



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Public Works

Date: October 21, 2014

To: Honorable Kevin Reich, Chair, Transportation and Public Works Committee

Subject: **Assessment Public Hearing: Snow and Ice Removal from Public Sidewalks**

Recommendation:

Pass a Resolution to adopt the assessments in the total amount of \$127,093.85, levy the assessments, adopt the assessment roll and direct the City Clerk to transmit certified copies of the assessment roll to the Hennepin County Auditor.

Previous Directives:

August 19, 2014 – set public hearing in T&PW Committee to be held on October 21, 2014

Department Information:

Prepared by: Suzette Hjermstad, Supervisor, Public Works Special Assessment Office
Dan Bauer, Supervisor, Sidewalk Inspections
Michael Kennedy, P.E., Director, Transportation Maintenance & Repair

Approved by: _____
Steven A. Kotke, P.E., Director of Public Works

Presenter in Committee: Dan Bauer, Supervisor, Sidewalk Inspections

Financial Impact

- Special assessments against benefited properties

Community Impact

- Neighborhood Notification: Public Hearing notices were mailed on October 6, 2014
- City Goals: Natural and built spaces work together and our environment is protected.
- Comprehensive Plan: Consistent

Supporting Information

In August, 2010, City Council approved an Administrative Hearing Process for both Sidewalk Repair and Sidewalk Snow and Ice Removal assessments. This process enables Sidewalk Inspections to work directly with the property owner to set a hearing date and time with the Administrative Hearing Officer.

An assessment letter was sent instructing the property owner to contact Public Works Sidewalk Inspections in writing if they had an issue with their assessment. Sidewalk Inspections then contacted the property owner to discuss their concerns regarding the pending assessment. This allowed Sidewalk Inspections and the property owner to agree upon resolution in many of the cases, eliminating the need to proceed further.

Sidewalk Snow & Ice Removal Assessments to be Levied

The properties on the list to be assessed, dated September 26, 2014, as on file in the Office of the City Clerk and with the City Engineer's Special Assessment Office, had the snow and ice removal work done by the City, were sent a bill for the cost of the removal work and were notified that a special assessment for the removal charge plus interest would be added to the real estate taxes if the charges were not paid through the billing process.

The amount to be assessed as special assessment principal is the cost of the removal work which includes the sidewalk administrative fee of 10% of the cost of the work. The total principal amount of the proposed assessments on the list of properties to be assessed is \$129,384.76. Prepayments have been received to reduce the amount of the assessments to \$127,093.85. The assessments would be collected in their entirety on the 2015 real estate tax statements with interest. The interest rate will be determined by the assessment bond sale. Information has been provided in the Notices as to how property owners may prepay the assessments in full without interest if they so choose.

T&PW – Your Committee recommends passage and summary publication of the accompanying Resolution adopting the assessments, levying the assessments and adopting the assessment roll for unpaid Sidewalk Snow and Ice Removal charges on the list of properties as on file with the Office of the City Clerk and with the City Engineer’s Special Assessment Office.

Reich

Adopting and levying the assessments, and adopting the assessment roll for Sidewalk Snow and Ice Removal charges on the list of properties dated September 26, 2014, as on file in the Office of the City Clerk and with the City Engineer's Special Assessment Office.

Whereas, preliminary to the public hearing, an Administrative Hearing was held to consider any objections or comments regarding unpaid charges for removals of snow and ice from public sidewalks; and

Whereas, a public hearing was held on October 21 2014 in accordance with Chapter 8, Sections 12 and 13 of the Minneapolis City Charter to consider the proposed assessments as shown on the proposed assessment roll on file in the Office of City Clerk and with the City Engineer's Special Assessment Office, and to consider all written and oral objections and statements regarding this matter;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the proposed assessments against the affected properties on the list dated September 26, 2014 in the total amount of \$129,384.76 as shown on the proposed assessment rolls on file in the Office of the City Clerk and with the City Engineer's Special Assessment Office and reduced to \$127,093.85 due to payments received, are hereby adopted and levied;

Be It Further Resolved that the assessments be collected in their entirety on the 2015 real estate tax statements with interest.

Be It Further Resolved that the assessment roll as prepared by the City Engineer be and hereby is adopted and that the City Clerk is hereby directed to transmit certified copies of said assessment roll to the Hennepin County Auditor.