

Coffee with the Mayor

Ser 27 Snow Job

A very generous neighbor dropped off some Keurig coffee pods a few days ago for me to try. This was a pleasant surprise as I had not heard of the Fresh Roasted Coffee LLC brand. The four flavors were Peruvian, Mexican, Sumatra and Sidamo. All four were good but I thought the best two were the Sumatra and Sidamo flavors. One plus was they were all half-caf (not that caffeine is a problem)! I appreciate the opportunity to expand my coffee selection. Now I need to find out where I can purchase more!

Last January I learned several things at mayor school, some I even remember! The one that seemed to be stressed several times were two things that will get any mayor in trouble: snow removal and trash pickup. Had to ponder that for a short time then realized how that was definitely a true statement! Each one by itself, if not done promptly or completely, could cause an unwanted reaction. Dealing with both snow removal and trash pickup at the same time would definitely be an opportunity to test the organization!

That said, the Street Department is responsible for both snow removal and trash pickup. With the snow accumulating on a Sunday, they were in the streets with the snowplows and sand working to make most of the streets passable! And not only the streets but many city sidewalks and parking lots as well. They couldn't get to every street but did get to all the city's main streets and most side streets. Their effort continued Monday as well. With the land fill officially closed on that Monday, that prevented them from doing the Monday trash route. My observation, because of the snow, there wasn't a lot of trash set out to be picked up anyway. The landfill opened on Tuesday, so their Monday route was moved to Tuesday, doubling their normal planned routes. Even though the trash picked up was slightly less than normal on that Tuesday, they still had to deal with the cold and snow. Normal trash routes resumed for the rest of the week.

Then came the second snowfall. It didn't snow as much as the previous snowfall but still required the crews to be out working to clean the streets of not only snow but ice and previously compacted snow. This continued into Saturday was well. At least that time didn't impact the trash pickup routes. Then came the really cold single digit temperatures in the morning. That didn't prevent crews from completing their trash pickup responsibilities for the week!

I encourage everyone to take a moment and consider what these crews do to support our community. Snow removal, obviously, only happens when it snows but they have the equipment ready when needed and use it to make streets and sidewalks available. Trash pickup is a daily requirement regardless of the weather! It is a test of resources and resolve when snow removal and trash pickup happen at the same time. When you take the five

minutes to set your trash out to be picked up did you ever consider what elements the trash crews would be facing the next morning to pick up that trash?

I encourage you to take the opportunity to personally thank, or at least acknowledge, the street department personnel for their dedication to the community whether in a snow plow, trash truck or any city vehicle for that matter. A simple wave when you see them out can mean much!