

Ask the Chief – How is the city going to deal with parked cars when they are trying to plow snow?

Snow...Snow...Snow.... Yes, I know that some think it is a horrible four letter word but we do need to start thinking about it because it will be here before you know it; bringing with it all the issues that arise with the plowing of snow and the parking of cars. Listed below is the Minneota ordinance regulating parking and snow/street emergencies. This is not a new ordinance but I want to give everyone the opportunity to read it and discuss how they plan to work with it. You will notice that there is no official notification process regarding a Snow/Weather or Street Emergency. It is the responsibility of the owner or driver of a car to stay current on weather conditions. My advice is that if you “THINK” there may be a Snow/Street Emergency go ahead and park off the street. It is better to be safe than sorry. In an effort to help everyone get use to this ordinance for the winter of 2014 I am going to enforce it as follows: 1st snow/street emergency = warning, 2nd snow/street emergency = ticket, 3rd and all following snow emergencies = ticket and towing. For the coming years, the 1st snow/street emergency will result in tickets and towing.

I know this may sound extreme but please understand that it cost you as a tax payer more money for the street department to go back and re-plow streets that had cars parked on them. It is also damages the streets when fresh snow is not removed and it gets packed down or frozen because the plows had to drive around parked cars. If we work together, we can keep our taxes down, streets in good shape and help our plow drivers get the job done quickly, cleanly and safely.

ORDINANCE NO. 11-04

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MINNEOTA AMENDING SECTION 803.12

Be it ordained that Section 803.12 of the Minneota City Code is amended and replaced in its entirety to read as follows:

SECTION 803.12 SNOW EMERGENCY/WEATHER EMERGENCY/STREET REPAIR/STREET CLEANING.

Subd. 1. Definitions:

Snow/Weather Emergency - For purposes of this Ordinance, the term snow emergency means a condition created on City streets because of the presence of snow, freezing rain, sleet, ice or snow drifts thereon, or other natural phenomenon which create or are likely to create hazardous road conditions or impede or likely to impede the free movement of fire, health, police, emergency or other vehicular traffic when the same have been duly declared by the Street Superintendent or his designee.

Subd. 2. Snow Removal In Residential District and Commercial District.

After or during a snowfall of two (2) inches or more, or after a wet slushy snowfall of any amount, all motor vehicles and parts thereof are to be removed from all streets and alleys within the residential and commercial districts of the City, including the right-of-ways or boulevards,

for the purpose of snowplowing and/or snow removal. When a police officer finds a vehicle left standing on any portion of any street that has not been plowed or if the vehicle has been plowed in, he may issue a warning notice or issue a parking ticket or remove any such vehicle by means of towing or other means in order to facilitate proper snow removal.

The police officer is hereby authorized to impound such unlawfully parked vehicle and to provide for the immediate removal thereof and to remove the same to a place of safety, provided, that if any charge shall be placed against such vehicle for cost of removal and storage or both, by anyone called upon to assist therewith the same shall be paid by the owner prior to removal from such place of storage or safekeeping. If the owner fails to remove said vehicle from the storage facility within a period of 15 days, the vehicle may be classified as abandoned to City Ordinance, Section 803.19.

Subd. 3. Unlawful Acts.

- A. It is unlawful for any person to park a vehicle or permit a vehicle to remain parked in violation of Subdivision 2 of this Section.
- B. It is unlawful for any person to park a vehicle or permit a vehicle to remain parked on any street at such times as any other emergency may exist or during such times as street cleaning or street repair operations are taking place.
- C. The act of parking or permitting a vehicle to remain parked on any street contrary to the prohibitions of this Section constitutes the violation notwithstanding the progress of street maintenance operations.

Passed by the City Council this 5th day of December, 2011.

CITY OF MINNEOTA

By: Bill Ufkin

Its: Mayor

ATTEST:
Sarah Friesen
City Administrator

Published in the Minneota Mascot: December 7, 2011