

New snow emergency proposal

Due to the lack of declaring snow emergencies, Mayor Vandersteen has asked the Department of Public Works to review the current Snow Emergency Ordinance. The Mayor believes that if the current ordinance is not needed then it should be updated or eliminated.

The Department of Public Works completed an analysis of the current Snow Emergency Ordinance that examined the current snow plowing operations, past snow plowing operations, and practices of peer municipalities. Below is a list of some of the findings:

- A reduction of 24 Plow Operators since 2008
- A reduction of two Tractor Operators since 2008
- A reduction of 17 pieces of snow removal equipment
- A reduction from 32 pieces of equipment dispatched in 2008 to 12 pieces of equipment currently dispatched for declared snow emergencies
- 75% of residential buildings within the City of Sheboygan have either an attached or detached garage. This does not account for concrete off street parking pads
 - 3,108 residential buildings have an attached garage
 - 11,523 residential buildings have a detached garage

A survey of the top 20 municipalities by population (excluding Milwaukee) found:

- During a declared snow emergency 84 percent of surveyed communities prohibit parking and 16 percent require alternate side parking.
- 70 percent of surveyed communities have yearlong parking restrictions: alternate side parking (44 percent), no overnight parking (31 percent), permit required parking (19 percent) and 24 hour limit parking (6 percent).
- The remaining 30 percent of surveyed communities have winter parking restrictions: alternate side parking (25 percent) and no parking (5 percent)

The Department of Public Works agrees with Mayor Vandersteen and there does need to be a change to the Snow Emergency Ordinance. It is Department of Public Works' opinion the current version of the ordinance does not meet the definition of an emergency. In a true emergency situation, there will be some inconveniences. It is evident in the research, that City of Sheboygan's peer municipalities put an emphasis on public safety versus resident convenience by prohibiting parking on city streets during a snow emergency. Therefore, it is the Department of Public Works belief that our Snow Emergency Ordinance should be consistent with the top 20 cities within the State of Wisconsin and prohibit parking on all city streets during a declared snow emergency.

The Department of Public Works will be conducting informational meetings during the months of December at the following locations and times:

Maywood Pavilion
3615 Mueller Road
Tuesday, December 5, 2017
5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Mead Public Library
Rocco Room
710 North 8th Street
Wednesday, December 6, 2017
5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

King Park
1615 South 7th Street
Monday, December 11, 2017
5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

In addition, Public Works representatives will be attending the following neighborhood association meetings during the months of November and December:

- 11/27 Maple Heights Neighborhood 6:00 p.m. & Memorial Neighborhood 6:30 p.m.
- 11/28 East Side Neighborhood 6:30 p.m.
- 11/30 Franklin Park Neighborhood 6:00 p.m.
- 12/7 Swift Neighborhood 6:00 p.m. & End Park Neighborhood 6:30 p.m.
- 12/20 King Park Neighborhood 6:00 p.m.