

40.00 Snow Plowing/Ice Control Policy

Purpose:

To define and provide reasonable snow plowing and ice control services on City roads for routine travel and emergency services. To provide such services in a safe and cost effective manner while balancing personnel resources and environmental concerns.

Policy Statement:

The City will use City employees, equipment, and/or private contractors to provide snow plowing and ice control services on City roads. When snowfall occurs, the City shall consider many different factors to determine level of snow plowing or ice control services, including, but not limited to:

- amount of snowfall, usually a minimum of two to three inches (2"- 3");
- time of day;
- day of the week;
- wind speed and direction;
- temperature;
- personnel availability and safety;
- equipment availability; and,
- local weather forecasts (before beginning snow or ice control operations).

Upon review of the factors noted above for each snow event, the City will implement a service plan for snow plowing and ice control services, but recognizes that service delivery may be affected by equipment breakdowns, unreliable forecasts, changing temperatures, or equipment getting stuck, which may require down time of an hour or more for two equipment units.

The City has five separate snow plowing routes for each of the City's five full-time employees, which does not allow for 24-hour snow plowing service coverage. Therefore, on an extended snowfall with brisk winds, several of the City's roads will become impassable (although County Roads 24, 201 and 19 are usually in the same condition).

Snow Plowing Priority Route Schedule

The City's snow plowing priority schedule is:

- 1) Main collector roads
- 2) Residential streets
- 3) Cul-de-sacs and dead end streets
- 4) Trails

City snow plowing personnel will attempt to be out clearing roads prior to rush hour beginning (either early morning, or late afternoon) to avoid being an obstacle to traffic.

Method of Ice Control

The City uses a treated salt and/or salt-sand mixture (20% salt) on City road surfaces. The City does not maintain a bare pavement policy. However, the City's re-plowing and scraping practices often create bare pavement conditions with the exception of -20 °F weather.

Damage to Mailboxes and Other Obstacles

Making contact with a mailbox is a common obstacle snowplow operators face during storm activities. The City will conduct a review of each mailbox incident to determine whether the City will provide reimbursement for the damaged mailbox. Only mailboxes actually hit by a snowplow will be the responsibility of the City. The City will not be responsible for damage to mailboxes or support posts caused by snow or ice coming into contact with the mailbox. The City will reimburse the mailbox owner \$50.00 for the replacement of the mailbox and/or the post, and up to \$75.00 for a double mailbox and post. If weather and frost conditions prevent replacement at the time, the City will supply a temporary box.

The City will not be responsible for any damage to obstacles that are located in the right-of-way, such as sprinkler heads, fences, garden areas, etc. The City is also not responsible for repairing grass or sod that has been damaged in the right-of-way.

Complaints Procedure

Complaints shall be directed to and reviewed by the Public Works Superintendent on a first-come, first-serve case basis. If remedy or repair is approved by the Public Works Superintendent, a schedule of the necessary corrective work with the appropriate City personnel or contractor will be directed. Emergency complaints will be handled in an expeditious manner when available resources are sufficient.

Policy Approval: City Council approved on 10/20/2009