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CITY OF AMESBURY
IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO

SPONSORED BY: _____ **BILL No. 2022-110**

Councilor Peter Frey

Councilor Nicholas Wheeler

An Ordinance to amend City Code, Chapter 400 Streets and Sidewalks, § 400-5, titled “Snow removal” and § 400-7, titled “Enforcement; violations and penalties.”

Summary: These revisions are intended to strengthen the City’s ability to enforce the regulations for clearing of sidewalks. The City’s budget is annually impacted by higher than anticipated snow removal costs. Consistent enforcement of City ordinances will ensure compliance with requirements and ensure DPW resources are available to more efficiently clear areas the department is responsible for. This ordinance to amend the City Code relative to snow removal will:

- Revise language, specifying the removal of snow and the treatment of ice.
- Create a procedure for a published municipal snow and ice plan.
- Provide information about resources for snow removal- either paid or complimentary based on physical ability and financial hardship.
- Increase the fines for failure to remove snow and ice within the defined time frame and add the Director of Inspectional Services and their agents to enforce this article.

Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Amesbury assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:

That City Code, Chapter 400, Streets and Sidewalks, § 400-5, titled “Snow removal.” is hereby amended as follows:

1. Existing § 400-5 D is hereby amended by inserting the language “to be removed and ice to be treated” after “shall cause all snow”, and to strike the language “to be removed” after “on such sidewalk”, such that § 400-5 D shall now read as follows:

§ 400-5 D. The tenant or occupant and, in case there shall be no tenant or occupant, the owner or any person having the care of any building or lot of land

bordering on any street, lane, court, square, or public place within the City, where there is a sidewalk, shall cause all snow to be removed and ice to be treated that may be on such sidewalk therefrom within 24 hours after the snow ceases to fall. The provisions of this subsection shall apply to snow and ice which falls from buildings as well as to that which falls from the clouds.

2. New § 400-5 E is hereby inserted as follows:

§ 400-5 E. The Department of Public works shall clear snow, ice and slush from certain city sidewalks including portions of both school pedestrian routes and specific arterial and collector roadways. Each year during the month of November, the Director of Public Works shall publish an updated snow and ice plan including sidewalk snow clearing routes. The Director of Public Works shall send a copy of the snow and ice plan to the Mayor, City Council and the Superintendent of Schools, and post on city website.

3. New § 400-5 F is hereby inserted as follows:

§ 400-5 F. The Council on Aging in collaboration with local organizations shall annually prepare lists of persons available to provide snow clearing assistance either for a fee or on a volunteer basis. Said lists shall be referenced in the snow and ice plan submitted November each year- and be made available at the City Clerk's office.

4. Existing § 400-7 A. is hereby amended by striking the word “his” therein and inserting in place thereof the word “their”, and inserting the language “the Director of Inspectional Services and their agents” after “the Director of Public Works and their agents”, such that § 400-7 A shall now read as follows:

§ 400-7 A. The enforcement of this article shall be under jurisdiction of the Director of Public Works and their agents, the Director of Inspectional Services and their agents, and members of the Amesbury Police Department.

5. Existing § 400-7 B. is hereby amended by striking the fines provided for violations of § 400-5 D, currently stated as “\$5 for the first offense and \$10 for each subsequent offense”, and inserting in place thereof “\$25 for the first offense and \$50 for each subsequent offense” such that § 400-7 B shall now read as follows:

§ 400-7 B. Violation of § 400-5 D of this article shall result in a fine of \$25 for the first offense and \$50 for each subsequent offense. Each day a violation of any section of this article continues shall constitute a separate offense.

6. This ordinance shall become effective upon its passage.