

★ Roll Call Number

Agenda Item Number

50

Date January 28, 2008

Request to speak from Don Beck, 716 62nd Street, Des Moines,
to speak regarding Pleasant Drive from 56th Street to 63rd Street being
designated as a Snow Route.

Moved by _____ to receive and file comments.

| COUNCIL ACTION | YEAS | NAYS | PASS | ABSENT |
|----------------|------|------|------|--------|
| COWNIE | | | | |
| COLEMAN | | | | |
| HENSLEY | | | | |
| KIERNAN | | | | |
| MAHAFFEY | | | | |
| MEYER | | | | |
| VLISSIS | | | | |
| TOTAL | | | | |

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

Mayor

CERTIFICATE

I, DIANE RAUH, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

City Clerk

January 12, 2008

Mayor and City Council members,

On December 24, 2007 I sent a letter to the Public Works Director, Mr. Stowe, regarding the priority for snow removal on Pleasant Dr. from 56th St. to 63rd St. His response to my letter dated January 7, although very proper, did not address my concerns. Mr. Stowe stated existing policy and assured that the street was plowed within the parameters established for residential snow removal. He did not address the fact that Pleasant Dr. had not received priority for snow removal as had been promised several times in the past. Copies of both of these letters are attached.

Mr. Stowe had originally responded to a petition the City Council had received on July 23, 2001, submitted by my neighbors, requesting that this section of Pleasant Dr. be considered for a Snow Route designation. Mr. Stowe recommended against this action for three reasons: "1) chemical and abrasive impact on residential streets; 2) Historic standards for snow route designation; and 3) The allocation of public resources for snow removal."

I contend that Pleasant Dr. would receive no more chemicals and abrasives than it receives now, only sooner than it now receives these treatments. As relating to "historic standards for snow route designation", I cannot understand why Cummins Pkwy. From University Ave. to Merle Hay Road would be designated a snow route and not Pleasant Dr. This section of Cummins Pkwy. Is not a bus route and is certainly not an arterial street. Mr. Stowe continues in his August 2, 20001 letter stating "Pleasant Drive from 56th to 63rd Steets has no unusual geometric conditions which would cause residents undue hardships during inclement weather". He also states that "any increase in the number of miles of streets for snow routes will only serve to reduce our ability to maintain a high priority of snow removal service on those streets which are of utmost importance to the Des Moines transportation system".

In fact Pleasant Dr. between 56th and 63rd St. has two steep hills in this section and the westbound section just east of 63rd St. is going downhill to the stop sign at 63rd St. This stop sign has been hit in the past by someone unable to control their vehicle because of ice and our mail carrier has stated he has witnessed several vehicles sliding into this intersection. This street serves as access to the westbound freeway for residents living east of 56th street as well since there is no westbound access to the freeway on 56th St.

I cannot understand why Cummins Pkwy., a residential street with no steep hills and no through traffic, can be considered a snow route and Pleasant Dr. cannot. Additionally, if the Public Works Dept is concerned about equipment and personnel used for snow routes, I would suggest that Cummins Pkwy. be removed as a snow route and Pleasant Dr. be added, which would reduce the total snow route system slightly.

My neighbors and I await your response.

Sincerely,



Don Beck
716 62nd St.
277-1915

December 24, 2007

Mr. William Stowe
Public Works Director
216 SE 5th St.
Des Moines, IA 50309

Dear Bill,

Hopefully you may remember 5-7 years ago when our neighborhood petitioned the City Council to classify Pleasant Dr. from 56th St. to 63rd St. as a Snow Route. We thought this to be a reasonable request since this section of Pleasant Dr. is the only through street from 56th St. to 63rd St. between Grand Ave. and University Ave. It also serves as access to westbound I-235 for persons living east of 56th St. since there is no westbound entrance ramp from 56th St. to I-235. Since Pleasant Dr. has so much traffic, over 1700 vehicles/day, as counted in 2001, the snow gets compacted and turns to ice before it gets plowed. This is a potential hazard since westbound traffic is going downhill towards the stop sign at 63rd St.

Our request for a snow route designation was denied for various reasons. Subsequently I contacted Bruce Braun to request that Pleasant Dr. be given first priority after the snow routes were cleared. He assured me that could be done. Last year I observed a snow event where the streets south of Ingersoll Ave. and west of 56th St. were plowed before Pleasant Dr. I called Mr. Braun and he again assured me that Pleasant Dr. would be given priority in future storms.

Sunday morning, December 23, 2007, at about 10:00 am, Pleasant Dr. had not been plowed and several streets south of Ingersoll Ave. had already been plowed. In addition, we observed a truck plowing 59th St. south of Grand Ave., which is a dead-end street. I then called Jay Bennett about why Pleasant Dr. hadn't been given a priority and he said he knew nothing about making Pleasant Dr. a priority after the snow routes had been cleared. He said he would call Bruce Braun about it. I have not received a call back concerning this situation and thought I would write you while the facts were fresh on my mind.

I respectfully request Pleasant Dr. be given a first priority after the Snow Routes are cleared as was promised verbally several years ago. I would appreciate a response in writing, which I could share with our neighbors.

Respectfully,



Don Beck
716 62nd St.

cc: Chris Hensley

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January 7, 2008

Mr. Don Beck
716 62nd St.
Des Moines, IA 50312-1232

Dear Don:

Thank you for your December 24, 2007 letter concerning snow removal on Pleasant Dr. from 56th St. to 63rd St.

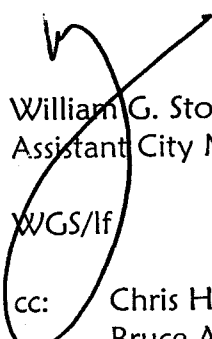
The City's snow and ice control policy establishes designated snow routes as a priority for snow removal activities following a snow event. Residential streets, including Pleasant Dr. from 56th St. to 63rd St., by policy, are plowed after the snow routes have been completed if accumulations approach four inches.

Completion of snow removal activities on the snow routes is usually accomplished within six to ten hours after the end of a snow event. When plowed, the residential streets are usually completed within 8-16 hours. On December 23, 2007, Pleasant Dr. from 56th St. to 63rd St. was plowed within 9.5 hours after the start of residential street plowing.

Since portions of Pleasant Dr. have a fairly steep grade which can cause problems for motorists after a snow event, Pleasant Dr. from 56th St. to 63rd St. receives priority residential sanding after snowfall events. This street will continue to receive attention after the snow routes are completed, as has been done in the past.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Street Maintenance Administrator Bruce Braun, or myself.

Best regards,


William G. Stowe
Assistant City Manager/Public Works/Engineering

WGS/lf

cc: Chris Hensley, Council Member, Ward III
Bruce A. Braun, Street Maintenance Administrator



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
216 SE FIFTH STREET
DES MOINES, IOWA 50309
(515) 283-4950

PROTECTING THE PUBLIC'S SAFETY,
HEALTH, & WATERWAYS

ALL-AMERICA CITY 1949, 1976, 1981, 2003

Des Moines



2003

