



CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701-2724

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January 27, 2016

Rapid City Common Council
300 Sixth Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

Re: Snow Removal Procedure, Ordinance No. 6092, Chapter 10.48

Dear Council Members:

Following the snowstorm in mid-December, I initiated a review of City Ordinance 6092, Chapter 10.48 regulating parking during snow removal. The ordinance, originally passed in 1986 was designed to enable efficient snow removal within the downtown area of Rapid City. It's hard to say for sure, but approximately 15 years ago the City stopped utilizing the practice of snow-storm parking regulation, presumably because of complaints about towing of cars.

Flash forward to December 2015: A couple of mild snowstorms brought the issue to the surface again. After studying the costs associated with snow removal and the current removal procedure, I found that snow removal crews were attempting to remove snow from the downtown area without towing cars while trying to only make one attempt at snow removal in the downtown area per storm. The reason for the one attempt, was to save money.

Due to the tight spaces and the actual removal of snow, it is necessary for City crews to hire private contractors to assist with snow removal downtown. Each removal procedure downtown results in approximately \$30,000 in expense to the City. The Street Superintendent's intent is admirable. He wants to do the best job possible while saving as much money as possible. The inevitable result of this however, is that the citizens are not satisfied with downtown snow removal, as there are many piles of snow left in parking spaces and along the curb and gutters from the inefficient removal.

During the mid-December snowstorm there were as many as two dozen cars on Main Street after 2:00 AM. Some of these vehicles belong to downtown residents, and some are simply left in place by the bar crowd after an evening of excessive drinking (good for them – bad for snow removal).

In late December, there was another snowstorm in which we removed the snow twice from the downtown area. The result was much better, in fact, to my knowledge no complaints were received from downtown businesses or people travelling through. Lack of complaints is nice, but that cannot be the ultimate goal. The additional snow removal efforts cost the City an additional \$30,000.



EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

As part of the ordinance review procedure, and with the input of the City Attorney, Public Works Director, and the Street Superintendent, we made several draft changes to the existing snow removal ordinance. A copy of the ordinance along with the map is attached to this letter. In a nutshell, the downtown snow removal area has been simplified and a towing provision has been added.

Obviously if we are to start towing cars again in order to accommodate quality and efficient snow removal, we will need to enhance our public communication and notification of the new procedure.

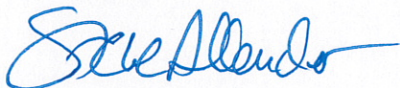
Initially, there will be a surge of media coverage regarding the procedure. We will accompany this media attention with the use of social media as well as making contacts with downtown businesses and residents. We will be investigating the use of a custom mobile application that may enhance notification. Once the public has been trained, and if our application of the ordinance is consistent we can expect a great deal of cooperation from the public. For a vehicle owner who parks downtown, cooperation will be easy based on the fact that the emergency snow removal efforts do not begin until 2 AM. Also, there is plenty of alternative parking space for overnight parking in the downtown area.

If and when the updated snow removal procedure is put into place, and if the situation calls for towing vehicles, I would propose that during the first snowstorm and possibly the second that the vehicles be towed to an alternative lot with the City picking up the expense. Naturally, this will have to be a judgment call and will depend on our pre-event notification efforts and effectiveness. After the initial period, towing bills will be the responsibility of the owners.

Please review the attached ordinance chapter and map. I will put the item on the City Council agenda for the February 16 meeting.

If you have any questions, comments or input into this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Steve Allender
Mayor of Rapid City

ORDINANCE NO. 6092

AN ORDINANCE TO UPDATE THE SNOW REMOVAL PROCEDURE IN THE CITY OF RAPID CITY BY AMENDING CHAPTER 10.48 OF THE RAPID CITY MUNICIPAL CODE.

WHEREAS, Rapid City Municipal Code Chapter 10.48 delineates certain snow removal areas, snow removal processes, and potential penalties for violation of parking restrictions during declared snow removal events; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Rapid City has deemed it is in the best interest of the City to amend the foregoing to reflect current City policy regarding snow removal areas, snow removal processes, and to update potential penalties for violation of parking restrictions during declared snow removal events.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the City of Rapid City that Chapter 10.48 of the Rapid City Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

10.48.010 Definitions.

For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

A. ***EMERGENCY SNOW ROUTE.*** The Director of Public Works or his or her designee shall have the authority to designate public streets as ***EMERGENCY SNOW ROUTES*** when, in the Director's opinion, the streets necessarily must be cleared of snow ~~more than 4 inches in depth~~ for the safe and orderly flow of traffic for the safety, health and welfare of the general public. ~~Any~~The Public Works Department shall maintain a publicly available map defining the streets designated as ~~an~~ emergency snow routes. ~~shall be clearly marked by uniform signage.~~

B. ***PRIMARY DOWNTOWN SNOW REMOVAL AREA CORE.*** That area of the city enclosed within the boundaries of ~~West Boulevard~~ Ninth Street on the west, ~~Rapid Street and Apolda Street on the north,~~ Fifth Street on the east, Omaha Street on the north, and St. Joseph Kansas City Street on the south, to include the entire roadway of those designated streets.

~~C. ***SECONDARY SNOW REMOVAL AREA.*** That area of the city enclosed within the boundaries of West Boulevard on the west, Omaha on the north, East Boulevard on the east, thence west on St. Joseph Street to Second Street, thence south on Second Street to Kansas City Street, thence west to West Boulevard, and, except for that portion of Second Street between Kansas City Street and St. Joseph Street, the area includes the entire roadway of those designated streets, and further that the secondary snow removal area shall not include the area specifically defined as the primary snow removal area.~~

~~D.C. ***SNOW REMOVAL ALERT.*** Such times as there is a snow accumulation on the public streets of 2 inches or more, or such times as the Public Works Director or his or her designee declares that snow removal operations on the public streets will commence and that the provision~~

of this chapter in regard to parking on public streets during snow removal operations are effective and will be enforced.

~~E.D.~~ **STREET.** The entire width of any public roadway within the city, and it shall not be limited to those roadways designated as a **STREET** but shall include all other names by which public roadways are designated.

10.48.020 Declaration of snow removal alert.

When the Director of Public Works or his or her designee determines that snow removal from the public streets will commence, the Director of Public Works or his or her designee will announce through local news media and whatever other sources are available that there has been declared a snow removal alert and that the provisions of this chapter will be effective and be enforced, designating a particular date and time when the alert shall commence. The determination to declare a snow removal alert will be based on the then existing weather conditions, and the amount of snow then on the ground or expected according to forecasts from the National Weather Service.

10.48.030 Restrictions—Designated.

~~A.—Primary Downtown snow removal area core.~~ During the hours of 2:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m., no person shall park or allow to remain parked any vehicle or trailer on any public streets in the area defined as the primary downtown snow removal areas core in § 10.48.010 when the Director of Public Works or his or her designee declares a snow removal alert, ~~for that area.~~

~~—B. Secondary snow removal area.~~ When the Director of Public Works or his or her designee has declared a snow removal alert for the secondary snow removal area as defined in §10.48.010, no person shall park or allow to remain parked any vehicle or trailer on any public street within that area between the hours of 9:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.

~~—C.B. Emergency snow route.~~ No person shall park or allow to remain parked any vehicle or trailer on any street designated as an emergency snow route as defined by § 10.48.010 when snow depth exceeds 4 inches; the Director of Public Works or his or her designee declares a snow removal alert.

10.48.040 Restrictions—Termination.

After a snow removal alert has been declared, there will be no declaration of its termination, but the alert shall terminate and the provisions of § 10.48.030A. and B. become not effective nor enforceable as to any particular street or portion of a street, as soon as that street or portion thereof has been plowed and cleared of snow accumulation, curb-to-curb, and the snow removal equipment is no longer operating in that area, after which normal parking may be resumed until the next declared snow removal alert.

10.48.050 Restrictions—Violation.

A. Parking contrary to and in violation of § 10.48.030 shall be deemed prohibited parking and any vehicle or trailer parked in violation shall be subject to a fine of \$25. The owner or operator of the vehicle found in violation of this section ~~may~~shall, within 72 hours of the time when the

notice of violation was attached to the vehicle, pay to the office of the city's Finance Officer-Treasury, as penalty for ~~and in full satisfaction of the violation,~~ the sum. If the owner or operator fails to pay the sum within the 72-hour period, he or she ~~may~~shall pay to the office, ~~within the next 2 weeks,~~ as a penalty for ~~and in full satisfaction of the violation,~~ the sum of \$35. ~~Upon failure of the owner or operator to pay either of the sums to the office within the time periods indicated, and upon conviction of a violation of this section, the owner or operator shall be fined not less than \$45 nor more than \$100, which fine shall be collected by the Magistrate Court.~~

B. In addition to the foregoing fine and penalty, any vehicle parked in violation of this chapter may be removed from a street by the police department and placed in storage, and the owner thereof shall pay the charges for towing and storage of the vehicle so removed.

CITY OF RAPID CITY

Mayor

ATTEST:

Finance Officer

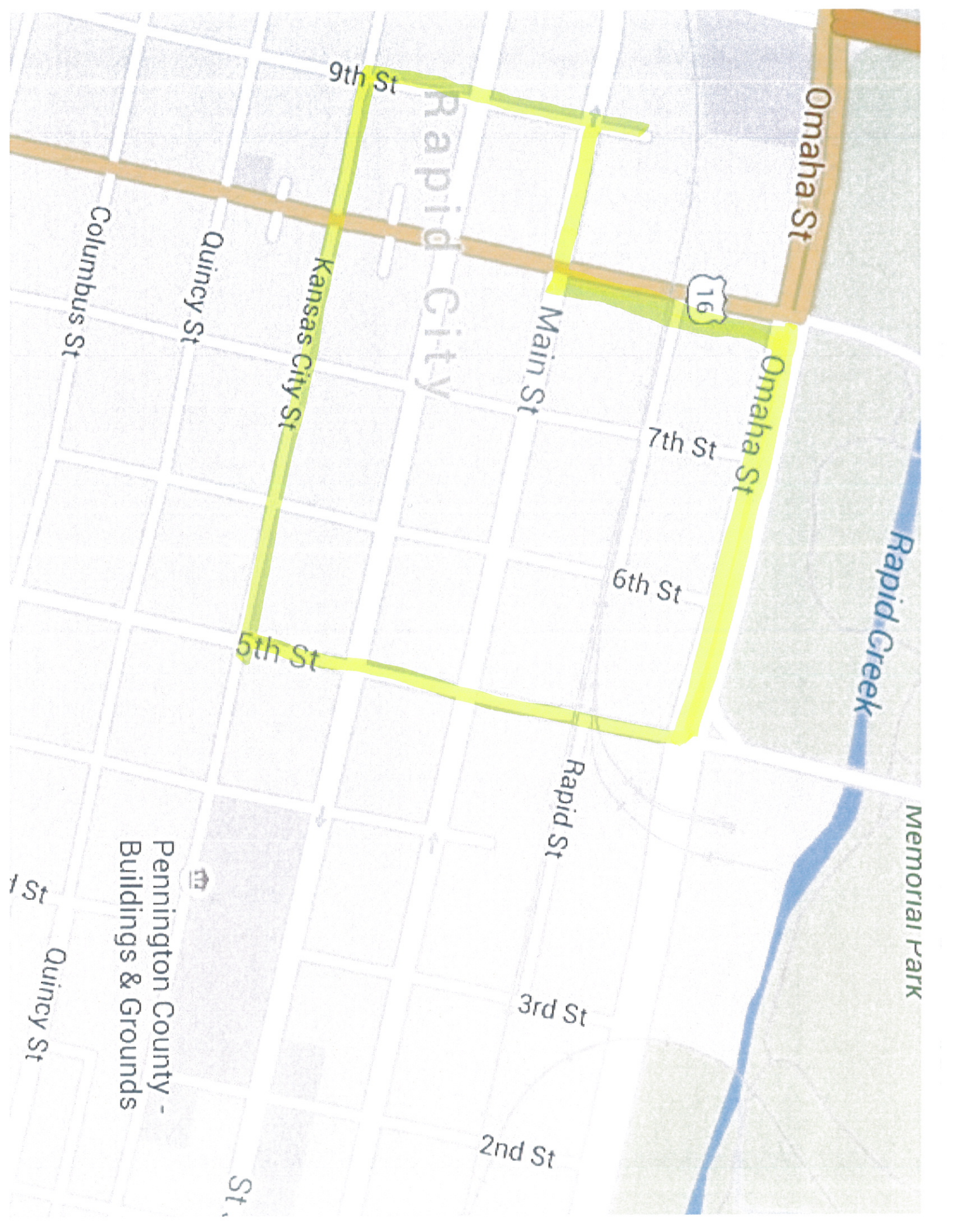
(SEAL)

First Reading:

Second Reading:

Published:

Effective:



Rapid City

Omaha St

16

Omaha St

Rapid Creek

Memorial Park

Pennington County -
Buildings & Grounds

9th St

Main St

7th St

6th St

5th St

Rapid St

3rd St

2nd St

Columbus St

Quincy St

Kansas City St

1st St

Quincy St

St