



Date of Council Meeting: September 26, 2015

**TOWN OF LEESBURG
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

Subject: Emergency Snow Route Expansion

Staff Contact: Keith Markel, Deputy Town Manager
Renée M. LaFollette, P.E., Director of Public Works and Capital Projects

Council Action Requested: Pass an Initiating Resolution to begin work to expand Snow Emergency Routes in Leesburg

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends Council pass the Initiating Resolution to add the following street sections to the existing list of Snow Emergency Routes:

- Edwards Ferry Road between Church Street and Harrison Street
- Davis Avenue between South King Street and Lee Avenue
- Heritage Way north of Edwards Ferry Road
- Wythe Ct., Nelson Ct., Forbes Ct., off of Heritage Way
- Catoctin Circle, S King Street to Dry Mill Road

Commission Recommendation: Not Applicable

Fiscal Impact: Minimal – the only cost to the Town would be to install Snow Emergency Route signage in expanded areas.

Work Plan Impact: Minimal – if approved, Town staff would have to install new Snow Emergency Route signage.

Executive Summary: In an effort to assist the Town in clearing streets after a snowfall, staff is requesting to expand the existing list of Snow Emergency Routes to include additional streets that are critical to the transportation network or are extremely difficult to clear with vehicles parked along the curb.

Background: The Town currently has Snow Emergency Routes in downtown. These routes include sections of Loudoun Street, Market Street, and King Street. Section 32-326 of the Town Code requires the following:

- a) It shall be unlawful for any person to park or abandon a vehicle on any snow emergency route designated by this article.
- b) It shall be unlawful for any person to obstruct or impede traffic on any snow emergency route designated by this article, when such vehicle is not equipped with effective snow tires or chains.
- c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, upon information that a vehicle is parked, stalled, stuck or abandoned on any snow emergency route designated by this article, the chief of police shall authorize immediate removal of the vehicle.
- d) The cost of removing and storing any vehicles towed or otherwise removed under subsection (c) of this section shall be charged to the owner and shall be due and payable prior to the release of any such vehicle to the owner thereof.

Having critical streets clear of parked vehicles allows street clearing crews to quickly, safely, and efficiently clear the public right of way of snow and ice. Once clear, the Snow Emergency is lifted and vehicles can return to the street for parking.

In the aftermath of Winterstorm Jonas, Town staff evaluated additional steps that could be taken to increase the effectiveness of the Town's winter weather clearing process. One issue that was identified was the fact that street clearing was impeded in certain areas because parked vehicles limited the maneuverability of plow trucks. Staff has identified three street sections and three short cul-de-sacs that presented clearing issues during past snow storms, and if designated as Snow Emergency Routes would increase the speed and effectiveness of the Town crew's clearing effort.

The Town would advertise this expansion and hold a public hearing before taking action.

Attachments: Initiating Resolution

PRESENTED September 27, 2016

RESOLUTION NO. _____

ADOPTED _____

A RESOLUTION: INITIATING AN AMENDMENT TO THE TOWN CODE TO EXPAND SNOW EMERGENCY ROUTES IN THE TOWN OF LEESBURG

WHEREAS, Town of Leesburg created certain snow emergency routes in its downtown area; and

WHEREAS, the Town Code requires those snow emergency routes to be cleared of parked vehicles to allow quick, safe and efficient clearing of snow and ice in the public right of way; and

WHEREAS, after the winter snowstorm in early 2016, Town staff evaluated additional steps that could be taken to increase the effectiveness of the Town's winter weather clearing process and identified limited maneuverability of snow plow trucks in certain areas because of parked vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the addition of certain streets to the Town's list of snow emergency routes will increase the speed and effectiveness of the snow and ice clearing effort.

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, the Council of the Town of Leesburg in Virginia resolves to:

Hold a public hearing to pass an ordinance to amend the Town Code to add street sections to the existing list of snow emergency routes.

PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2016.

David S. Butler, Mayor
Town of Leesburg

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council