



City of Ketchum

October 18, 2021

Mayor Bradshaw and City Councilors
City of Ketchum
Ketchum, Idaho

Mayor Bradshaw and City Councilors:

Discussion and Direction to Staff on Winter Parking Program

Recommendation and Summary

Staff is requesting council direction regarding improvements to the winter parking program. The reasons for the request are as follows:

- Build upon last year's pilot program and apply lessons learned
- Enable residents and visitors additional parking options to decrease instances of Driving Under the Influence
- Seek a balance between snow removal efficiency and positive resident/visitor experience

Introduction, History & Analysis

Last year, city code was amended to allow for a new winter parking pilot program. Historically, the city code prohibited overnight parking on public streets during the winter to allow for safe and efficient removal of snow. Those who violated this law had their vehicle towed to an impound lot. The average annual total tows have been between 50 and 60. The owner of the vehicle would be charged \$250 and would then have to coordinate with the tow operator to retrieve their vehicle from the secured tow lot. There was an additional \$50 daily charge for storage.

The goal of the pilot program was to be more user friendly to both residents and visitors. Specifically, the Washington Street parking lot was designated even/odd nights for overnight parking. In addition, First Avenue between River Street and First Street was designated for even/odd overnight parking as well as between 4th and 6th Streets on 2nd Avenue. The pilot also discontinued the practice of towing to a lot and instead relocated cars to the closest street that had already been cleared of snow. Vehicle owners who were towed, paid a \$90 tow fee and \$40 parking ticket.

Staff will provide a brief presentation to review lessons learned from last year. Overall the pilot program was successful with the following areas identified for improvement:

- Signage in parking lot and on-street was too wordy and confused participants
- Evaluate a decreased rate for winter monthly parking pass at Washington Street lot due to low utilization. Evaluate increasing tow/parking ticket to encourage greater proactive compliance.
- Identify a better sign-up and notification process for snow removal evenings
- Increase number of tow trucks for initial callout from one to two
- Potentially change tow cutoff time from 2 a.m. to 1 a.m.

Next Steps

Based on the Council's direction, a special Traffic Authority meeting would be held to receive public testimony. Staff would then implement a multi-faceted public education effort to inform residents, visitors, businesses and workers regarding these options.

Staff would continue to 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

Last year's pilot resulted in an approximate cost of \$4,500 between the hourly tow contract and revenues received from those who received towing/parking tickets.