

Ordinance No. _____

TO-25-21 AS AMENDED

An Ordinance Amending the Winter Parking Ban
Requested by Chief Scott McNamara

Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Methuen:

Whereas, the purpose of this amendment is to ensure effective snow and ice removal and prevent traffic obstructions during Snow Emergencies;

Whereas, the Methuen Police Department shall provide community information sessions, as needed, to educate residents about the parking ban and compliance requirements;

Therefore, the City Council hereby amends the Methuen Municipal Code in Chapter 9, Article V. Public Works and Ways, by the addition of a new section, “Section 9-53A. Winter Parking Ban, Enforcement and Notification Provisions” as follows:

“Section 9-53A. Winter Parking Ban, Enforcement and Notification Provisions

(A) Declared Snow Emergency/Winter Storm Parking Restrictions

Whenever the Mayor or his designee declares a Snow Emergency, a Snow Emergency Parking Ban shall be in effect on all city streets. During this ban, no parking is permitted on any streets, except for the following, for the entire duration of the declared snow emergency:

- a. Fire, Police, Public Works, Public Safety, or Public Utility Repair vehicles;
- b. Vehicles displaying a valid handicapped parking placard or plate, provided they are parked in compliance with designated accessible parking spaces or do not obstruct snow removal operations;
- c. Vehicles used by visiting nurses or other essential medical personnel providing in-home care, provided they display an official permit issued by the City of Methuen;
- d. Short-Term Customer Parking for Open Commercial Establishments.

Vehicles may be parked temporarily on city streets solely for the purpose of patrons actively conducting business with an adjacent private commercial establishment that is open to the public and relies primarily on public on-street parking for customer access, provided all of the following conditions are strictly met:

- i. The parking duration shall not exceed thirty (30) minutes;
- ii. The vehicle must be parked in a legal parking space immediately adjacent to the entrance of the establishment being patronized;
- iii. The vehicle shall not obstruct traffic lanes, bus routes, fire hydrants, crosswalks, driveways, loading zones, or emergency vehicle operations;
- iv. Upon request by a law enforcement officer or authorized city personnel, the vehicle operator or occupant must provide reasonable evidence of the ongoing or recently completed transaction with the establishment (e.g., a timestamped receipt, order confirmation, or verbal confirmation from the business owner);
- v. The establishment must be actively open for business at the time of parking, and this exemption does not apply to employee parking, deliveries, or any other purpose; and
- vi. Any patron of said businesses found parked in such a way as to impede snow removal operations would be required to move their vehicle upon the lawful request of a police officer.

(B) Parking Ban Notifications and Information

The City shall use all reasonable efforts to inform residents of a declared snow emergency parking utilizing, but not limited to, the following manners:

- a. Official City of Methuen website: (PARKING-CENTRAL)
- b. City of Methuen social media platforms (e.g., Facebook, Instagram)
- c. Automatic alerts via the ALERTme app (www.methuen.gov/notifyme)
- d. City of Methuen Hyper-Reach notification system
- e. Winter Parking Ban information line: 978-983-8643 (updated daily at 4:00 P.M.)
- f. Electronic sign boards at key locations displaying real-time snow emergency information
- g. A blue light notification program that uses highly visible blue lights at key intersections to clearly signal when a snow emergency has been declared

(C) Parking Accommodations

During declared snow emergencies, the City shall identify a minimum of three (3) alternative parking locations via the Official City Website. Hours for each location will be conspicuously posted at the location, in addition to on the Official City Website, for when vehicles will need to be removed.

(D) Abandoned Vehicles Post-Snowstorm

Vehicles left abandoned, unmoved, or not cleared of snow and ice forty-eight (48) hours after a snow emergency will be ticketed and towed, except for vehicles with valid handicapped placards or permits for visiting nurses/essential medical personnel that are parked in compliance with this ordinance. All vehicles on public roadways must be fully cleared of snow and ice after a storm.

(E) Penalties

- a. First violation: \$100.00 fine
- b. Second and subsequent violations: \$200.00 fine
- c. Vehicles parked on any public way during a declared snow emergency, except those exempted under Section 2, are subject to towing.”