

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-12-61R

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF AMERICAN FORK ESTABLISHING AN ECONOMICAL AND EFFICIENT SNOW AND ICE CONTROL PROGRAM WHICH STRIVES TO MAXIMIZE SAFE TRAVEL ON CITY ROADWAYS WHILE RECOGNIZING AND ADDRESSING FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONSTRAINTS ON CITY RESOURCES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Council of American Fork finds and declares that it is desirable and in the public interest to pass a Resolution for the purpose of establishing a snow and ice control program; and

WHEREAS, reasonable ice and snow control is necessary for routine travel and emergency services; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire and intention of American Fork City to provide such control (using City employees and equipment) in a safe and cost effective manner, subject to the City's budgetary, personnel, resources, and environmental limitations and constraints; and

WHEREAS, the goals of American Fork City are (1) to provide motorists on City streets with the safest driving surface practicable under the circumstances; (2) to do so in an efficient and economical manner, and within the City's budgetary, personnel, resource and environmental limitations and constraints; and to have all City roadways passable within a reasonable time following a snowfall event.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of American Fork, Utah, as follows:

SECTION I: SNOW REMOVAL AND ICE CONTROL POLICY ADOPTED.

The following Resolution is hereby enacted entitled "Snow Removal and Ice Control Policy."

SNOW REMOVAL AND ICE CONTROL POLICY

I. **Snow Removal and Ice Control Policy Established.** Users of public highways, streets and roads of the City (hereinafter referred to as "public roadways") shall exercise caution and drive with care at all times, and particularly during adverse weather conditions, recognizing that driving the posted or otherwise lawful speed limit may not be possible at all times.

A. **Plowing Restrictions for Residents/Property Owners**

It is unlawful to push snow from driveways onto or across public roadways. Piles of snow left on or near a road can freeze into solid mass creating a hazardous situation for vehicles and snowplows. Accidents and/or damages caused by snow piles placed in the roadway may result in liability to the property owner.

B. Parking

American Fork City residents shall remove parked vehicles from public roadways, as required by City ordinance, to assist in snow removal. City employees will not attempt to remove stuck vehicles from ditches, snow banks or other impediment. Vehicles left in the public roadway in such a manner as to obstruct lawful traffic and/or snow removal equipment, and/or cause or otherwise contribute to accidents may result in liability to the vehicle's owner.

C. Use of Sand and Salt

American Fork City will use sand and salt, as needed and available, when hazardous ice or slippery conditions on public roadways exist. Sanding is generally done at problem locations on paved roadways, including intersections, curves and hills.

D. Snow Removal Procedures

1. Dispatching Snowplows

- a. Snow will be plowed in such a manner as to minimize traffic obstructions.
- b. The American Fork City Road Supervisor will decide when to begin snow and ice control operations.
- c. The circumstances, factors and criteria to be considered by said Road Supervisor in making the decision are:
 - (1) Safety. Snow and ice control operations will be conducted only when weather conditions do not endanger the safety of City employees, the City and equipment. Factors may delay snow and ice control operations include severe cold, significant winds, and limited visibility.
 - (2) Depth of Snow Accumulations – three inches (3”) or more. Snow and ice control operations are expensive and involve the use of limited personnel and equipment. Consequently, as a general rule, snow plowing operations will not be conducted for snowfall of less than three (3) inches. During extended periods of snowfall, exceptions to this general rule may be made.
 - (3) Drifting Snow. The presence of drifting or drifted snow that endangers or negatively impacts safe travel.
 - (4) Icy Conditions. The presence of icy conditions which seriously impact travel.

- (5) Time of Snowfall. Time of snowfall in relation to heavy use of impacted roadways.

2. General Plowing Policies

- a. Driveway entrances will not be opened or otherwise cleared of snow by City crews.
- b. Clearing of snow from public sidewalks are the responsibility of the adjacent property owner.
- c. It shall be the practice of the City to plow the roadway from curb to curb in order to maintain/facilitate surface drainage and structural integrity of the roadway.

3. Priorities for Snow Plowing

- a. As the motoring public begins its preparation for the coming winter season, it should be remembered that the City's Street Department has been doing so since the last season ended. With the end of the previous snow season, policies, plans, equipment and materials are reviewed, refined, repaired and replaced in an effort to improve the Department's service in the season ahead.
- b. Snowy, wintry conditions bring their own set of circumstances and problems, causing frustration, inconvenience and hazardous driving conditions for all who confront it – motorists, pedestrians, emergency services and snowfighters alike.
- c. The City's goals are (1) to provide motorists on City streets with the safest driving surface practicable under the circumstances; (2) to do so in an efficient and economical manner, and within the City's budgetary, personnel, resource and environmental limitations and constraints; and to have all City roadways passable within a reasonable time following a snowfall event. However, when a snowfall event occurs, it is not possible to cover the entire street system at once, hence, a priority system has been established by the City for addressing the snowfall conditions.
- d. Roads within the City have been prioritized into four (4) categories for snow removal and ice control. A map, attached hereto as **Exhibit A** and entitled "Snow Removal Policy," has been created to illustrate the priorities for snow plowing. The list of priorities are as follows:
 - (1) Priority 1 – Arterial Roads. This is the minimum network of roadways providing access to and from I-15, American Fork Hospital, local schools and other key areas of and within the

City. Snow removal and ice control service shall be “curb to curb,” on a 24- hour basis.

- (2) Priority 2 – Collector Roads. These roadways are the “thru” streets that accommodate moderate-to-high traffic volume. Snow removal and ice control service shall be “curb to curb,” on a 24-hour basis.
- (3) Priority 3 – Secondary Roads. These roadways are primarily residential streets that accommodate low-to-moderate traffic volume. Snow removal and ice control service shall consist of traffic lane snow and ice control only, and shall be provided between the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- (4) Priority 4-Cul-de-Sacs and Dead-end Roads. These roadways are self explanatory. Snow removal and ice control service shall consist of traffic lane snow and ice control, one pass in and one pass out, and shall be provided between the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

- e. The State Highway and Interstate roadways which connect major sections of Utah County and which provide access for emergency, fire, sheriff/police and medical services are plowed and maintained by Utah County and the Utah Department of Transportation. All other City roadways will be plowed according to the list of priorities enumerated above. This shall be accomplished in a manner consistent with the other sections of this Policy, in order to maximize the use of limited personnel and equipment and avoid costly deadheading.

II **Responses to comments and frequently-asked questions concerning the City’s Snow Removal and Ice Policy.**

The following responses are offered to the public to clarify the above Policy:

A. **Why do you use so much sand?**

The sand you see on the roadways in the Spring is generally the accumulation of numerous snow/sanding incidents that have occurred over the course of the preceding Winter season. We adhere to a discriminate sanding policy in an effort to reduce the impact of sanding material on air quality and motorist safety.

B. **You plowed my driveway full of snow!**

To open the gutter and maintain proper drainage, the City’s policy is to clean the roadway from curb to curb. This requires a number of passes by the plows. Do not open your driveway until you are sure the plows

have been performed, and then try to pile the snow on the right side of your driveway (as you face the roadway). This will minimize the amount of snow pushed back into your driveway should additional plowing be required.

C. Why doesn't the City open my driveway?

There are too many driveways in the City. It would take too many man-hours and would be too costly to the City.

D. Why don't you plow the snow to the middle instead?

Placing the snow in the middle of the roadway reduces the width of the driving lanes, allows water to run across the roadway and refreeze during thaws, restricts visibility, and causes a great deal of inconvenience if you must turn across the center lane.

E. I'm not getting my mail!

During the course of plowing residential streets there are instances where a windrow of snow may block your mail box. If the postal service refuses to deliver your mail because of this, please call the Street Department and we will correct the situation if plowing was done incorrectly.

F. You put your snow on my curbside sidewalk!

Curbside sidewalks are a curse for snow plow operators, who must plow from curb to curb but attempt to keep the walkways open. The operators' only recourse is to try to keep the amount of snow on the walkway to a minimum. The responsibility of keeping sidewalks clear falls on the adjacent property owner.

G. How can a citizen help?

Snow causes many inconveniences; but having your vehicle equipped for winter driving, using proper winter driving skills, and allowing more time for travel will enhance overall public safety and will reduce your stress. Park your vehicle off the roadway if plowing operation are underway or as otherwise required by City ordinance; and do not throw snow into the roadway when cleaning your driveway. Remember that snow is only a temporary inconvenience.

If you have any further questions about American Fork City's Snow Removal Program and/or road conditions, you may contact the City's Road Supervisor or Public Works Director at (801) 763-3060.

SECTION II: SEVERABILITY.

The sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of this Resolution are severable. If any such section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional by the valid judgment or decree of a Court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any of the remaining sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, and phrases of this Resolution.

SECTION III: EFFECTIVE DATE

The American Fork City Council finds and declares that it is necessary and proper for the preservation and enhancement of the health, safety, welfare, and interest of the present and future inhabitants of the City of American Fork that this Resolution take effect immediately upon passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of American Fork, Utah, this 13 day of December, 2005

* Original document with validating signature page available from the City Recorder, Dick Colborn upon request.

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