01 Purpose

75.02 Definitions

75.03 General Regulations

75.04 Unlawful Operation of UTVs and ATVs

75.05 Exempt Vehicles and Operators

75.06 Operation of Snowmobiles

75.07 Snowmobile Hours of Operation

75.08 Negligence

75.09 Accident Reports

75.10 Penalties

**75.01 PURPOSE.** The purpose of this Chapter is to provide rules and regulations for the operation of all-terrain vehicles, off road utility vehicles, and snowmobiles within the City of Charles City, Iowa.

**75.02 DEFINITIONS.** For use in this chapter the following terms are defined:

1. "All-terrain vehicle, ATV" as defined by Iowa Code Section 321I.1(1)(a), means a motorized vehicle with not less than three and not more than six nonhighway tires that is limited in engine displacement to less than one thousand cubic centimeters and in total dry weight to less than one thousand two hundred pounds and that has a seat or saddle designed to be straddled by the operator and handlebars for steering control.

2. "Off-road utility vehicle, UTV" as defined in Iowa Code Section 321I.1(17)(a), means a motorized vehicle with not less than four and not more than eight nonhighway tires that has a seat that is of bucket or bench design, not intended to be straddled by the operator, and a steering wheel or control levers for control. "Off-road utility vehicle" includes the following vehicles:

A. "Off-road utility vehicle – Type 1" means an off-road utility vehicle with a total dry weight of one thousand two hundred pounds or less and a width of fifty inches or less.

B. "Off-road utility vehicle – Type 2" means an off-road utility vehicle, other than a Type 1 off-road utility vehicle, with a total dry weight of two thousand pounds or less, and a width of sixty-five inches or less.

C. "Off-road utility vehicle – Type 3" means an off-road utility vehicle with a total dry weight of more than two thousand pounds or a width of more than sixty-five inches, or both.

3. "Roadway," as defined in Iowa Code Section 321I.1, means that portion of a highway/street improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, but does not include the ditch, nor does it include any area or roadway inside any City park.

4. "Snowmobile" means the same as defined in Iowa Code Section 321G.1. "Snowmobile" does not include an all-terrain vehicle or off-road utility vehicle which has been altered or equipped with runners, skis, belt-type tracks, or treads.

**75.03 GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR OPERATION OF ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES AND OFF ROAD UTILITY VEHICLES.** An all-terrain vehicle or an off-road utility vehicle registered pursuant to Iowa Code Section 321I.3 or 321I.5 may be operated on any roadway in the City of Charles City pursuant to this ordinance and to applicable laws of the state of Iowa.

1. All-terrain vehicles and off-road utility vehicles may be operated on any roadway in the City of Charles City with subject to the regulations provided in this ordinance and the Iowa Code.

2. All-terrain vehicles (ATV) shall only be operated upon streets within 24 hours of a snow event on the public streets and alleys for the purpose of using the most direct route from one area of operation to another, and only when engaged in the activity of snow removal. ATVs shall have a blade or bucket fixed to the ATV. No ATVs shall be driven on the street or alleys solely for entertainment or pleasure. An all-terrain vehicle (ATV) may stop at service stations or convenience stores along the designated roadway.

3. All-terrain vehicles and off-road utility vehicles shall not be operated off the traveled portion of a roadway in any City park, in the ditch, or otherwise in violation of the restrictions imposed by the Iowa Code.

4. The Charles City Police Chief may temporarily prohibit the operation of ATVs and UTVs for the purpose of maintaining public safety at such time and locations as determined by the Police Chief.

5. At all times of operation, the driver and any passengers shall properly wear any seatbelts that were installed on the vehicle by the manufacturer or that are on the vehicle. No removal of any factory installed seatbelts is authorized.

6. A person shall not operate an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) or off-road utility vehicle (UTV) unless the operator is 18 years of age or older and has a valid Iowa driver's license and proof of insurance.

7. All off road utility vehicles (UTV) and ATVs must be registered with the Statte of Iowa and meet all requirements set forth in the Iowa Code.

*(Code of Iowa, Ch. 321G & Ch. 321I)*

**75.04 UNLAWFUL OPERATION OF ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES AND OFF ROAD UTILITY VEHICLES.** A person shall not operate an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) or off-road utility vehicle (UTV) under any of the following conditions:

1. At a rate of speed greater than 35 miles per hour, or the posted speed limit, whichever is less.

2. In a careless manner such that it creates or causes unnecessary tire squealing, skidding, or sliding upon acceleration or stopping; or simulates a race or causes any wheel or wheels to

unnecessarily lose contact with the ground or causes the vehicle to unnecessarily turn abruptly or sway.

3. Without an operational headlight on at all times to the front and lighted red light to the rear, both of which shall be installed and operated in accordance with industry standards and practices for the vehicle. All off road utility vehicles (UTV) must be equipped with working brake lights on the rear of the vehicle.

4. While the operator is under the influence of intoxicating liquor or narcotics or drugs.

5. Without liability insurance (or other proof of financial responsibility as provided in Iowa Code Chapter 321A) in an amount not less than that required by Iowa Code Chapter 321A for motor vehicles and shall carry proof of insurance on board. An owner or driver cited for a violation, who produces to the Clerk of Court prior to the person's court appearance as indicated on the citation proof that financial liability coverage was in effect for the motor vehicle at the time the person was stopped and cited, shall not be convicted of such violation and the citation issues shall be dismissed by the court. Upon dismissal, the court or Clerk of Court shall assess the costs of the action against the defendant named on the citation.

6. A person shall not operate an ATV or UTV on any any part of the Charley Western trail or any other walking/biking trail or sidewalk except for purposes of snow removal.

7. An all-terrain vehicle (ATV) or off-road utility vehicle (UTV) shall not be operated on an operating railroad right-of-way. ATVs and UTVs may be driven directly across a railroad right-of-way only at an established crossing and notwithstanding any other provisions of law may, if necessary, use the improved portion of the established crossing after yielding to all oncoming traffic.

**75.05 EXEMPT VEHICLES AND OPERATORS.** This ordinance does not apply to any exemption under the Iowa Code for all-terrain vehicles and off-road utility vehicles operated pursuant to Iowa Code Section 321I.9 (government) or Iowa Code Section 321.234A (incidental to us by government, public utilities, licensed engineers and licensed surveyors).

**75.06 OPERATION OF SNOWMOBILES.** The operators of snowmobiles shall comply with the following restrictions as to where snowmobiles may be operated within the City:

1. Streets. Snowmobiles shall be operated only upon streets which have not been plowed during the snow season and on such other streets as may be designated by resolution of the Council.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321G.9[4a])*

2. Exceptions. Snowmobiles may be operated on prohibited streets only under the following circumstances:

A. Emergencies. Snowmobiles may be operated on any street in an emergency during the period of time when and at locations where snow upon the roadway renders travel by conventional motor vehicles impractical.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321G.9[4c])*

B. Direct Crossing. Snowmobiles may make a direct crossing of a prohibited street provided all of the following occur:

- (1) The crossing is made at an angle of approximately ninety degrees (90°) to the direction of the street and at a place where no obstruction prevents a quick and safe crossing;
- (2) The snowmobile is brought to a complete stop before crossing the street;
- (3) The driver yields the right-of-way to all on-coming traffic which constitutes an immediate hazard; and
- (4) In crossing a divided street, the crossing is made only at an intersection of such street with another street.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321G.9[2])*

3. Railroad Right-of-way. Snowmobiles shall not be operated on an operating railroad right-of-way. A snowmobile may be driven directly across a railroad right-of-way only at an established crossing and notwithstanding any other provisions of law may, if necessary, use the improved portion of the established crossing after yielding to all oncoming traffic.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321G.13[1h])*

4. Trails. Snowmobiles shall not be operated on trails except where so designated.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321G.9[4f])*

5. Parks and Other City Land. Snowmobiles shall not be operated in any park, playground or upon any other City-owned property without the express permission of the City. A snowmobile shall not be operated on any City land without a snow cover of at least one-quarter of one inch.

6. Sidewalk or Parking. Snowmobiles shall not be operated upon the public sidewalk or that portion of the street located between the curb line and the sidewalk or property line commonly referred to as the "parking" except for purposes of crossing the same to a public street upon which operation is authorized by this chapter.

**75.07 SNOWMOBILE HOURS OF OPERATION.** No snowmobile shall be operated upon the streets of the City or upon the Cedar River within the corporate limits of the City, between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m., however, to the following exceptions: During periods of local emergency, the Chief of Police may suspend these restrictions, and clubs and social groups of snowmobile operators may obtain permits for the operation of snowmobiles outside these prescribed hours of operation from the Police Chief by making advance application. The Police Chief shall have the authority to prescribe the hours of operation in each permit granted.

**75.08 NEGLIGENCE.** The owner and operator of an ATV, UTV, or snowmobile shall be liable for any injury or damage occasioned by the negligent operation of the ATV or snowmobile. The owner of an ATV or snowmobile shall be liable for any such injury or damage only if the owner was the operator of the ATV or snowmobile at the time the injury or damage occurred or if the operator had the owner's consent to operate the ATV or snowmobile at the time the injury or damage occurred.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321G.18 & 321I.19)*

**75.09 ACCIDENT REPORTS.** Whenever an ATV, UTV or snowmobile is involved in an accident resulting in injury or death to anyone or property damage amounting to one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) or more, either the operator or someone acting for the operator shall immediately notify a law enforcement officer and shall file an accident report, in accordance with State law.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321G.10 & 321I.11)*

**75.10 PENALTIES.** Violation of this ordinance shall constitute a simple misdemeanor except for any State codes which may vary in this determination.

**SECTION 2. Repealer.** All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

**SECTION 3. Severability.** If any section, provision or part of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any section, provision or part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

**SECTION 4. When Effective.** This ordinance shall be in effect from and after its final passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

Passed by the City Council on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 202\_\_.

Approved this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 202\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dean Andrews, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Trudy O'Donnell, City Clerk

As certified, the foregoing was published as Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 202\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk