



City of Ketchum

October 16, 2020

Mayor Bradshaw and City Councilors
City of Ketchum
Ketchum, Idaho

Mayor Bradshaw and City Councilors:

Discussion and Direction to Staff on Expansion of Winter Parking Pilot Effort & Curbside Pickup Spots

Recommendation and Summary

Staff is requesting council direction regarding the expansion of last year's winter overnight parking pilot program as well as the expansion of curbside pickup spots.

The reasons for the request are as follows:

- Enable residents and visitors additional parking options to decrease instances of Driving Under the Influence.
- Decrease the financial impact to those who get towed and make it more convenient to retrieve their vehicle.
- With increased positive COVID rates and potential further indoor gathering regulations, it is important to aid businesses with additional curbside pickup locations.

Introduction and History

Winter Parking Regulations

City code currently prohibits overnight parking in the downtown core to allow for safe and efficient removal of snow. Historically, those who violated this law, had their vehicles towed to an impound lot. The average annual total number of tows has been between 50-60. The owner of the vehicle would be charged \$250 and then coordinate with tow operator to retrieve vehicle from secured tow lot. There was an additional \$50 daily charge for storage.

Last year the city started a pilot effort to be more user friendly to both residents and visitors. Specifically, the Washington Avenue parking lot was designated even/odd nights for overnight parking. In addition, First Avenue between River Street and First Street was designated as the tow lot for vehicles parked on the wrong side in the Washington Avenue parking lot. Since it was the first year of the pilot and new to residents and visitors, the city felt it was important to keep the towing fee as low as possible, the location of the vehicle close to the lot, and easily accessible.

This year, staff is proposing to maintain those elements and the following expansion components:

- Discontinue the practice of towing to a lot and instead relocate cars to First Avenue between River and First Street in the middle parking spots. Individuals would still need to pay \$90 tow fee and \$40 parking ticket. It is also important to remember the historical city impound lot is currently being used for construction parking associated with the new Fire Station.

- Designation of Second Avenue between Fourth and Fifth streets as even/odd night parking. Staff analyzed several blocks to offer an option on the north end of town. Based on topography, parking demands and construction projects, staff is recommending Second Avenue.

Staff is also exploring the concept of designating a portion of a street on the east side of downtown for bar/tavern workers. This street would be one of the last streets to be plowed so that workers have more time to conduct tasks after the closure of the facility without fear of being towed.

Curbside Pickup Spots

Several of these spots were designated this past spring during the early COVID re-opening stages. As the Council considers potential indoor group size limits due to increased positive rates in the county, staff felt it was important for the city to be proactive in designating additional spots to support our business community. City code enforcement staff is currently conducting a quick block by block assessment to determine the proper number of spots.

Analysis/Next Steps

Based on the Council's direction, staff would like to engage the broader community for feedback regarding this expanded winter parking pilot effort.

The Traffic Authority would hold a special meeting on October 28th to take up both items for action. The Authority would receive formal public testimony (email, Zoom, or in person) on the winter parking pilot. During the November 2nd Council meeting, staff would present an amendment to the city's parking code. Staff would then implement a multi-faceted public education effort to inform residents/visitors, businesses and workers regarding these options.

Should the expanded winter parking pilot move forward, staff would track the following metrics to help gauge the success of the project:

- Number of DUI citations
- Level of satisfaction from residents/adjacent businesses
- Impact to snow removal operations and safety
- Financial impact to city

Sustainability Impact

There is no sustainability impact.

Financial Impact

Should the city have to conduct double tows (move vehicle twice), there might be a financial impact.