

Subject: First Reading and Public Hearing - An Ordinance Amendment to City Code Section 74 Regarding Snow Emergencies

Meeting Date: February 23, 2026	
Submitted/Presented by/Department: Ross Beckwith/Public Works	
Action Type	
<input type="checkbox"/> Consent Item	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion/Direction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing	<input type="checkbox"/> Informational Only
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action/Motion	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Action	
Approve the first reading of the ordinance amendment to City Code Section 74 regarding snow emergencies and hold a public hearing.	
Background	
<p>Snow emergency routes have been in place for over 50 years in West St. Paul. The way that snow emergencies are communicated to the public has changed though with technology. Current communication includes the city website, social media and email/texts whereas the current ordinance references contacting the press, radio and television.</p> <p>There are a few other recommended changes as shown in the attached ordinance. They include adding trailers to what needs to be removed from roadways/alleys during a snow emergency. Trailers take up as much or more space than cars/trucks and make plowing, especially in alleys, time-consuming and difficult. There is also a recommendation to change the term 'improved' alley to 'paved' alley to simplify the definition. Lastly, the duration of the snow emergency is being reduced from 72 to 48 hours. Enforcing the ordinance days after a snow event is taxing on residents and staff.</p> <p>These changes will help the community better understand expectations during snow emergencies and allow city staff to clear snow more efficiently from streets and alleys for the safety of the traveling public and emergency vehicles.</p>	
Attachments	
Ordinance	
Previous Relevant Actions	
Alternatives	
Financial	

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Budgeted: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Financial Impact
Fund:	
Department:	
Account:	
Amount:	