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ROCKY RIVER – City council authorized an agreement for snow removal for senior citizen residents at City Hall Monday night.

Mayor Pamela Bobst outlined the details of the new service at the Committee-of-the-Whole council meeting at David J. Cook Council Chambers. This winter, council developed particular income and need-based parameters to restrict the number of residents requested the service.

Last winter was the initial season and over 400 residents signed up for snow removal service since there were none of the current parameters in place, said Bobst. “There is no way to efficiently plow that many people,” Bobst added.

Each driveway will cost the city \$39, Bobst said. Council will have a total number of residents enrolled in the program after the first three-inch snowfall.

The city will provide snow removal services for senior citizens and disabled residents before emergencies and medical appointments. Residents have to call City Hall when their driveway requires snow removal for those purposes, said Bobst.

“Residents are very important to us,” said the mayor.

Maintaining a priority in residential concerns, council discussed the freestanding commercial signs that are plaguing businesses located on Center Ridge and Detroit roads.

Councilman James Moran said there have been many comments from his constituents. “We are trying to represent everyone’s needs,” said Moran.

In the spirit of local merchants, council decided not to strictly enforce the code violation with the businesses and their display of portable advertisements. Councilman Thomas Long summarized the growing problem with, “What we permit, we promote.”

The mayor reminded businesses that “portable signs are prohibited.” Council will send out letters to the businesses in regards to the violations with a specific time frame to comply.

Housing safety for residents was discussed by council members in an update on city rental inspections.

Law director Andrew Bemer said, “Maintaining property values is certainly a priority for our community.”

The occupancy permit required every year and an on-site inspection every three years by the city encourages landlords to maintain their properties.

“Keeping our neighborhoods in order,” said councilman Thomas Hunt “is such an important thing.”

Rental units in the city grew slightly from 321 inspections completed last year to 502 recently inspected with rental program. Revenues for property inspectors this year is targeted at \$80,000, said Bobst.