


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	19-271	Meeting:	June 24, 2019
	Agenda Item:	43	Roll Call:	19-1021
	Submitted by:	Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approval of proposed amendment of the Schedule of Fees for Municipal Code Chapter 34 Cemeteries.

SYNOPSIS:

Approval of the Parks and Recreation Board, Citizen Cemetery Advisory Committee and staff's recommended changes to the Schedule of Fees for Municipal Code Chapter 34 Cemeteries.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: It is not possible to accurately predict the overall increase in revenue given the fact that at-need sales vary by the number of individuals passing away in our community in a given year. Cemetery fees are positioned to meet the market demand based on customer needs and are comparable to private cemeteries within Des Moines.

Funding Source: Additional revenue will be deposited into FY 2020 Operating Budget, Cemetery, G001 PK200220, page 161

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- On November 19, 2018, by Roll Call No. 18-602, City Council approved adopting the Schedule of Cemetery Fees, as is required by Municipal Code Sec. 34-69. The fee changes brought existing pricing up to date with the competition and demand in the marketplace, products, and services. Pricing, product, and service options are now assessed on an ongoing basis to make adjustments according to consumer demand, trends, and depletion of inventory in high-sales areas of the cemeteries.
- Due to increased demand and depletion of inventory, the Citizen Cemetery Advisory Committee voted unanimously at their March 6, 2019 meeting to recommend a fee change to the Parks and Recreation Board. The Parks and Recreation Board approved the fee change unanimously on May 28, 2019. There are limited single-space lots available at Glendale Cemetery, which offer customers the option of having an upright headstone and for planting flowers, trees and shrubs. In Block 30-B, 50 to 60 spaces are being converted from two (2) space mausoleum lots to one (1) space lots that allow upright monuments and plantings to meet

the market demand. The lots were previously sold as double space lots for mausoleums, but have not been actively marketed for 30 plus years, so it is recommended that they be converted to the single-space interment lots to meet market needs. The proposed change is as follows:

- Glendale Cemetery Block 30-B. Single-space interment lot to allow purchaser to have upright headstone monument and plantings for the cost of \$1,800.
- Cemetery management continually evaluates the City's municipal cemetery product offerings and services, and will be establishing new price categories or changing existing fees on an ongoing basis to stay in alignment with demand, the marketplace, and ever-changing cultural changes that affect this industry.
- Staff recommends this fee to be implemented following City Council approval. Once the new price is approved by Council, formal communication will prepare the municipal cemetery partners as they work with customers.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: November 19, 2018

Roll Call Number: [18-1915](#)

Action: [Amendment](#) to the Schedule of Fees for cemeteries under Chapter 34 of the Municipal Code. ([Council Communication No. 18-602](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Parks and Recreation

Date: May 28, 2019

Resolution Number: 19-046

Action: Motion by Bollard to approve Chapter 34 fees as presented. Second by Potter. Motion carried.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Second and third reading.

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