

CITY OF ST. CLAIR
ORDINANCE CODE
CHAPTER 75: SNOW PLOWING AND REMOVAL

SECTION

75.01	Purpose
75.02	Liability
75.03	Prohibitions
75.04	Snow and Ice Removal From Sidewalks
75.05	Snow and Ice Control Operations
75.06	Snow Plowing Procedures
75.07	Snow Plowing Equipment
75.08	Snow Removal
75.09	Work Schedule
75.10	Weather Conditions
75.11	Use of Sand, Salt, and Other Chemicals
75.12	Assisting Stranded Motorists
75.13	Off-Street Parking Requirement
75.14	Towing and Impounding
75.15	Public Concerns and Requests
75.16	Penalty
75.17	Effective Date

SECTION 75.01 PURPOSE

The purpose of this Chapter is to provide a common understanding of the extent of the City of St. Clair’s winter road maintenance activity regarding snow and ice removal, to define the scope and level of services and to inform the public as to their responsibilities.

The City of St. Clair Public Works Dept. reserves the right to exercise flexibility in these general guidelines depending upon the type of snow, wind and times of day the snow falls. In the delivery of snow removal service, efforts will be made to balance the needs of road safety, traffic demands, employee safety as well as constraints involving time, money and equipment availability.

SECTION 75.02 LIABILITY

The City will not be responsible for damage to vehicles, fences, play equipment, basket ball hoops, landscaping items and other objects parked or placed on the City right-of-way. The City road right-of-way is approx. ten feet (10') from the curb or the edge of the street on uncurbed streets.

SECTION 75.03 PROHIBITIONS

- A. No person shall park or leave standing any vehicle upon any street in the City of St. Clair during or after a snowfall of one (1) or more inches, or when blowing and drifting snow warrant snow plowing, until snow has been plowed from curb to curb.
- B. No person shall dump, blow, shovel, plow or deposit snow onto or across any public street.
- C. It shall be the responsibility of the property owner or resident receiving mail via the rural route mail carrier to remove snow from around their mailbox.
- D. There shall be no temporary obstructions such as garbage and/or recycling receptacles, basketball poles/hoops, play equipment, landscaping items or obstacles and items of any kind placed on the road right-of-way, boulevard, alley or street in such a manner as to interfere with snowplowing operations.

SECTION 75.04 ICE AND/OR SNOW REMOVAL FROM PUBLIC SIDEWALKS

- A. Property owner or occupant responsibility.
 - 1. The property owner or occupant of the property adjacent to a public sidewalk shall have the obligation of ice/snow removal and shall use diligence to keep the sidewalk safe for pedestrian travel.
 - 2. No property owner or occupant shall allow ice/snow to remain on the sidewalk longer than 36 hours after the ice/snow has ceased to fall.
 - 3. Sidewalks shall be cleaned for the full width of the sidewalk.
- B. Ice and/or Snow Removal by the City.
 - 1. In the event the property owner or occupant fails to remove the ice/snow from the public sidewalk, the City (or its agent) may remove the ice/snow as soon as possible beginning 36 hours after the ice/snow has ceased to fall.
 - 2. The City (or its agent) shall maintain a record for each separate property/lot adjacent to the sidewalk for which ice/snow was removed. Such record shall indicate the address; date ice/snow was removed and cost.
 - 3. The property owner shall be responsible for the cost of ice/snow removal by the City. At the end of the winter season, the City Clerk shall send a billing statement to each property owner for which ice/snow was removed by the City. After 30 days, if the cost of ice/snow removal remains unpaid, the City Clerk shall certify such cost as a special assessment to Blue Earth County Taxpayer Services Dept. to be collected with property taxes.

C. Notification.

1. In October of each year the City Clerk shall notify property owners adjacent to public sidewalks as to the property owner responsibilities outlined in this section (Section 75.04 Ice and/or Snow Removal from Public Sidewalks). Such notification shall be sent through the United States Postal Service and shall be the only notice property owners receive. Property owner responsibilities shall also be outlined in the City Newsletter, the City website and other such means available to the City.

SECTION 75.05 MAILBOXES – DUTY OF PROPERTY OWNER and/or OCCUPANT

It shall be the responsibility of the property owner or resident receiving mail via the rural route mail carrier to remove snow from around their mailbox.

SECTION 75.06 SNOW AND ICE CONTROL OPERATIONS

The Public Works Supervisor shall determine when snow and ice control operations shall begin. When possible, plowing or sanding will be scheduled prior to heavy traffic levels to prevent snow compaction.

The conditions that will determine a snow removal and ice control operation are as follows:

- A. Snow accumulation of 1-2 inches of snow or more.
- B. Drifting of snow that causes problems for travel.
- C. Icy conditions which seriously affect safety and travel.
- D. Time of snowfall in relationship to heavy use of streets.
- E. Snow removal personnel will be pulled off the road if weather conditions get bad enough to cause a safety hazard to the operator or the public due to poor visibility or blowing snow.

The above amount is a benchmark only, used to signal when plowing efforts typically begin. Other conditions such as wind or icy rain may warrant an earlier response. Other maintenance, such as sanding, may begin earlier than plowing or as road conditions dictate, even when plowing is unnecessary.

SECTION 75.07 SNOW PLOWING PROCEDURE

Snow will be plowed in a manner so as to minimize any traffic obstruction. The discharged snow shall go onto City right-of-way, boulevard or ditch area.

SECTION 75.08 SNOW PLOWING EQUIPMENT

The City of St. Clair will use City (tractor/truck) equipped with snow plow, blade and/or snow bucket attachment as necessary for removing snow on streets, cul-de-sacs, alleys and City owned parking lots. After a normal snow fall of 1 to 4 inches all City streets, cul-de-sacs, alleys and City owned parking lots will normally be plowed from curb to curb in approximately five (5) to seven (7) hours. Heavier snowfalls will take additional time to clear.

The Public Works Dept. employees will be responsible for preventative maintenance programs for all equipment to ensure availability and reliability when needed. The Public Works Supervisor will plan for and recommend necessary equipment upgrades and/or replacements in a timely manner to allow for proper budgeting of those expenditures.

In the event of extraordinary snowfall events, extreme winter emergency conditions or in situations when snowfall events coincide with other City emergencies (i.e.: broken water main, etc.) the City may use private contractors to provide additional snow plowing, snow blowing and/or snow removal services.

SECTION 75.09 SNOW REMOVAL

The Public Works Supervisor will determine when snow will be removed from an area of the City (i.e.: downtown business area and cul-de-sacs). Such snow removal will occur in areas where there is no room on the boulevard for snow storage and in areas where accumulated piles of snow create a hazardous condition. The snow will be removed and hauled to a snow storage area. The snow storage area will be located so as to minimize environmental problems.

Snow removal on County streets will be coordinated between the City Public Works Supervisor and the Blue Earth County Public Works Dept. personnel located at the St. Clair Shop.

SECTION 75.10 WORK SCHEDULE

As weather conditions dictate, Public Works employees may have to plow snow on weekends, holidays and after normal working hours. In severe snow emergencies, if warranted, Public Works employees may have to work in excess of an eight (8) hour shift.

SECTION 75.11 WEATHER CONDITIONS

The Public Works Dept. will monitor weather conditions during regular operating hours. During off hours the Public Works Supervisor will continue to monitor weather conditions and shall notify the Public Works worker when snow and ice conditions warrant snow plowing.

Weather conditions are evaluated using information provided by weather forecasts, Law Enforcement reports and visual verification.

Snow and ice control operations will be conducted only when weather conditions do not endanger the safety of City employees and equipment and so long as operations are effective. Factors that may delay snow and ice control operations include: blizzard conditions, heavy/rapid accumulation snow and/or ice, strong/significant winds and limited visibility.

SECTION 75.12 USE OF SAND, SALT AND OTHER CHEMICALS

The City will use sand, salt and other chemicals when there are hazardous icy, slippery conditions. The City of St. Clair is concerned about the effects of such chemicals on the environment and will limit its use for that reason.

SECTION 75.13 ASSISTING STRANDED MOTORISTS

The Public Works Dept. may assist stranded motorists by contacting Law Enforcement and/or Emergency Personnel. Public Works personnel will not attempt to remove stuck vehicles from snow banks, ditches or any other impediment.

SECTION 75.14 OFF-STREET PARKING REQUIREMENT

Residents shall move or remove parked vehicles from the roadway to facilitate the effective plowing of the roadway. If snowplows are forced to go around parked vehicles, the snow surrounding the car can create a hazard to the traveling public as well as plow operators and equipment. Vehicles that have been parked on the street longer than twenty-four (24) hours after a snowfall event has occurred and have prohibited the complete clearing of the street shall be in violation of this Chapter and subject to towing and impounding.

SECTION 75.15 TOWING AND IMPOUNDING

Law Enforcement officials, Public Works employees or the City Clerk are hereby independently authorized and empowered to request any private garage or towing service to tow away and impound any vehicle parked, stored, stalled or standing on City streets in violation of any of the provisions of this Chapter.

In the event any vehicles are towed and impounded, within 24 hours the City Clerk shall mail a notice to the registered owner of the vehicle as may be disclosed by the vehicle license number.

No vehicle will be released until all fines and towing charges has been paid in full. The City of St. Clair does not assume any responsibility for any damage done during towing or impounding of said vehicle.

SECTION 75.16 PUBLIC CONCERNS OR REQUESTS

Residents with requests, complaints or concerns regarding snow and ice removal should call the St. Clair City Hall, where the City Clerk will relay the information to the Public Works Dept. Depending on the

nature of the request or concern, the Public Works Dept. will either take the appropriate action necessary or direct City Clerk to respond to the resident.

To better obtain cooperation from the public, the City Clerk will periodically communicate to residents, through the City Newsletter the policies and ordinances regarding snow and ice removal and what services the public can reasonably expect.

SECTION 75.17 PENALTY

Violation of this Chapter shall be a misdemeanor.

SECTION 75.18 EFFECTIVE DATE

City of St. Clair Ordinance Code, Chapter 75: Snow Plowing and Removal shall be in full force and effect after its passage and publication as provided by law.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of St. Clair, Minnesota this 6th day of December 2005.

Brian Lynch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer