



City of Missoula, Montana
Item to be Referred to City Council Committee

Committee: Administration and Finance
Item: Sidewalk/Snow removal assessments for fiscal year 2022
Date: August 17, 2021
Sponsor(s): Marty Rehbein
Prepared by: Same
Ward(s) Affected:
 Ward 1 Ward 4
 Ward 2 Ward 5
 Ward 3 Ward 6
 All Wards N/A

Action Required:
Consider a resolution

Recommended Motion(s):
I move the City Council: Adopt a resolution levying a special assessment and tax upon property for annual sidewalk/snow removal assessments to reimburse the city for removal of snow removal performed in winter 2020-2021 in the total amount of \$902.25 pursuant to sections 12.16.030 and 12.16.040 Missoula Municipal Code.

Timeline:
Referral to committee: August 23, 2021
Committee discussion: August 25, 2021
Council action (or sets hearing): August 30, 2021
Public Hearing: n/a
Deadline: August 30, 2021

Background and Alternatives Explored:
By law, property owners are responsible to clear snow and ice from their walks. This past winter, the City received a number of complaints about snow and ice on sidewalks located in the public right-of-way. When City Staff receive a complaint, they inspect the property in question, and if they find the complaint is valid, they leave notice at the property to clear the walk. If the property is a vacant lot, the inspector contacts the property owner. If the snow and ice isn't removed in the time outlined in the notice, City crews are dispatched to clear the walk, and City Staff send the property owner an invoice. If the property owner doesn't pay the invoice, city ordinance and state law allow the city council to collect the debt through a property tax assessment.

During the past year, several properties didn't pay the invoices for sidewalk snow removal. They are listed in Exhibit A. The total value of assessments is \$902.25 The sidewalks were cleared in calendar year 2020-2021. Staff recommends the City Council approve the resolution levying an assessment

Financial Implications:
If the expenses are not levied and assessed, there will be a shortage in the snow program budget.