

COMMUNITY PROTECTION & SERVICES COMMITTEE

January 14, 2016

A meeting of the Community Protection & Services Committee was called to order at 3:06 p.m. by Chairperson Wiesner in Council Chambers, City Hall. **Roll Call:** Members Mr. Wiesner and Mr. Gregory were present. Mr. Ireland was excused. Also present from the City was Mr. VanLieshout, Mr. Bordeau, Alderman Vandertie and Alderman Fett.

Moved by Mr. Gregory, seconded by Mr. Wiesner to adopt the following agenda:

1. Roll call
2. Adoption of agenda
4. Discussion of: Review of Snow Removal Policy
5. Adjourn

but with the corrected yearly date of January 14, 2016.

Carried.

Discussion of: Review of Snow Removal Policy

A report regarding the snow removal on the new sidewalks along Egg Harbor Road, and complaints by residents that they are not being cleared, was presented by Mr. VanLieshout. As of this time, City policy states a business has 24 hours to clear a sidewalk of ice/snow; or the City will clear it at a charge of \$100, billed back to the business owner.

Areas cleaned by the City include: Third Ave. - Jefferson St. to Nebraska St; Second Ave. to Fourth Ave; Madison Ave. – Maple St. to Pine St. to Lansing Ave. to Neenah Ave. Egg Harbor Rd is not cleared at this time. According to Mr. Bordeau, if the City were to clear all commercial/business sidewalks within the City, it would take an additional 5 hours for his Department; at this time there is not enough man-power or machinery to provide this service.

Mr. VanLieshout suggested the Committee review the City's policy on snow removal, and bring back for discussion, as no documented policy as to where snow removal by the City is detailed. Mr. VanLieshout stated if the Committee decides to continue or expand snow removal service; a plan for next season needs to be implemented. Nothing would be done for this year.

Stewart Fett, Alderman Dist. 6, 1324 N. 11th Place, spoke on the cost generated with snow removal. Mr. Fett suggested the City explore which properties would be involved, and offer a fee to have snow removal service and see how many would be interested. Mr. Bordeau commented on this, and stated his Department had called other communities to see if they offer snow removal service and at what cost; out of 17 called, no of them offered the service.

Mr. Wiesner suggested applying a one-time charge onto the tax bill of the business; over deciding on charges monthly. Mr. VanLieshout replied that the City needs to grasp what amount of snow removal from sidewalks is done now, and then make a decision. Mr. Bordeau wants the decision based on all or

nothing; either an entire block will have service, or no service will be offered; this way staff will not have to waste time trying to figure out which business is being serviced/charged.

Ron Vandertie, Alderman Dist. 2, 818 Oregon Street, spoke on the benefits of finding out which businesses already hire people to do their snow removal. He stated that having the City charge for the service may not pose a big deal to those already paying. Mr. Vandertie also stated the City would use common sense and only clear snow when there is a significant amount, not a dusting that can easily be taken care of by the business owner. Mr. Wiesner thinks the City could also go without doing snow removal, unless there is a significant storm and help is needed.

Discussion of possibly giving a warning notice before charging a \$100 fee to businesses for not clearing the snow within 24 hours was addressed. Mr. VanLieshout wondered if more time should be allowed, and suggested 72 hours. More information needs to be gathered.

Mr. VanLieshout would like Mr. Bordeau to survey and report results back to the CPS Committee at a later date. He will also talk with the Visitor Center to see if they can help collecting information on how many businesses pay for or do their own snow removal; or if there is interest in using/paying a service offered through the City. As stated earlier, no action will be taken this year.

Moved by Mr. Gregory, seconded by Mr. Wiesner to adjourn the meeting of the Community Protection Services Committee. All ayes. Carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Spude-Olson
Police Department
Administrative Office Manager