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**CEMETERY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
1350 BALDWIN AVENUE, CITY HALL
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2024
5:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Invocation
- B. Pledge of Allegiance

2. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Cemetery Sexton C. Mitchell
 - 1. Need for American Flag Placement Policy
 - 2. Ordinance Violations and Updates
 - 3. October 25 Cemetery Tour
 - 4. Recommended Ordinance Changes
 - 5. Software Update
 - 6. Markers for Gravesites
 - 7. Chipping and Coping Definition
- B. Maintenance Superintendent T. Hubbard
 - 1. Update on Road Improvements

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

4. ADJOURNMENT

Florida Statute 286.0105. Notices of meetings and hearings must advise that a record is required to appeal. Each board, commission, or agency of this state or of any political subdivision thereof shall include in the notice of any meeting or hearing, if notice of the meeting or hearing is required, of such board, commission, or agency, conspicuously on such notice, the advice that, if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. The requirements of this section do not apply to the notice provided in s. 200.065(3). In accordance with Section 286.26, F.S., persons with disabilities may contact the City Clerk at cityclerk@defuniaksprings.net or 850-892-8500 ext. 1103.

American Flag Placement Policy

Well-meaning and patriotic individuals and groups proudly remember our veterans at Magnolia Cemetery with the placement of American flags at as many gravesites as they can identify, especially during Veterans Day and Memorial Day observances. However, there are literally hundreds placed throughout the cemetery which are rarely removed. Flags are not placed in permanent planters as required by Ordinance 871 (regarding flowers, tribute items, trinkets, etc.). Staff requests a policy which allows placement of American flags one week prior to these observances and to remain up to two weeks following at which time staff may remove them.



Example of a veteran's gravesite with numerous flags pushed into the ground.



Several flags in one area. Very difficult for staff to use trimmers or mowers at these gravesites throughout the year.

Violations



Infant grave with excessive items. Only headstones are allowed in this section per Ordinance 871.

Staff requests letter be sent from Board of Trustees Chair requesting removal of items.



Veteran's grave with excessive items. Only headstones are allowed in this section per Ordinance 871.

Staff requests letter be sent from Board of Trustees Chair requesting removal of items.

Markers

Per ordinance 871, gravesites must have a minimum of a marker. If a family does not have a marker placed within 90 days, the City will purchase one with name of the deceased and years of life. In the past, the city clerk had ordered markers using scrap coping (12" wide by 6" tall and 6" deep) from monument companies to save money. However, ordinance 871 requires that if a permanent marker is not installed within 90 days after interment, the City shall purchase a 12 inch x 12 inch x 6 inch marker. These markers will now cost the City several hundred dollars each unless the City accepts less expensive alternatives.



Example of an inexpensive marker purchased by the City using scrap coping. 12"x6"x6"



Different angle of the same marker once purchased by the City.

Chipping and Coping Definition

Chipping (small gravel) and Coping are allowed in various locations throughout Magnolia Cemetery. However, staff needs direction on what is considered chipping and coping as some gravesites are difficult to maintain and may not fit the description. Some have “chipping” with no “coping,” and others have lava rock around the boarder of a gravesite with no coping. Staff need direction.



Example of a gravesite with lava rock only around a slab. Should this be allowed? Difficult for staff to maintain grass / weed trimming.



Example of chipping with only garden fencing. Is the fencing considered “coping?” Again, gravesite is very difficult to maintain for staff.