

Corresp

417 Fremont Avenue  
Rock Springs, Wy 82901

February 14, 2020

Mayor Tim Kaumo  
City Hall  
212 D Street  
Rock Springs, WY 82901

Subject: Snow Removal in Residential Areas

Dear Mayor Kaumo:

This letter is regarding the excess snow in the residential areas, how the residents are affected and some solutions to this issue. This year, I have seen a fewer number of people in cars getting stuck, but it is still possible for this to happen as we do live in Wyoming. I have not had any issues this year since I got a better car, but there are still several people who can not afford better vehicles with all wheel drive or four wheel drive and pose the issue of getting stuck. I believe that the city should start plowing residential streets along with main city streets.

As I go through the official City of Rock Springs website and the policies about snow and ice removal, the author states several good points and some that could possibly have several solutions. And according to the website, you stated ``We do not routinely plow...because of limited resources and the problem of where to put the snow``.

In times of a large snowfall, I understand the priority of getting the main street and parking lots plowed to ensure easy access. But after these streets are cleared, nothing really happens to the less prioritized streets. I see here and there the plows ``attempting`` to plow residential streets, but all they do is lay down the loose dirt. By laying the dirt, nothing happens but left over dirt when the snow actually melts and several cars get stuck or have trouble driving.

The issue of nowhere to put the excess snow or too many obstacles could be avoidable. If the city communicated which days and/or times they would plow the residential streets, the residents could make sure they cleared the streets to allow the snow plows to make it through. Once the plows make it through, they could have something scoop up the snow and put it in a dump truck, or something that could deliver it elsewhere. The residents would much rather have a snow plow come through and put the snow on their sidewalks and have to shovel, then risk getting their cars stuck several times throughout the season.

The stated issue of limited resources could also simply be avoided. When the plows are not doing the main streets, where do they go? What are they doing? I am sure they are not doing anything, and this downtime could be used for residential areas. I remember a couple years ago, one of the first snow days I have ever experienced for school, there was tons of snow. The city was telling people they should not be out plowing their neighborhood streets, but if they did not, who would?

There are several risks to not having the snow plowed as well. If an emergency vehicle needs to come through, it poses a risk of them not being able to make it. Lots of excess snow may lead to an increase of car accidents in these areas as well.

Being a relatively small city, an issue of cost may come to play into this topic as well. The only things that would be needed to be paid for would be gas for the snowplow, wear and tear, and for the person driving the plow. Overall, it should not be too expensive. So with all of these issues and possible solutions, I hope to see the snow plow out during the next major snowfall!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marisa Salazar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marisa Salazar

*TAU  
2-18-2020  
Comes P.*