



**CITY OF DOVER**

## CITY COUNCIL - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting  
Meeting Location: Council Chambers - 288 Central Avenue, Dover, NH 03820  
Meeting Date: **Wednesday, February 4, 2009**  
Meeting Time: **7:00pm**

**Present:** Mayor Myers, Councilors Callaghan, Carrier, Cheney, DeDe and Weston.  
**Absent:** Deputy Mayor Trefethen, Councilors McCusker and Scott.  
**Also Present:** City Manager Joyal, City Attorney Krans and City Clerk Lavertu.

Councilor DeDe led the pledge of allegiance.

### 1. Sidewalk Snowplowing Policy

City Manager Joyal asked Doug Steele, Community Services Director, to address the Council regarding the sidewalk snowplowing policy.

Mr. Steele introduced Joe Boucher, Public Works Supervisor. He said the sidewalk snowplowing policy is written into the standard operating procedure for snowplowing, and said the sidewalks become a priority after the streets are satisfactory. He said there wasn't a strong policy, but that the City begins plowing the sidewalks as soon as the street plowing begins. He said sidewalk snow removal is the most challenging task. There are 66 miles of sidewalks in Dover, with three separate plow runs: North End, Downtown district, and South End. The City has 3 tractors that they use for sidewalk plowing: a 2001 model, a 1999 model, and a 1982 model being used as a spare when one of the others is broken down. The cost to maintain the 1999 model has been \$30,000. The 2001 model has cost the City \$42,000 to maintain, because it needed a new transmission a few years ago.

Mayor Myers asked how much a new tractor would cost.

Mr. Steele said \$126,000. He said a new tractor is provided for in the CIP within the next two years. He said for the average snowstorm it takes 70-80 hours to plow all the sidewalks, with two tractors starting in the downtown district, one going north and one going south. He said they also have to concentrate on the 2-mile radius around all of the schools. He said they were faced with many challenges, including:

1. The duration of storms and the length of time they are working.
2. The type of snow. Heavier snow sometimes takes weeks to remove.
3. Equipment breakdowns can be frequent, with broken shear pins and chains.
4. The snow blowers getting clogged with items such as recycling bins, trash bags, and mattresses.
5. Vehicles blocking sidewalks.
6. Residents and contractors filling the sidewalks with snow shoveled from their driveways.
7. A thaw/freeze cycle that makes snow hard like concrete.

Councilor DeDe asked if blocking the sidewalk was a ticketable offense.

Mr. Steele said that was correct.

Councilor DeDe said the main complaint was the timetable in getting the plowing down, and asked about getting snow blowers that cut a narrower path.

Mr. Steele said the ones the City has are effective.

City Manager Joyal said an alternative was to contract the job out to vendors.

Councilor Weston asked if one side of the street is done first.

Mr. Steele said the routes are written out for the operators, and they may not do both sides of the street at the same time.

Councilor Cheney asked if the same people who do the snowplowing also plow the sidewalks.

Mr. Steele said the City has people designated to do the sidewalks.



**CITY OF DOVER**

## CITY COUNCIL - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting  
Meeting Location: Council Chambers - 288 Central Avenue, Dover, NH 03820  
Meeting Date: **Wednesday, February 4, 2009**  
Meeting Time: **7:00pm**

Councilor Cheney asked what was being done when private contractors dumped snow on the sidewalks and streets.

Mr. Steele said the City Attorney assisted him in drafting a letter that is given to the contractor when he is seen dumping snow. He said repeat offenders would be fined.

Councilor DeDe asked how much the fine was for dumping snow in a public way.

Mr. Steele said the letter indicates that they may be subject to as much as a \$250 fine for a first offense.

Mayor Myers asked if it was true that the tractors don't fit on the Chestnut Street Bridge.

Mr. Steele said the tractor fits on the sidewalk, but the light poles are a problem and make it difficult.

Mayor Myers asked what the policy was for leaving snow on a driveway that is already cleared.

Mr. Steele said they just keep on moving, and it does anger people.

Councilor Carrier said he would like to see the Chestnut Street Bridge be a priority, because he sees people walking in the street.

Mr. Steele said he agreed.

Councilor Carrier asked the citizens for their help in clearing the sidewalks.

Councilor DeDe said the citizens could put trash receptacles on the snow bank, and then have the City workers replace the receptacles back on the snow bank. He said the citizens have to take part, and not expect the City to do it.

City Manager Joyal said he has asked the citizens to keep the sidewalks and fire hydrants clear. He said he would advise the citizens to wait a week to put trash out if a snow storm was being predicted on their trash day.

Councilor Callaghan said the fine can only be given if the contractor is caught putting snow on a public way. He asked if it would be helpful if the property owner were held responsible.

Mr. Steele said it would be helpful.

Councilor Callaghan said he doesn't hear that the sidewalks aren't being done on time, but that they aren't being done at all. He said doing one side of the street should be a priority. He asked if the public could be notified on which sidewalks will not be plowed. He asked how long tractors have been down.

Mr. Steele said the drivers carry shear pins with them. The average repair takes two hours.

Councilor Weston said she recently had an employee lose their home because the fire hydrant wasn't shoveled out. She also asked about the storm drains and the need to keep them clear.

Mr. Steele said the snow is usually pushed away from the catch basins.

Mayor Myers thanked Mr. Steele.

## **2. City Property Ordinance**

This Ordinance was initially reviewed to allow for use of the auditorium for political events.

Councilor Cheney pointed out that 79-6 was numbered incorrectly and should be 1 and 2 - not 3 and 4. Second issue was the removal of the word "partisan."

City Attorney Krans stated he was initially left it in to show the history of the Ordinance and is clarifying language. .

Councilor DeDe requested that Section 1, after candidacy, it be added: "on a first come first serve fee paid up front."

Councilor Callaghan wanted an additional Section 79-6 #3-Conservation land or other open space shall be governed by City Council or designee.



**CITY OF DOVER**

## CITY COUNCIL - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting  
Meeting Location: Council Chambers - 288 Central Avenue, Dover, NH 03820  
Meeting Date: **Wednesday, February 4, 2009**  
Meeting Time: **7:00pm**

Discussion continued on this point over whether it should be the City Manager or the City Council that manages the daily use of City land. There were also questions of this violating State statute and City ordinance. Consensus was not reached.

Councilor Callaghan wanted to amend Section K: #1 land sales, land purchase and distribution of funds shall be approved by the City Council. #2 DBIDA shall comply with all RSAs as amended. He requested that the City Manager provide historical data on DBIDA activity since creation including appraised value, sale price and what happened to funds. He stated that City Council shall have ultimate control over City land and currently DBIDA has no oversight by City Council.

Mayor Myers stated that information has been presented in the past and should be easily available. All funds went to General fund until 2002 then they were allowed to reinvest into Enterprise park and infrastructure. It was agreed to go back as far as Enterprise Park information.

Councilor Callaghan also wanted to be sure that the changes discussed in previous meeting were still going to be made and it was agreed that those changes would be made and the resolution would be forwarded to the City Council prior to being acted on.

### 3. Adjourn

Councilor DeDe made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Councilor Weston passed 6/0 at 9:25 pm.