



STAFF REPORT

DATE: 11/15/2016

REGULAR

ITEM # 27

MOTION

TO: Mayor and City Council

SUBMITTED BY: Rob Weldon, Public Works Director

AGENDA ITEM: Snowplowing and Ice Control Policy

REVIEWED BY: Kristina Handt, City Administrator

BACKGROUND:

An effective tool for any city to have is a policy that relates to snow and ice control practices. Such policies are effective for all city staff and residents in such a way as detailed information is available in writing that outlines how and why the city will safely carry out winter weather operations.

Many cities in the metro area and in Washington County have snow removal policies in place, and have for years. The policy being brought forward is structured from a draft provided by the League of Minnesota Cities and is encouraged by LMC to have in place.

With the continued addition of streets requiring snow removal in Lake Elmo this policy will help Public Works establish priorities, staffing, and efficiencies on how to safely handle snow and ice during the winter months.

ISSUE BEFORE COUNCIL:

Should the City adopt a Snowplowing and Ice Control Policy? What should be included in the policy?

PROPOSAL DETAILS/ANALYSIS:

With the adoption of the proposed policy several items of topic that occur each winter related to snow plowing will have a definitive answer as to what is being done, why it is being done and how it is carried out.

Within the policy items such as; Plowing Priorities, Movement of Snow, Starting Times and Property Damage will be addressed. Also, safety issues such as operations during extreme weather events and parking after a 2" or greater snowfall are outlined in an effort to increase safety for plow operators and while avoiding unnecessary equipment damage, provide information to and educate residents on plowing operations.

Cities such as Oakdale, Mahtomedi, Oak Park Heights, Stillwater, Hugo and Bayport all have similar policies, or at a minimum, an ordinance that addresses and prohibits on street parking during winter months to ensure streets can be plowed in a safe and efficient manner.

Once adoption of the policy takes place, city staff will be able to refer to the policy in the event of questions and/or concerns from residents. All answers to questions regarding snow and ice removal shall be uniform based on the information in the policy and could be answered by staff at City Hall or Public Works. Additionally, the policy can be made available to residents through the city website and social media for viewing.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

OPTIONS:

- Approve Snowplowing and Ice Control Policy
- Amend and then Approve the Snowplowing and Ice Control Policy
- Deny Snowplowing and Ice Control Policy
- Table Snowplowing and Ice Control Policy

RECOMMENDATION:

“Move to approve the Snowplowing and Ice Control Policy”