

Snow removal plan passes

Plan doesn't include parking restrictions

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By Bridget Manley
Times assistant editor

It's official.

Snow can go from sidewalk to street in certain parts of downtown.

The Rawlins City Council approved the city's snow removal plan on third and final reading at its regular meeting Tuesday night. The plan allows business owners in downtown Rawlins to shovel snow from their sidewalks into the street, where it is to be collected by city crews.

Shoveling snow from private property into streets is normally prohibited by city ordinance. However, the plan makes an exception for parts of downtown in an effort to "maintain a walkable and accessible high-density retail downtown district."

according to city documents.

The plan is to take effect in the following areas:

- West Cedar from Sixth to Third.
- The south side of West Buffalo from Sixth to Fourth.
- Sixth from Cedar to Buffalo.
- Fifth from Buffalo to the alley between West Cedar and West Front.
- Fourth from Buffalo to West Front.

The plan — which is designed for downtown property owners who have no place to put snow that accumulates on their sidewalks — does not impose parking restrictions in these areas.

At their Nov. 17 meeting, councilors voted to amend the existing ordinance to

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Other actions

At its regular meeting Tuesday, the Rawlins City Council:

- Heard a report from Old Pen Joint Powers Board members. The number of visitors at the Wyoming Frontier Prison as of Oct. 31 exceeded visitor numbers for 2008, Tina Hill, Wyoming Frontier Prison site director, said.
- Made appointments to open board positions. Councilors voted unanimously to appoint Rawlins resident Steve Nicholson to one of three vacant positions on the Board of Adjustments. Councilors also voted to reappoint Rawlins Police Chief Mike Reed and Erland Erickson to the Carbon County

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exempt parts of downtown from the snow shoveling prohibition in an effort to avoid imposing parking restrictions in parts of the city.

Several councilors voiced support for not imposing the parking restrictions.

Councilor Judy Dixon cast a nay vote on the measure, saying: "I think we are trying to pass an ordinance that really is going to be an impossibility to work with."

She added Tuesday that she had been opposed to not imposing parking restric-

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tions in the area impacted by the plan because it could make it more difficult for city crews to collect the snow if cars are parked along the sidewalk.

In the past, city officials have been willing to work with residents who put their snow into the street so long as it doesn't impede traffic, councilors said Tuesday.

Still, Councilor Steve Kovachevich suggested another option.

"If you have a better place to put it than the street ... please do that," he said.

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