

**UNITED CITY OF YORKVILLE
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
Tuesday, December 16, 2025, 6:00pm
Yorkville City Hall, East Conference Room #337
651 Prairie Pointe Drive, Yorkville, IL**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Chairman Craig Soling
Alderman Rusty Corneils

Alderman Joe Plocher

Absent: Alderman Dan Transier

Other City Officials

City Administrator Bart Olson
Public Works Director Eric Dhuse
Alderman Ken Koch

Assistant City Administrator Erin Willrett, via Zoom
Assistant Public Works Director John Sleezer
Parks & Recreation Director Tim Evans

Other Guests: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Chairman Craig Soling.

Citizen Comments: None

Previous Meeting Minutes: November 18, 2025

The minutes were approved as presented.

New Business:

1. PW 2025-119 Sidewalk and Trail Plowing - Discussion

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss citizen queries regarding plowing of sidewalks and trails. Chairman Soling said several Aldermen have received calls and emails regarding the lack of snowplowing on sidewalks and trails, particularly near schools.

Mr. Olson said the schools inquired as to why the Grande Reserve area trails had not been plowed. He told the committee the trails are never plowed and the only sidewalks that are plowed are in the bridge area, Town Square Park and part of Riverfront. Mr. Dhuse added that parts of the area near the library and Beecher Center are plowed if a machine is used. If all trails were plowed, it would take about 3 days. Other towns also do not plow trails. Mr. Olson added that there is no liability if the trails are left untouched, but there **is** liability if they are plowed. Signage and communication would be needed for the public if only some trails are plowed.

Mr. Sleezer noted that if the trail along Rt. 34 was plowed, the state would move the road snow onto the trail which hardens it greatly, making it more difficult to clear.

Alderman Koch said he explained to one caller that staff is already working 16 hour shifts to clear the snow and the trails can not be done in a timely fashion. Mr. Dhuse added that efforts were complicated by the 8 inch snowfall early in the season

Mr. Evans asked if the city starts plowing for the schools, will they be required to plow for the Parkview Christian School? He also said the track teams ran in the snowy streets one day and in the future the city will likely gets calls about their safety. He said in South Elgin, some of the trails were plowed, then people asked for the bus stops to be plowed. He also noted that White Oak doesn't have a bus stop and the students stand in a field by the barn.

Chairman Soling asked how many students actually walk in the snow and it was agreed that very few do, that parents provide transportation. He also asked if the city could invite the schools to a meeting for discussion. Mr. Olson will contact the schools and ask if they would plow, but he said the city will still be liable.

If the city moves forward with plowing, Mr. Koch asked if it would be contracted. Mr. Dhuse replied that it would not since it would cost 2-3 times more than if the city does it. Contractors would use a truck and that is not good for the trails. Contractors would push it in the street, added Mr. Sleezer. Mr. Corneils asked if additional equipment would be needed if the city begins plowing of the trails and sidewalks. It would require extra equipment and would require the labor of 2 people.

After discussion, the consensus of the committee was that the city will not plow the trails and sidewalks at this time, however, they asked that more information be gathered on costs, time involved, equipment etc. for future seasons

Old Business: None

Additional Business: None

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:26pm.

Minutes respectfully transcribed by
Marlys Young, Minute Taker