

WORK SESSION TOPICS
SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

1. Items for future agenda:

A. Sidewalk Snow Plowing Discussion

(30 minutes)

Attachments-

- ✓ Requested research from August 28 work session discussion
- ✓ Summary of phone survey previously provided

City staff will verbally provide additional information obtained during the research since August 28, 2017.

Potential questions for discussion:

1. Based on the research provided, what are your preferred next steps?



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To: Nancy Ridley, City Manager

September 14, 2017

From: John Zang, Director DPW

Subject: Sidewalk Snow Removal Research

The City Commission requested Staff to research the sidewalk snow removal policies of three cities: Battle Creek, Ferndale and Oak Park. Two additional cities, Saline and Royal Oak, also were contacted.

The results are summarized in the attached chart. The effectiveness, or amount of compliance, were estimated percentages given by the respective city's DPW representative. The intent of the survey was not to compare ordinance language, but rather determine the compliance efforts of the selected cities. None of the cities routinely cleared snow from residential sidewalks using DPW staff or equipment. All of the cities had some sidewalks, generally those adjacent to City property, cleared by City staff.

Sidewalk Snow Removal Policies

City	POP 2016)	City Plowing	Ordinance	Who is responsible for removal of snow?	Time Frame for Removal	Effectiveness	Means of Enforcement	Penalty
Battle Creek	51,534	Street Dept. crew of 25 plows downtown sidewalks, parks and cemetery Work completed within 3-4 days of snow event	Yes	Property owners, occupants, tenants, lessees	Snow that accumulates overnight by 12:00 noon the next day Snow that has fallen or drifted during the day removed before 12:00 noon the following day	50-70%	Code Enforcement team of 6	First offense \$25 fine; second offense \$50; third offense \$100 fine Per Ordinance, City crews can clear commercial properties and send bill to premises
Ferndale	20,099	City crews plow streets, fire routes, sidewalks and crosswalks, public parking and municipal lots	Yes	Property owners and tenants of rental units	Within 24-hours of the first accumulation Snow that accumulates overnight must be cleaned by noon the next day	80% for homeowners; 25-30% for rental properties	Code Enforcement team of 3 Door hangar to clean within 24-hours	City contractor will clean and homeowner billed; Volunteer list available (residents make own arrangements) Ordinance mainly targeted at businesses and vacant homes owned by banks
Oak Park	29,645	City crews plow streets and intersections, shovel sidewalks around city property, parks and playgrounds	Yes	Resident	If snowfall stops during day, within 12 hours If snowfall stops during nighttime hours, by 6pm the next day	General compliance	Code Enforcement team of 5; door hangar	Seasonal City employees shovel and homeowners invoiced for work + Admin fee (can be added to taxes if bill unpaid)
Royal Oak	59,006	Street Dept. plows CBD, parks, and intersections at schools	Ordinance repealed 2-3 years ago Street Dept. could not do the work and Code unable to enforce.	n/a	n/a	n/a	None	n/a
Saline	9,151	Roadways	Yes	Property and business owners, tenants of rental units	In business districts, within four hours of snow stoppage or beginning of business hours next day, whichever is shorter, and within 24-hours everywhere else Senior citizens that require assistance are encouraged to contact the local senior center or a list of volunteers or contractors.			\$25 fine first offense; \$50 for second offense within one year; \$100 third and subsequent offenses within one year. City may clear sidewalks and bill property owners minimum of \$75 per visit to clear sidewalk and \$30 per visit to treat ice. These costs are in addition of civil infraction tickets.

Summary of Phone Survey Regarding Snow Removal

City	Miles of Sidewalk	Ordinance?	Penalty	Enforcement
Big Rapids	56	Required 12 hours after accumulation	MCI \$25-\$500	Not always enforced; City will often plow certain "problem areas"
Cadillac	53	Required	MCI	Not enforced; City plows
Midland	350	No	N/A	66 miles of "school route" cleared by the City
Kalamazoo	?	Required	Misdemeanor up to \$500 and up to 90 days jail	Not enforced
Bay City	?	Required 24 hours after accumulation	?	Main Street enforced after 24 hours; others only enforced on complaint basis after 48 hours