

Noise control ordinance is delayed in City Council

By Debbie Hemminger

The Lincoln City Council Monday delayed action on an ordinance that would control excessive noise.

The ordinance would make motorcycles illegal which were above the proposed standards established by the Health Department.

Harley Davidson model motorcycles before 1975 with stock exhaust would have difficulty complying with the proposed law, said Harlan Waak, representing A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments of Nebraska, Inc.

Dr. Gary Walsh, representing the Health Department, said the present ordinance allows a good deal of noise because it can not be reasonably enforced. Councilman Michael Steinman questioned whether the new ordinance could be enforced.

Walsh said if the new ordinance is approved, upon receiving a complaint in the Lincoln Police Department and the

Health Department, they will investigate the source of the noise with the aid of a noise meter.

The present ordinance states that radio and stereo noise is in violation if after 11 p.m. it is audible at 50 feet. The enforcement of this is arbitrary, Walsh said. He said with the aid of the noise meter, the violation judgment will not be as arbitrary.

Waak said, "As of August 1978, there were only 11 complaints on record with the Health Department about motorcycle noise for the previous three years." He added eight of these were from non-licensed motorcycles driven by kids under 16 on empty lots. He said the problem is a matter of enforcement and not one of a new ordinance.

Councilman Steinman asked that an amendment to the ordinance be created to provide for a temporary period to test the proper motorcycle noise level. Councilman Leo Schere asked to see an amendment that would fit the recommendations pro-

posed by ABATE. Councilman Eric Youngberg moved to hold the issue over two weeks to allow the council members to

do their homework. Councilman Youngberg will be out of town next week. The vote carried 6-0.



Mike Steinman, City Councilman

Photo by M. Billingsley

Studded tire ban requested

By Debbie Hemminger

The Lincoln City Council Monday approved, 6-1, a resolution requesting the Nebraska Legislature to prohibit the use of studded tires within Nebraska.

Dick Erixson, Director of Public Works for Lincoln, said the basic reasons for this request are safety and wear on the streets, adding, studded tires are not safe on dry streets.

Councilman Leo Scherer said this resolution is only another example of too much government control. He said, "Every day I thank the Lord that we don't get as much government as we pay for."

The first studded tires made in Nebraska were made in 1954 by T.O. Haas, Chairman of the Board of T.O. Haas Tire Co. He said his company is selling studded tires "by the hundreds." Haas told the council

his company is not for or against tire studs. Haas explained his presence at the public hearing as helping the Council "vote a little bit more intelligently."

Haas said, "Even though we ban studded tires we are still going to have the war because of abrasive action." He said the grinding action created with a combination of sand, salt and studs has a sandpaper effect, adding, "This is the culprit you are looking for."

Erixson said the State Department of Roads is developing statistics to prove that studded tires should be banned to be available for the Legislature's debate. He said they are looking for support in the developmental stages now.

Erixson said there are new tires which are far superior than studded tires. Haas said these tires are about \$12 more and the safety factor is not appreciatively different between the two.

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