

STREET COMMITTEE MEETING
October 22, 2018

A meeting of the City of Jackson Street Committee was held in the Council Chambers of the Jackson City Hall at 12 noon on Monday, October 22, 2018 with the following persons in attendance: Street Committee members Larry Anderson and Donnie Schoenrock, City Administrator Matt Skaret, Street Superintendent Phil Markman and Recording Secretary Dave Maschoff. (Street Committee member Dave Cushman was absent.) (A quorum of the Street Committee was present.)

City of Jackson Snow Removal Policies and Procedures for the Downtown Businesses District

City Administrator Matt Skaret said the purpose of the Street Committee meeting was to go over the City's snow removal policies and procedures especially in the downtown district.

Street Superintendent Phil Markman reviewed what occurred last snow season with a downtown business that improperly disposed of snow from their property onto the City Streets.

Markman said the business owner claimed that businesses have always been able to move the snow from their business parking lots onto the street for the City to pick up. Markman said the business owner was cited by the Sheriff's Department for illegally depositing snow onto the street. He said the business owner was also charged a total of \$620 for the City removing the snow.

Markman said the business owner came to a City Council meeting and claimed the City had changed its snow policy from what it had been in the past. Markman explained it's never been the City's policy that businesses can put the snow from their parking lot onto the City streets for removal. He said the City isn't doing anything different than what they've done for the past 20 years.

Skaret noted the business owner still has to pay that bill and if it isn't paid by November 15th, it will be collected through property taxes. He said the misdemeanor charges against the business owner for illegally dumping snow onto the street were dropped. However, Skaret said the monetary charges were not dismissed.

Schoenrock suggested sending a letter to businesses and also putting an announcement on the local access cable TV channel as a reminder that downtown businesses can push snow off their sidewalks onto the street as long as it's done by 5 a.m.

Skaret said an updated letter that was originally sent to businesses in 2016 could be sent out with the added wording "as long as the snow is removed from the sidewalk and onto the street by 5 a.m. when the City crews begin windrowing the area". Skaret said if the snow is pushed out onto the street after 5 a.m. the business will be charged for snow removal.

Schoenrock said he doesn't think the City's snow policy needs to change. He said he thinks it's good and is enforceable. Schoenrock said he thinks the City just needs to continue what they've been doing. Schoenrock said he thinks the Street Department did a good job in identifying what happened last snow season. He said the City's ordinances are available online and also available at City Hall regarding snow removal. Schoenrock said residents need to educate themselves regarding the ordinance. He said he doesn't think the City's snow policy needs to be changed and the City has a good policy in place. Schoenrock said the policy needs to be enforced equally. As long as the policy is equally enforced, Schoenrock said he doesn't think the City has an issue.

Markman noted the City's ordinance regarding snow that was approved in 1990 which is still the same policy that's used today.

Anderson asked about the timing of when the snowfall occurs during the day.

Markman said the Street Department takes that into consideration. He said many of the downtown business have contracted snow removal.

Markman pointed out a problem the Street Department runs into during snow removal are people that don't heed the "no parking" on downtown City streets from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. He said people who live in apartments above businesses or those using the downtown fitness center park on the street when crews are trying to remove snow. Markman said there needs to be enforcement of the no parking regulations.

Schoenrock said he could ask the manager of Anytime Fitness to tell customers or post a notice for people to park in Pillar's parking lot or in the municipal parking lot when snow removal is occurring.

Anderson asked if a letter regarding the City's snow policy is going to be sent again to all the businesses.

Skaret said he would make the necessary edits to the 2016 letter and will present it to the full City Council as the Street Committee's recommendation. Skaret said he will have the Council approve it so he can put by Order of the City Council at the bottom of the letter. He said it will then be sent to all businesses. Skaret said the Street Committee's recommendation could be approved at the Council's November 5th meeting.

Anderson suggested sending a certified letter to the business owner who had issues last snow season so it's assured that person receives a letter regarding the City's snow removal policy.

Skaret noted when there is a snow event, he also puts announcements on the City's Facebook page that the snowplows are working and to get vehicles off the street until the street has been cleared of snow.

Markman also suggested putting an ad in the newspaper or a notice in the City bills to educate homeowners not to push snow from their driveways out onto the street.

On another issue, Markman noted a problem with people blowing their grass clippings into the street causing the clippings to then run into the storm sewers when it rains.

Regarding the snow removal policy, Anderson said Skaret can make the edited changes to the letter regarding the City's snow removal policy which can then be brought before the City Council at their November 5th meeting.

TREE TRIMMING IN JACKSON

Markman said another issue around town is tree trimming above sidewalks and streets. He said the City has trimmed trees in the past without charge, but it's actually the responsibility of the homeowners to trim the trees. Markman said the trees are trimmed to avoid damage to City trucks and equipment. He said trees have to be trimmed at least 14 feet above the street and at least 8 or 10 feet above the sidewalks. Markman said there is a statute on the City's books that says the property owner is responsible for trimming their trees.

Street Committee members discussed whether the City would continue trimming trees as they have in the past without charging property owners or develop a fee schedule for trimming trees if City crews have to do it.

Markman said the City has only been trimming trees that would hit a City truck. He said they haven't done the overall tree trimming on streets as was done in the past because the Street Department doesn't have the time because they're taking care of other tasks.

Street Committee members discussed possible fees that could be charged for tree trimming.

Schoenrock said if residents were informed that the City was going to start charging to trim trees, there would be many who would trim their trees themselves instead by paying the City to do so.

Following discussion, the Street Department's recommendation to the City Council regarding tree trimming is that there are two options.

Letters will be sent to those residents whose trees need to be trimmed. Bids will be sought from tree services and the City will hire a tree service to do the trimming if the resident doesn't get the trimming done themselves within a certain time; or the other option is if the resident fails to get their trees trimmed, the City will trim the trees for an hourly fee of \$150.

PARKING ON MAIN STREET AND DOWNTOWN SIDE STREETS

With the cold weather coming, Schoenrock asked Skaret to email Jackson County Sheriff Shawn Haken asking if the Sheriff's Department could please start enforcing the parking regulations on Main Street and all side streets downtown starting now so people get used to it. He said it will educate people so they don't park on Main Street and the downtown side streets as the winter season approaches.

Markman said another parking issue in the City is the number of campers parked on the streets around the community.

Skaret said the Sheriff's Department will be contacted to enforce that issue as well.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

David A. Maschoff, Recording Secretary

