

From: Rob Hernandez <RHernandez@Savannahga.Gov>
Date: October 10, 2017 at 9:18:53 AM EDT
To: xCity_Council <xCity_Council@Savannahga.Gov>
Cc: Brooks Stillwell <BStillwell@Savannahga.Gov>, Dyanne Reese <DReese@Savannahga.Gov>, Marty Johnston <MJohnston01@Savannahga.Gov>, Taffanye Young <TYoung@Savannahga.Gov>, Heath Lloyd <hllloyd@Savannahga.Gov>, Sean Brandon <SBrandon@Savannahga.Gov>, Joseph Lumpkin <JLumpkin@Savannahga.Gov>, Charles Middleton <cmiddleton01@Savannahga.Gov>, John Sawyer <JSawyer@Savannahga.Gov>, Michelle Gavin <MGavin@Savannahga.Gov>, Bret Bell <BBell@Savannahga.Gov>, Renee Higgins <RHiggins@Savannahga.Gov>
Subject: Proposed Revision to Downtown Street Sweeping Schedule

Mayor and Council Members:

Increased weekend parking demand Downtown has resulted in a growing volume of requests and complaints for modification of the City's street cleaning program to exclude street sweeping on Friday and Saturday nights. We have evaluated potential alternatives to accommodate these requests and have determined a more viable approach is to adopt a Monday through Thursday evening street sweeping schedule. This e-mail outlines the feasibility and logistics of making such changes, identifies key issues for consideration, and provides a transition and implementation overview should Council authorize staff to proceed with this change.

Background

The Street Cleaning Department is responsible for maintaining acceptable cleanliness on all curbed and paved streets throughout the City. The mission is fulfilled through four complimentary work programs including sweeping, sweep zone parking enforcement, median end cleaning, and sign maintenance. Current resources include twenty-two employees, twelve sweepers, assorted dump trucks and other support equipment, and an annual operations budget of \$ 2,849,227.

Street cleanliness equity throughout the City is a key imperative along with economy of effort. Therefore, sweeping frequencies vary according to the level of effort required to meet acceptable cleanliness levels and to avoid wasting resources to sweep already clean streets. Sweeping is currently organized in weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, and quarterly schedules. Street cleanliness is continually evaluated at schedule mid-points through a trained evaluator system using standardized operational definitions and photographic references. Sweeping frequency is increased for areas determined to consistently fall below acceptable standards.

All weekly routes are swept at night due to high traffic congestion during day light hours and are designated no parking zones to ensure curb access during scheduled hours. Generally, only one side of a weekly scheduled street will be swept on any given shift in order to allow for opposite side parking. No Parking signs are posted along each block to alert the public of the times parking is prohibited. Illegally parked vehicles found in the sweeping zone are cited. Street Cleaning issued over 35,000 parking citations in 2016.

Schedule Alternatives and Issues

Weekly sweeping is currently conducted on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday nights. Alternatives to avoid the higher parking demand of Friday and Saturday include Monday through Thursday or Sunday through Wednesday. Current and potential schedules are shown in the following chart:

SCHEDULE	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Current	Off	Off	Sweep	Sweep	Off	Sweep	Sweep
Alternative 1	Off	Sweep	Sweep	Sweep	Sweep	Off	Off
Alternative 2	Sweep	Sweep	Sweep	Sweep	Off	Off	Off

Issues to consider include the following:

1. There are over fifty churches in the existing Friday and Saturday night sweeping zones. Eliminating weekend sweeping will result in more litter on the streets on Sunday morning and may generate additional complaints from churchgoers.
2. A number of these churches hold services on Sunday evening; therefore, Alternative 2 is more disruptive for some.
3. It is frequently necessary to share resources among the day and night shifts due to personnel and equipment availability. Altering the current schedule would hamper operations somewhat by increasing the incidence of double shifting personnel and equipment.
4. The current schedule provides time for mid-week equipment repair. Changing the schedule to four consecutive days would shorten the time available to get equipment back in service. If equipment availability declines below minimum program requirements, additional fleet resources could be needed.
5. Current Friday and Saturday night No Parking signs (2,700 units) would need to be modified to reflect the schedule change. Staff estimates this would take four to six weeks during which time parking enforcement and its revenue would be curtailed.
6. A trial implementation would be problematic given signage requirements.

Street Cleaning Schedule Transition/Implementation

The largest task necessary to accomplish rescheduling street cleaning to eliminate weekend night sweeping will be to change the current no parking zone times to conform to the new schedules. Simply put, existing Friday and Saturday night parking enforcement zones will change to Monday and Thursday nights, respectively. The change will require modification of approximately 2,700 signs to reflect the new schedule following Council authorization. Existing signs will be re-used and an opaque reflective label affixed denoting the new day of the week for sweeping. Parking enforcement will be curtailed during the transition period and staff redirected to the sign project. Implementation will take 4-6 weeks and citation revenues will be reduced by half over the transition period (\$13,383.00 per week). Material costs for the sign labels are projected at \$3,000.00.

Public Notification

Sanitation will coordinate with the Office of Public Communication to ensure adequate notice of sweeping schedule changes through media outlets and business and neighborhood organizations.

New Weekly Sweeping Parking Enforcement Zone

We also recommend designating the West side of Price Street as a Wednesday night 'No Parking' zone concurrently with the broader rescheduling plan. Cleanliness conditions have deteriorated since parking was allowed on this side several years ago and access to the curb line is routinely blocked. The recommended change would restore cleanliness conditions to the City-wide standard.

Unless we hear to the contrary, we will schedule an agenda item for Council's deliberation.

Please contact Gene Prevatt at 912-651-2361 if you have any questions.

Rob

Rob Hernandez
City Manager