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Public Works

City Transit
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MEMORANDUM

Equipment Maintenance
Roadway Maintenance
Collection & Drainage
Building & Grounds
Engineering

To: Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator
CC: Fran Donelson, Secretary
FROM: Randy Hill, Public Works Director
DATE: September 4, 2012
RE: Snow Emergency Regulations Ordinance

INTRODUCTION:

When a Snow Emergency is declared on-street parking is limited in order to allow plows to access and clear the entire street during a winter storm. This revised ordinance will have major effects on those who park their vehicles on the streets of Muscatine outside of the Central Business District.

BACKGROUND:

Parked cars are an obstacle to cleaning the streets well, and they also pose a hazard by requiring plows to maneuver around them. Streets will be plowed more thoroughly if there are fewer cars parked on the street. 259 "No Parking During Snow Removal" signs can be removed; emergency vehicles can more quickly reach their destinations; and less damage to snow equipment are all benefits of this ordinance.

RECOMMENDATION/RATIONALE:

Public Works Staff recommends the adoption of the Snow Emergency Regulation Ordinance. When a Snow Emergency is declared, the Alternate Side of Street Parking Plan (calendar parking) is engaged. Where parking is allowed on both sides of the street, then if the date is an odd number then parking is permitted on the odd numbered side of the street only. Likewise, on street parking will be allowed on even numbered side of street on even numbered days.

If parking is permitted on one side of the street only, then if the permitted side (where parking is allowed) is even numbered, vehicles can park on that side. The same scenario applies for the odd numbered side. However, NO PARKING is ever allowed on the side of the street where parking is prohibited by posted signs.

**"I remember Muscatine for its sunsets. I have never seen any
on either side of the ocean that equaled them" — Mark Twain**

It will be the goal of the Roadway Maintenance Division to have the major portion of a snow fall cleared within 48 hours of onset. Public cooperation is required to make this successful. We request the public HAVE A PLAN AND KNOW BEFORE THE SNOW WHERE YOU WILL PARK.

BACKUP INFORMATION:

1. TITLE 7 – VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, Chapter 18 – Snow Emergency Regulations

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**An Ordinance Revising Title 7 Police Regulations,
Chapter 18 Snow Emergency Regulations**

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Muscatine, Iowa, that Title 7 Police Regulations, Chapter 18 Snow Emergency Regulations be revised as follows:

7-18-1 Definitions.

- A. "Street" or "Highway" means the entire width between the boundary lines of every way publicly maintained where any part is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel.
- B. "Roadway" means that portion of a street or highway improved, designed or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, exclusive of the berm or shoulder.
- C. "Snow Emergency Routes" are those streets designated as priority.

7-18-2 Snow Emergency Route. The Snow Emergency Routes shall consist of streets or portion of streets as the City Council may from time to time designate by appropriate action.

7-18-3 Standing and Parking. No person shall park or leave standing any vehicle except as provided in 7-18-6 on any alley, street or roadway within the City during the period of time than an emergency snow removal operation is in effect.

7-18-4 Notice of Snow Emergency. At the time ice or snow accumulations impede or hinder the safe movement of vehicular traffic upon any alley, street or roadway within the City or impede or otherwise interfere with the safe movement of emergency or public transportation over and across the same, the City Administrator may by public media declare the commencement of an emergency snow removal operation. The City Administrator may also cause such declaration to be announced in newspapers, when time permits. The public announcement shall also specify the time and date when the emergency snow removal operation shall commence and its duration.

7-18-5 Duration of Snow Emergency. The time and day for both beginning and end of the snow emergency shall be included in the initial declaration. The minimum duration will be 48 hours, however, the ending time and date can be amended if necessary because of weather conditions.

7-18-6 "Alternate Side of Street" Parking During a Snow Emergency. During a snow emergency, streets that normally permit parking **on both sides of the street** will be subject to "alternate side of the street" parking. On odd-numbered days of the month, parking is permitted only on the odd-numbered side of the street. Likewise, parking is permitted only on the even-numbered side of the street on even-numbered days.

On all streets where parking is allowed **on one side only**, if the permitted side (where parking is allowed) is even numbered, vehicles can park on that side only on even-numbered days. If the permitted side (where parking is allowed) is odd-numbered, vehicles can park on that side only on odd-numbered days. No parking is ever allowed on the side of the street where parking is prohibited by posted sign.

The transition time between the first and second day of a snow emergency is from 12 midnight until 8:00 a.m. Enforcement of the second snow emergency day does not begin until 8:00 a.m.

The downtown Central Business District (area bounded by Mulberry, Third, Mississippi Drive, and Pine streets) is not affected by these new parking rules. Existing parking restrictions will remain in effect.

7-18-7 Penalty. Vehicles in violation of these snow emergency regulations may be ticketed and towed. The ticket fee shall be in the amount of \$35.00 per violation and the owner of the vehicle shall also be responsible for applicable towing and storage fees.

7-18-8 Conflict of Ordinances. The provisions of this chapter which become effective during a snow emergency shall take precedence over conflicting ordinances normally in effect, except those relating to traffic accidents, emergency travel of authorized vehicles or emergency traffic directions by a police officer. However, nothing in this section shall be construed to permit parking at any time or place otherwise forbidden by any other provision of law.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED ON THIS _____ day of October, 2012.

DeWayne Hopkins, Mayor

ATTEST:

Gregg, Mandsager, City Administrator

First Reading: _____

Second Reading: _____

Third Reading: _____

Publication: _____