

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City Staff Tackled Winter Storm

Jonesboro, AR—While the recent winter weather event closed many businesses and schools, essential City staff continued to work, many around the clock, helping the residents of Jonesboro.

Crews with the Street Department started working special shifts Wednesday evening, March 4. From then until 6:00 p.m. Saturday, March 7, the 48 people assigned to the task worked 24 hours a day in 12 hour shifts to clear the streets and make travel safe again for the residents of Jonesboro. During that time they spread over 900 tons of sand and used nearly 3,500 gallons of magnesium chloride to help with their efforts. In all, over 1,660 streets, totaling approximately 450 miles were cleared. The Street Department went back to regular work duties and schedules Monday, March 9.

With recent upgrades to many of the City's traffic lights, employees were able to adjust traffic signal controls to account for the snow and ice on the streets. Traffic signal technicians can now manage the systems without needing to actually drive to every signal control box. Many times snow and ice can cause traffic signal sensors to not sense a vehicle is at an intersection, and not appropriately change the signal lights. By changing the programming, technicians can account for these conditions, allowing better traffic movement. As soon as intersections are clear, traffic control technicians can quickly change the signals back to regular operation.

In addition, staff at the Parks Department made sure all the community centers stayed open throughout the event. They clear the parking lots and adjacent sidewalks of snow and ice, and keep the doors open, so young people and others have a place to go when schools were closed.

"The staff truly embodies our philosophy of Customer Service," said Mayor Harold Perrin. "I am proud of the work they did for the community during this event. Helping people be safe is our #1 priority, and the staff makes this happen every day."

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