



Snow and Ice Policy
Adopted by Resolution #5107-2019
August 12, 2019

The City of Oelwein Street Department is responsible for providing snow and ice control to Oelwein's streets. The City does not guarantee that streets will be free of snow and ice after plowing. Bare, dry pavement should not be expected and will not be provided. The City attempts to maintain adequate traction for vehicles properly equipped for winter driving conditions.

Timing of snow removal operations will be made by the Utility Superintendent or designee. Many things determine when the snowplows are sent out: the rate of snowfall per hour; moisture content of the snow; ambient temperature of the air; temperature of the pavement; wind direction and velocity; the time of day; and forecast of the predicted snowfall.

Sand and/or deicing agent material is routinely applied at approaches to intersections and hills only. If unusual road or weather conditions exist material may be applied elsewhere. These areas will be determined by the Utility Department or by request of the Oelwein Police Department with the following conditions. 1) Alleys and parking lots are not commonly treated unless unusual conditions exist. 2) Hills and curves will generally receive treatment before level straight road segments of the same priority.

For snow removal efficiency the city requires that no person shall park, abandon or leave unattended any vehicle on any public street during snow removal operations for 24 hours; or the snow has been removed or plowed from said street or parking area and the snow has ceased to fall. The parking ban is in effect when three inches or more of snow or ice is predicted by the National Weather Service or has fallen. Vehicles may be moved to the Cities North Parking Lot located in the Downtown Business District during the parking ban. Failure to remove vehicles from the public street will result in a municipal infraction with additional cost resulting from a towing fees and storage.

During the above described snowfall event the downtown streets will be cleared to the curbs. At a later time, the city will, based on snowfall amount, either haul away or push into the parking lots the accumulated snow.

The city is divided into quadrants consisting of the NE, NW, SE, SW and the downtown. Operator(s) are assigned snow removal of a quadrant based on the established priority levels as follows:

1. Streets (Generally higher priority traffic areas first IE; Downtown, schools, hospital, high traffic count areas first.)
2. Police Station and Fire Station
3. Municipal Parking Lots
4. Alleys



Therefore, snow operations of a lesser priority may occur in a quadrant before a higher priority is completed in another. Generally, if staffing and equipment are available all three priorities will run concurrently.

It is unlawful for any person, owner, tenet, and business, whether retail or wholesale, to throw, push, or place or cause to be thrown, pushed or placed any ice or snow from private property, sidewalks, driveways, parking lots or alleys onto the traveled way of a street or alley so as to obstruct vision, gutters, impeded the passage of vehicles upon the street or alley or to create a hazardous condition therein. Any such placement requiring removal of snow or ice accumulations by the City shall subject the owner or tenet, to a municipal infraction and they may also be accessed cleanup expenses.

Any business, whether retail or wholesale, located within downtown business district described below may place ice and snow from sidewalks along the curb of the abutting street for removal by the city during a snow event and or in coordination with city pickup or prior to snow removal operations. Snow and ice from any other private property, parking lots, driveways and alleys will not be permitted to be placed onto a city street, parking lot or alley. Any such placement requiring removal of snow or ice accumulations by the City shall subject the owner or tenet, to a municipal infraction and they may also be accessed cleanup expenses.

Downtown Business District consist of:

1st Street from North Frederick to 1st Avenue Northeast.

West Charles from 3rd Avenue Northwest to 1st Avenue Northeast.

1st Street from 2nd Avenue Southwest to 1st Avenue Southeast.

2nd Street from 1st Avenue Southwest to South Frederick Avenue.

North Frederick Avenue from 1st Avenue to Charles Street.

South Frederick Avenue from Charles Street to 3rd Street.

1st Avenue Southwest from West Charles to 2nd Street Southwest.

2nd Avenue Southwest from West Charles Street to 1st Street Southwest.

1st Avenue Northeast from 1st Street Northeast to East Charles Street. (West side parking only.)

1st Avenue Southeast from East Charles to 1st Street Southeast. (West side parking only.)

Should a mailbox be removed by the fault of the city and not be removed under normal plowing conditions, the city will provide payment to the property owner as determined by the city's fee schedule. Any trash or recycling container struck with snow or ice ejected from snowplows during snow removal will be the sole responsibility of the property owner.