

CITY OF RICHLAND CENTER - AGENDA ITEM DATA SHEET

Agenda Item: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 606 Relating to Removal of Snow and Ice from Public Sidewalks

Requested & Presented by: Darcy Perkins, Municipal Services Specialist

Meeting Date: Finance and Common Council on 02-03-2026

Committee Review: Public Works on 01-15-2026 – *Motion by Schultz to forward Ordinance 2026-___, amending Chapter 606 relating to removal of snow and ice from public sidewalks to the Finance Committee for review and recommendation to the Common Council. Seconded by Fruit. Motion carried 2-0 by voice vote.*

Background: Chapter 606 governs snow and ice removal from public sidewalks. The current ordinance contains outdated procedures that have delayed enforcement and hindered cost recovery. Staff revised the ordinance for clarity, consistency, and enforceability, while aligning with Wisconsin statutes and best practices.

The proposed revision:

- Repeals and recreates Chapter 606 in a simplified format.
- Requires sidewalks to be cleared within 12 hours of snowfall ending.
- Clarifies responsibility regardless of source, including corner lots and curb ramps.
- Removes mandatory courtesy notices while retaining them as an option.
- Streamlines enforcement and billing procedures, allowing actual abatement and administrative costs to be recovered through special charges on the tax roll.

Cost Basis and Justification: Staff evaluated the City's actual labor and equipment costs incurred when performing weed, grass, and brush abatement to ensure the proposed are reasonable, defensible, and proportionate. A minimum charge of $\frac{1}{2}$ hour per occurrence is proposed to cover mobilization, equipment, and documentation. Typical City costs range from \$45–\$60 based on staff time and equipment.

Legal Authority: Wis. Stat. §§ 66.0113–66.0114 (municipal citations); 66.0907 (special charges for abatement); Ch. 74 (tax roll collection).

Department Recommendation: Staff recommends adoption of Ordinance 2026-02, amending Chapter 606 relating to removal of snow and ice from public sidewalks.

Financial Impact: The ordinance improves the City's ability to recover abatement costs. Previously, procedural delays often resulted in costs being absorbed by the City rather than the owner responsible for the property.

Requested Action:

FINANCE: Motion to recommend to the Common Council adoption of Ordinance 2026-02, amending Chapter 606 relating to removal of snow and ice from public sidewalks.

COUNCIL: Motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-02, amending Chapter 606 relating to removal of snow and ice from public sidewalks, as presented.

Attachment(s):

- Ordinance #2026-02_Amending Chapter 606 Relating to Removal of Snow and Ice from Public Sidewalks