

AGENDA
CITY OF HARTFORD
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2022
6:30 P.M.

1. Call to order.
2. Roll call.
3. Public comment period.
4. State road salt contract for the 2022/2023 winter season. (Memorandum attached)
5. Snowplowing and salting procedures for the City of Hartford. (Memorandum attached)
6. Adjournment

NOTE: "PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES REQUIRING SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING SHOULD CONTACT THE CITY CLERK AT LEAST ONE (1) BUSINESS DAY PRIOR TO THE MEETING."

"MEMBERS OF THE COMMON COUNCIL MAY ATTEND THE ABOVE MEETING. PURSUANT TO STATE EX REL. BADKE V. GREENDALE VILLAGE BOARD; 173 WIS 2D 553, 494 N.W. 2D 408 (1993) SUCH ATTENDANCE MAY BE CONSIDERED A MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL. THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN SO THAT MEMBERS OF THE COMMON COUNCIL MAY ATTEND THE MEETING WITHOUT VIOLATING THE OPEN MEETING LAW."

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 25, 2022
TO: Public Works Committee
FROM: Darryl Kranz, Director of Public Works
RE: State Road Salt Contract for the 2022/2023 Winter Season

FK 10/22

The City of Hartford is again participating with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's State Road Salt Bid under the "Municipal Agreement to Purchase Sodium Chloride on WisDOT BID" to realize cost saving benefits. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation has awarded the 2022/2023 road salt bid to COMPASS MINERALS for Washington County participants. The unit price will be **\$79.89** per ton for road salt purchased this coming winter season which is \$2.89 per ton less than last year's rate per ton of \$82.78.

Under the terms of the 2022/2023 Municipal Agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the City agrees to purchase **1,500 tons** as "Guaranteed Seasonal Fill" to be delivered prior to April 30, 2023, with a reserve of 300 tons of road salt which can be obtained if winter conditions require its use. As shown on the attached Salt Usage Summary, the ten-year average of tons of salt used is **1,751 tons** per year with an average price per ton of **\$74.54**.

As of June 30, 2022, the City's salt shed contains about 1,400 tons of road salt while last year there was approximately 1,300 tons remaining after the winter season. During the 2021/2022 winter season the Public Works Department used about 1,500 tons of road salt to keep the streets safe. The city purchased 1,600 tons of road salt for the 201/2022 season total.

It continues to be in the City's best interest to participate with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation State's Road Salt Bid Contract. The City has always benefited from reliable delivery of the road salt and a better price than bidding out on its own.

\$126,000.00 has been budgeted for the 2022/2023 winter season to Account No. 100.301.533900.53824.

DK:ct

MEMORANDUM



DATE: October 25, 2022

TO: Public Works Committee

FROM: Darryl Kranz, Director of Public Works

SUBJECT: **SNOWPLOWING & SALTING Procedures for the City of Hartford**

Each year the City's snowplowing and salting procedure is reviewed with the Public Works Committee. The City of Hartford maintains approximately *90 miles of streets including connecting highways*. Every snow fall or storm presents a different challenge because snow moisture levels vary based on temperature. Heavy snow makes snow and ice removal much more difficult. The process is more efficient and effective when snow is dry and fluffy during colder temperatures.

PROCEDURE: During a minor salt and snow operation of two inches or less, the Police Department will notify the Director of Public Works of the necessity to begin salting the streets. It will normally take two hours for 4 salt trucks to cover the City of Hartford during a minor salting procedure. When two inches or more of snow have fallen, a thorough plowing and salting procedure will clear the snow and ice as quickly as possible. Crews can plow the entire City with nine (9) plows and two end loaders in approximately 5.5 hours. All of the City's trucks have wing plow attachments. It would take at least another hour to do a curb-to-curb plowing operation and that time-frame depends upon the time of day for the snowplowing/salting operation and the type of snow. Dead-end streets, cul-de-sacs and alleys are very time consuming. A daytime snowplowing operation takes twice as long as a night time snowplowing operation due to traffic and parked cars on the roadway.

The Public Works Department plows the main roads first, which are most widely used, as quickly and safely as possible. With the large industrial park and many schools, it is necessary to plow certain streets earlier in the snowplowing cycle than other streets. All state trunk highways in the City and streets leading to the industrial area and schools are plowed first. The City has four trucks equipped to use the pre-wetting process of spraying deicing salt with a solution of liquid chemical before spreading the salt on the roadway. Pre-wetting the salt helps it work more effectively as a deicing agent for two reasons: First, wet salt clings to the road instead of bouncing off or being swept off by traffic. The result is that less salt is spread, saving money and minimizing the threat to the environment. Second, to be effective as a deicing agent, salt requires moisture. Moisture dissolves the salt, releasing heat and thereby melting the ice and snow, as well as breaking the ice-road bond. When temperatures drop below freezing there is no moisture on the road, and salt alone is ineffective. Pre-wetting the salt, however, ensures that there will be enough moisture to facilitate the melting process. Pre-wetted salt works faster and at lower temperature than dry salt, with less

waste. Sodium chloride (salt) brine is a low-cost, effective alternative to liquid calcium chloride as a pre-wetting agent.

Snow and ice removal has to be prioritized based on traffic volumes to provide the greatest level of safety to the greatest number of residents as quickly as possible. Crews will continue post-storm clean up operations following initial plowing and salting so that all streets will be cleared curb-to-curb. During warmer weather conditions it may be determined to use salt only.

Extended snow storms make snow and ice removal more difficult and less effective. During these type of snow events crews will concentrate on clearing the main arterial streets until the snow fall diminishes. It is important that people use caution when driving during a snow event.

PARKING LOTS AND SIDEWALKS: There are many City parking lots from which snow must be removed. The City also maintains approximately 2 1/2 miles of sidewalks and one mile of alleys. After the streets have been plowed, City crews will use small truck-mounted plows and a skid loader to plow the sidewalks. It takes another several hours to remove the snow or salt from sidewalks and parking lots.

AIRPORT: The Hartford Municipal Airport is plowed after the City streets are completed. It takes two loaders about three hours to plow the airport.

REGULATIONS: Per Municipal Code, Section 7.11, if property owners fail to remove snow and ice from their sidewalk within 12 daylight hours after termination of any snow or ice, the City of Hartford will tag your front door with a notice. Once they receive the notice most people normally remove the snow and ice immediately. The majority of residents of the City of Hartford do an outstanding job in keeping their sidewalks clean of snow and ice, however, we have experienced problems with properties with absentee landlords failing to have snow and ice removed from sidewalks which results in complaints from neighbors.

Snow emergency and winter parking regulations go into effect between December 1 and March 31. During that time no vehicles are allowed to park on City Streets between 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. The Hartford Municipal Code under Section 7.10(2) also prevents citizens from blowing or shoveling their snow into the street. Violators of this ordinance are subject to a fine of not less than \$168.10.

COMPLAINTS: The type of snowplowing complaints received by the Public Works Department in the past usually are regarding the plow hitting a mailbox, sod is torn up adjacent to their curb & gutter, or crews had plowed too far away from the curb and the post office could not deliver their mail. Homeowners need to understand that they must clean out their own mailbox area in order to have proper mail delivery. All damage to mailboxes or sod caused by plows is replaced by City crews, except when it is clear the mailbox post was already rotted out from age.

Each year complaints are also received from citizens who feel that the plowing operation takes too long to get to their street. Snowplowing during the daytime is extremely difficult because of the number of cars on the roadways. City crews are sometimes unable to plow to the curb line because of parked vehicles. The Director of Public Works responds to all complaints received from citizens

after a snowplowing event. In general, however, people are very cooperative during a snowplowing event. Between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. when on-street parking is not allowed, City crews remove snow much more efficiently.

If you have any additional questions concerning the 2022/2023 snowplowing operations for the City of Hartford, please contact my office.

DK:ct

PublicWorksCommittee-Snowplowing&Salting2022