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REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Matthew R. Walsh, Director of Redevelopment, Downtown Services,
& Special Projects

DATE: August 25, 2021

SUBJECT: Jackson Street (Franklin to Highland) Winter Parking Ban

Recommendation:

- Accept the following report; and,
- Set the attached ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances; Title II, Traffic Code; Chapter 18, Parking, Article 18-1, Stopping, Standing and Parking, Section 18-1-7.1, c, Parking Prohibited During Certain Hours and Months in Designated Places, Schedule IX, for public hearing on October 12, 2021

Background:

In January 2017, the Parking Committee initiated a comprehensive review of narrow streets located in Wards 4, 5, and 6. The study area was predominately focused on the neighborhoods located to the south, west, and north of the Downtown Central Business District.

This effort was initiated in response to growing resident complaints and concerns regarding a variety of parking issues. These included: difficulty accessing / egressing driveways, safe travel on narrow streets when snow banks are present and vehicles are parked, the City's ability to effectively and efficiently clear snow from certain narrow streets, as well as the ability for emergency service vehicles to safely and efficiently navigate narrow streets when vehicles are parked.

Working with City staff, the Parking Committee identified and studied approximately 143 narrow street segments within the study area. Of this total, approximately 84 were of potential concern.

To make review process manageable, the Parking Committee subdivided the study area into 4 separate zones.

In the fall of 2019, the Parking Committee conducted a review of narrow streets in Zone 4 of the study area (i.e. the Old North Cemetery Neighborhood). On March 9, 2020 the City Council approved Ordinances #3062, #3063, and #3064 which implemented various changes to narrow streets in the Zone 4 neighborhood.

Discussion:

In February 2021, Nathan Parker, a Jackson Street resident, contacted City Administration with concerns about on-street parking during the winter months for the portion of Jackson Street located between Franklin and Highland streets. This section of roadway was included in the Parking Committee's Fall 2020 review of narrow streets in Zone 4 of the study area.

Upon review, staff determined that Ordinance #3064, which was adopted on March 9, 2020 for the purposes of implementing Winter Parking Bans on certain streets from January 1 – March 15 annually, inadvertently omitted the Parking Committee's recommendation to establish a winter parking ban for this segment of Jackson Street.

Immediately after discovering this error, the Parking Division implemented a temporary emergency no parking ban for this section of Jackson Street, which expired on March 15, 2021.

On April 26, 2021, the Parking Committee reviewed this issue and voted unanimously to recommend that the City Council adopt the attached ordinance establishing a winter parking on Jackson Street to include the section between Franklin and Highland streets. The ban shall be effective January 1 – March 15 annually.