

Kemmerer City Council Special Session Minutes
Wednesday, January 24th, 2024

The Kemmerer City Council met in special session this 24th day of January, 2024 at 6:00 pm at the South Lincoln Training and Event Center, Kemmerer, Wyoming. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Present on roll call were Mayor Bill Thek, Councilman Mark Quinn, Councilman Bill Price, Councilwoman Jamie Thornock, Councilman Robert Bowen, Councilman Marlin Bautista, Councilman Dale Hicks;

City Staff Present: City Administrator Brian Muir, Public Works Director Chad Nielson, Golf and Parks Director Cory See, Events and Recreation Director Trista Gordon, and Police Officer Michael Stauffer.

Motion was made by Councilmember Dale Hicks to approve the agenda; seconded by Councilman Mark Quinn and unanimously approved by council present.

Presentation:

Snow removal policy guiding principles were presented by Brian Muir:

Guiding Principles

- Enforceable codes
- Public participation in snow removal
- Careful not to compete with private sector
- Cost efficiency
- Resource capacity
- Risk & safety
- Fair & Equitable Service for all residents

Chad/Public Works PowerPoint presentation:

- Talked about importance of school bus routes as a priority.
- Have done entire town twice so far.
- 5 guys, blade, loader, dump trucks, blower
- There are time restraints in regards to CDL drivers and hours
- Holland needs to be on the bus route—change policy.

Cory/Golf & Parks presentation:

- Passed out a handout to attendees
- Explained what they do and their time frame. Refer to handout.
- Rec Center parking lot, City property, Old Town Hall, Fishing ponds lots/walking trails

- If they were to shovel in front of businesses it is currently 952 sq ft. it would be additional 11,000 sq ft.

Council Comments at Beginning:

Mark Quinn: Not here to attack people. We need to do a good job. Policy issues needed- Public Works dept. if following current policy. Is the Citizen notification effective?

Jamie Thornock: Be polite and respectful and open for suggestions for change.

Business: Public input, discussion, and questions

Public Suggestions/Input/Comment

Alice Palkow 1317 1st West Ave: Are business owned by people or city? Business hires their own people. Triangle Businesses- Clean their own walks not city crews. It will save the city money and they are already doing it now. Do we have a map of comprised individuals (i.e. elderly). Is there a plan in place.

Brian Muir explained that current requirement is for business owners to take care of their own sidewalks and that City also must take care of the sidewalks in front of the lot that they own in the triangle.

Chad said we do have a piece of equipment to those after snow storm levels off.

Councilman Bowen explained that you don't have to have sidewalks cleared until business opens. Would be good have business clearing by City to avoid berms placed by business. Current code says business walks need to be cleared before doors open (i.e. varying times).

Penny Lint 203 Mica: Her business, J. C. Penney, is currently taking care of their snow in the triangle.

Scott Miller 1425 Coulson: Consider the efficiency of a 1 ton plow truck in neighborhood= positive. Saw the sander doing it effectively in his neighborhood.

Linda Slovernick 1002 7th West: Trucks go around corner without stopping. Going 40-50 mph. Would like state statue #. Not safe.

Susan Skaggs 1795 Del Rio: Almost t-boned by dump truck. They need to following traffic laws.

Sue Percival 1806 Garnet: What changed. Why did they used to be a berm. This year, all the snow is plowed up in front of my apartment. 4-foot drive in front of apartments facing 9th West.

Lance Cattelan 2028 Rolling Hills Road: One way in is one way out. Property owner's top of hill used to let them put snow fences up. Could new owner be approached? Harley Hammond might let them. Oppose salting. Streets will degrade.

Doug Hartman 1920 Berry: Gap in the snow fence that has a hole in it. That could stop a lot of snow. Canyon Road has a hole in snow fence also.

Chad Nielson sad Rick Shimmion got in touch with owner and they're Ok with it being fixed.

Connie McMillan 510 Garnet: Read snow policy 3.0—What does it mean? Needs a re-write. Lower part of town it says one pass to sides then put to berm. Doesn't understand why they can't plow to the middle. Who determines if it gets pushed to the side or the middle?

Penny Lint 203 Mica: Is that street (Garnet) able to be put in the middle?

Shane Stoddard 1406 1st West: Sage street is just as wide. Can we look at the ordinance to see if we can't put it to the middle? We are understaffed and maybe we should look at different positions. Low budget, limited resources. Parking space going up antelope get cars off streets so people can do their jobs. Get code enforcement. Have them write ordinance to have people park on different place.

Nicky Tucker 1309 Garnet: City is pushing snow on their lots so they can't get their trailer out. Town Hall—she couldn't get a parking spot, then when she got one she fell. Cedar side has a big berm. Need to figure out how to get Cedar ave.

James Edinger 321 Cedar Ave: Plow around lady who has car in front of her house. Plows his mailbox in. Golf course parking lot. Why do they plow the whole thing? (Cory See addressed it.) Suggested resolution to have cars move to one side one day then to other another day. Says no policy that cars can't park on street.

Nancy Orgill 417 Emerald: Is it a policy that you're supposed to shovel your walks?

Matt Mochel 925 Sage: With county for 17 years. They do get berms on Garnet, Beech's, Topaz. Doesn't think middle berms would work. He thinks the big difference between Diamondville and Kemmerer is that aren't cars on the street.

Dale Hicks 717 Cedar: Made good use of communication last year. Need to be using it more.

Mike Stauffer 1221 Sage: Would like City council to re-evaluate the parking policy. Put more bite into it so they can enforce it.

Doug Hartmann: appreciates what Chad and crew for their work.

Mark Quinn: for people who couldn't attend: With trucks hauling snow, why don't they have plows on them?--Suggestion for city to get outside help. Request to put more sand on hills? Then he had someone complain about too much sand.

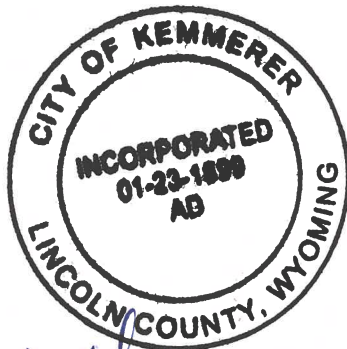
Bill Price: We work for the citizens and need your input. Thank you for coming. Keep informing us and we will see how it can be changed.

Suggestions and public and staff input scribed by Trista Gordon on the white board:

- Do Public Works employees have to stop at stop signs during snow removal? (Being studied now= Emergency vehicle classification) Citizens concerns about multiple calls w/dump trucks
- Changes to upper Garnet (9th West Area) snow put on sidewalk areas. Chad is looking at that.
- Snow fence in Rolling Hills area to help with drifting
- Opposition to salting roads (street degradation)
- Gap in snow fence near Dell Rio & Berry and canyon road (can they be repaired) possible private property issues.
- Policy 3.0 Below 3rd west. Snow will be pushed to sides with 1 pass down the middle then pushed back again to curb and gutter on each side. As time allows it will then berm to the middle and be picked up.
- Berms in lower part of town are needing picked up 4' high- 4' wide
- Narrow roads plow to middle similar to Diamondville in older part of town. Is it doable? Very few cars park on the Roads there. Difference between Diamondville and Kemmerer
- Sage Street struggles when snow is pushed to sides- primarily east side. Sage and Cedar one way roads
- Public Works is understaffed & limited/aging equipment. More budget
- Lower Antelope on-street parking should use code enforcement to move vehicles.
- Request cars park on North side on day and South side another day= possible suggestion.
- 1 ton pickup is pushing snow on private lot on Coulson Circle
- Old Town Hall sidewalks (Cedar side) tight with snow. There are limited parking options and front snow berms.
- Vehicles not being moved off roads- advised there is no policy or ordinance to have them moved
- Need for a possible 2nd blower to use in the more open areas (upper sunset or canyon)
- Cedar berms near mailboxes
- Overtime balance with CDL hours
- Golf course parking lot plowing- does it need to be entirely plowed? Explained used as parking for those needing off-road parking like snow emergency and need access for golf crew, recreation and water point key (Semis & water trucks)
- Annually look @ which streets should prohibit on-street parking
- Sidewalk shoveling enforcement- code enforcement

- County (Matt Mochel) they have a piece of equipment that allows them to clean berms on all four sides of courthouse
- Extremely limited parking if those berms were in the middle of those roads. (Beech, topaz, sage, garnet)
- Can we not plow until a certain depth? (leave 2-3 inches before plowing)
- Council re-evaluate the parking code to make it more easily enforceable. Also towing policy
- Plow trucks/dump trucks- why don't they run with plows on them?
- Sandwich boards "Don't park on this street from (date and time) for snow removal
- Can the city use outside contractors to help in emergency situations?
- Hills need more sand to lower slickness
- DOT regulations VS safety of drivers and the public (watch fatigue)
- Keep dialog open with councilman regarding policies
- Compare Kemmerer to similar municipalities- so far unable to find a town that allows private snow in streets

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Hicks; motion seconded by Councilman??? and unanimously approved by all present. Meeting adjourned about 7:44 pm



CITY OF KEMMERER, WYOMING

BY:

W. J. Thek

WILLIAM J THEK,
MAYOR

ATTEST:

Natasia Diers

NATASIA DIERS

CITY CLERK-TREASURER