



Memorandum

TO: Mayor Matherly and City Council Members

FROM: Jeff Jacobson, Public Works Director

SUBJECT: Snow Plowing/ Removal Update

DATE: February 26, 2018

Snow Plowing/Removal

For the first several weeks in January, only permanent Public Works staff were utilized to plow streets after the all the temps were let go at the end of December. With the freezing rain and more snow accumulation, 10 temporary operators were hired to supplement our 7 available permanent operators. We switched all the snow crew to the night shift for just the week of January 21-24 to focus on the downtown core and priority roads.

As more snow continued to accumulate and with several winter storms, 14 additional temporary operators were hired on February 20th to operate a day and night crew. Both crews are only working a normal 40 work week to conserve expenditures. Due to the President's Day holiday on Monday, the work week was extended to include last Friday to move as much snow as possible resulting in overtime for only the 7 permanent operators.

Snow Storage Sites

Two of our six operational snow storage sites are filled to capacity; Bentley and 25th Avenue/Cushman Street. Hamilton Acres and 1st Avenue/Blue Line are near capacity, leaving only the Johansen and Arctic Park snow storage sites available for the remainder of the season. Expansion of 25th Avenue/Cushman Street, Bentley and Hamilton Acres snow storage sites this summer is critical. The FNSB permitting process for the Hamilton Acres site has taken much longer than anticipated but we are planning on getting it done in time to expand it this summer.

Brushing

Public Works laborers, and two contractors, Star Electric and Blackhawk, have been removing and cutting back fallen trees and brush since the freezing rain in January. Our early efforts reduced the potential number of street lighting failures and power outages. Serious citywide brush cutting work must be done this summer to prevent further damage to street lights and the electrical grid. Extreme cold temperatures delayed the use of bucket lifts used in tree trimming in earlier in February.