

DeFuniak Springs Cemetery Board
Regular Meeting
Council Chambers
July 21, 2020

The following members were present: Cemetery Board Members: Mayor Bob Campbell, Jack Owen, Lee Thomas. Public Works Director Craig Drake, City Manager Mell Smigielski, Streets Supervisor Scott Simmons, Cemetery Crew Leader Daren Donaldson and City Clerk Maryanne Schrader.

Chair Bob Campbell called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes – January 21, 2020

Motion by Board member J. Owen and seconded by Board member L. Thomas to approve the minutes of January 21, 2020. Owen: Aye; Thomas: Aye. All ayes. Motion carried 2-0.

3. Citizen Comment – No one came forward.

4. Introduction of Cemetery Coordinator

Public Works Director Craig Drake introduced Zach Burgess as the new Cemetery Coordinator.

5. Financial Report

The financial report was entered into the record. City Manager M. Smigielski stated the wages of the new position are included in the budget and \$5000 for database software.

Board member Mayor Campbell mentioned that we have had several legal issues regarding ownership and stated the new software will ease the situation.

Board member L. Thomas stated that he is concerned about the ownership problem and the mounting legal expenses.

Board member Mayor Campbell stated he foresees that we will need to continue building legal fees to ensure the ownership.

6. Request for a variance – Clifford Davis

City Clerk Maryanne Schrader mentioned that Mr. Davis has requested a variance on the height for his monument. He stated he wanted to place a 4-foot monument. Cemetery Crew Leader D. Donaldson said the height in the newer section is 36". There are no other tall monuments in the newer section. He added the ground is very sandy, so it could topple over.

Board member L. Thomas voiced concern about breaking our rules.

Public Works Director C. Drake said they are going to research other cemeteries regarding restrictions on height. Cemetery Coordinator Z. Burgess mentioned a state regulation on height.

Motion by Board member L. Thomas and seconded by Board member J. Owen to table a decision at a meeting six months from today. All ayes. The meeting will be the third week in October 2020.

7. Miles-Whalen Family Plot – Magnolia Cemetery – Recipient of Janet Whalen Estate

Public Works Director C. Drake said he will determine what perpetual care entails from surrounding cities to decide how the fund should be used.

Board member L. Thomas suggested getting a brass plaque and thanking the estate and the family.

Board member J. Owen mentioned the document states that it can only be used in the care and maintenance of the Miles Family Plot.

8. LD Henderson – Donation of a large wooden cedar cross

Board member L. Thomas voiced concern that any other religious object could be placed in the cemetery. Board member J. Owen also voiced concern about separation of church and state, as it is city-owned property. Public Works Director C. Drake added there is a permanent structure restriction.

Motion by Board member L. Thomas and seconded by Board member J. Owen to deny the request.

9. Update on GIS and database

City Clerk M. Schrader said she had researched several databases that could be used along with the GIS mapping data that the County has assisted the City in verifying location of records.

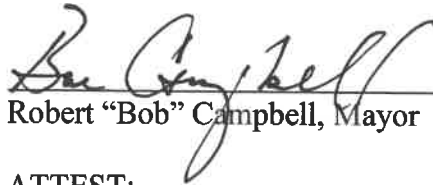
City Clerk M. Schrader complimented Scott and Daren for the work they have done at the cemetery.

Public Works Director C. Drake said they will also be researching how other municipal cemeteries handle their records.

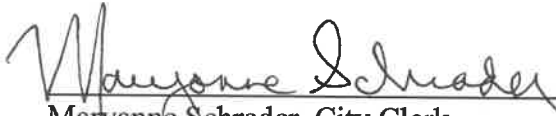
Board member L. Thomas requested the grounds be mowed prior to a holiday. Public Works Director C. Drake said they mow twice a month.

Mayor Campbell adjourned the meeting at 2:48 p.m.

ADOPTED this 5th day of November, 2020.


Robert "Bob" Campbell, Mayor

ATTEST:


Maryanne Schrader, City Clerk
Proper notice having been duly given

