



CITY OF WATERTOWN

TRAFFIC COMMISSION



Mr. Robert Airasian, Chair
Justin Hanrahan, Police Chief
Ryan Nicholson, Fire Chief
Thomas Brady, Director of Public Works
Steven Magoon, Community Development and Planning
Tyler Glode, City Engineer
Ms. Kelly Gallagher
Mr. Daniel Grieneisen

November 18, 2025 Special Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Robert Airasian, Justin Hanrahan, Steven Magoon, Tyler Glode, Kelly Gallagher, Daniel Grieneisen

A special meeting of the Traffic Commission was held to discuss a request by City Manager George Proakis to review the parking fine associated with Snow Emergency violations.

City Manager George Proakis explained that unlike ordinances, city regulations fall under the control of the City Administration. Although the city's winter parking ban is written in the Traffic Rules and Orders as a year-round ban, it is only enforced through the winter months. Traditionally, enforcement begins at the end of November and is lifted by the Manager in March if weather permits.

Mr. Proakis was concerned about completely eliminating the ban and reported that a study is underway to determine how curb space should be allocated. The study will not be completed for this winter but Mr. Proakis hopes it will be ready for the winter of 2026.

For the 2025-2026 season, Mr. Proakis intends to begin enforcement of the all-night parking ban from New Year 2026 to the end of February 2026, and to declare snow emergencies as needed. Mr. Proakis felt more comfortable shortening the all-night parking enforcement period if fines for snow emergency violations were higher. Mr. Proakis reported that he intended to ask the City Council for support of a \$100 fine for snow emergency violations at their meeting scheduled for the evening of November 18, 2025. If the Council advises shortening the enforcement period, Mr. Proakis wants the ability to increase the snow emergency fine. He reported that at some point, all parking fines should be reviewed.

Mr. Magoon asked whether it would be possible to couple the increased fine with increased enforcement during snow emergencies.

In response to Mr. Grieneisen's question regarding the current snow emergency process, Mr. Proakis explained that the City tries to declare snow emergencies with as much advance notice as possible and tries to lift the emergency as soon as possible. If the winter ban is shortened and snow emergency fines are higher, the City will perform a robust notification campaign using cable TV, social media, etc. to inform residents.

Chief Hanrahan reported that it is important to motivate people to move their vehicles during snow emergencies. He also explained the current police response to parking issues during snow emergencies. He noted that a higher fine will help people self-regulate.

Mr. Airasian felt that the City needed a more robust fine for snow emergency violations.

Ms. Gallagher felt that because the City's current fine is \$25, many residents likely take the chance and leave their vehicles on the roadway during an emergency. A \$100 fine is more reasonable. Mr. Proakis reported that he intended to recommend a \$100 snow emergency fine, especially if the enforcement period is shortened.

Ms. Linda Scott of Olcott Street was concerned about snow and ice remaining on the streets and the ability of the City to clear it. She felt a shortened ban would result in more problems.

Mr. Dean Martino of Edenfield Ave was concerned about the overall lack of available parking. He felt that increased fines do not provide more places to park.

Mr. Proakis stated that the City does not intend to simply lift the ban and have no parking regulations in place.

Mr. Magoon made a motion to accept the recommendation to increase the fine to up to \$100 per violation for parking in violation of a snow emergency; Ms. Gallagher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Sgt. David Sampson
Assistant to the Traffic Commission