



Watertown City Council
Work Session
Tuesday, March 22, 2022
5:30 p.m.

Mayor Steve Washburn
Lindsay Guetzkow
Adam Pawelk
Michael Walters
Dan Schuette

1. Call To Order And Roll Call
2. New Business
 - 2.I. Winter Parking And Towing Discussion

Documents:

[RFA - WINTER PARKING AND TOWING DISCUSSION.DOCX](#)

3. Adjournment

All minutes are available on the website or can be requested by contacting City Hall.

309 Lewis Avenue South; P.O. Box 279, Watertown, MN 55388

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March 22, 2022

Agenda Item:	Winter Parking and Towing Discussion
Request for Action:	Discussion and Direction on Winter Parking and Vehicle Towing
Employee/Dept.:	Jake Foster, City Administrator

Background:

With several weekend snow events this season, staff has been working through issues related to the winter parking ordinance, vehicles illegally parked being towed, the subsequent pick-up of those vehicles. Staff would like to discuss these issues and is asking for Council direction on how the winter parking ordinance, towing/impound, and vehicle pick-up are enforced in the future.

Options for discussion:

1. Keep enforcement and operation “as-is.”
 - a. Cars are towed to PW and can be retrieved during business hours
 - b. Likely to be no fence next winter while the WWTF is under construction
 - c. Consider updates to ordinance
 - i. Expanding parking language to include restriction on parking if 2+ inches of snow accumulation until the street is cleared of snow - as City grows, snow removal will take longer.
 - ii. Add language for vehicle retrieval only during regular business hours
2. Keep enforcement but add weekend release of vehicles
 - a. Contact information isn’t given from towing company (just address look-up)
 - b. Additional burden on on-call employee (snow removal, utilities rounds, other “on-call” issues, etc.)
 - c. Challenges with processing payments and paperwork for on-call employee – involve City Hall staff?
 - d. Would need to increase administrative fee – holidays may have to be handled differently
 - e. Scheduling difficulties (for pick-up)
3. Rely on towing company for vehicle impound
 - a. Eliminates staff burden
 - b. Current service provider (R&V) does not have space to house additional vehicles at their facility
 - i. Other service providers are farther away
 - c. Significant increase in time taken to clear streets of vehicles (Ex. It took R&V 4.5 hours to tow all vehicles on March 5 – they projected it would take at least twice the amount of time to tow the vehicles back to their facility)
4. Stop towing vehicles (regularly)
 - a. Presents a potential larger issue with a lower level of service for residents.
 - b. Additional crash/damage/safety concerns.
 - c. Less efficient – staff would have to come back to clean up snow that was left.