

DeFuniak Springs Cemetery Board
Regular Meeting
January 15, 2013

The following members being present: Mayor C. Harold Carpenter, Cemetery Board Member Jack Owen, City Manager Sara Bowers, Municipal Services Supervisor Rick Rodgers, Finance Director Thomas Carman, and City Clerk Loretta Laird. Cemetery Board Member Jack Hicks was absent.

Mayor C. Harold Carpenter called the meeting to order.

Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes from the July 19, 2011, were not available for review.

Cemetery Services Supervisor, Rick Rodgers

Address monument companies moving headstones to dig graves

Municipal Services Supervisor Rick Rodgers presented the board with information relating to monument companies moving existing headstones to dig new burial sites. Rodgers stated that a mid-size back hoe was being used to dig a grave at this time by various companies during the preparation of the burial site. The headstones are being removed and not properly positioned when being replaced. Discussion occurred relating to different government entities not allowing equipment being used for digging of the grave site except for the use of hand digging only with a shovel. Rodgers stated in the future, a family member may have concerns relating to the replacement of the headstones due to the close proximity of the grave sites in the new section of the cemetery. The board came to a consensus for Rodgers to observe the companies when headstones are being replaced in the new section of the cemetery. No action was taken at this time, but if further action is necessary, it can be discussed at a future meeting.

Cemetery Resolutions

Rogers presented two resolutions to the board pertaining to the City of DeFuniak Springs Magnolia Cemetery lots. The first resolution authorizes the city to sell additional space to current cemetery property owners if said space is available. The additional space shall be purchased at current prices as set by current Resolution Number 2009-04. The second Resolution allows additional burials in lots purchased before the year 1980 where additional space is available, and the warranty deed does not specify the number of plots purchased. The required measurement of the plot for an individual plot is 4 feet in width by 10 feet in length. Discussion occurred relating to the current practices which would be affected by the adopted resolutions. Rodgers stated staff is already complying with the resolution changes, this is just a formality.

Cemetery Board Member Jack Owen made a motion to recommend adoption of both resolutions, and forward the recommendation to the city council, seconded by Mayor C. Harold Carpenter. Motion carried 2-0.

Interim Finance Director, Sandra Arnold

Interim Finance Director Sandra Arnold was not present at the meeting. Therefore, City Manager Sara Bowers presented the financial statement for the cemetery department expenditures report through March 31, 2012. Discussion followed regarding the fiscal year being half over with, and the insurance premium amounts being more than 70 percent.

Mayor C. Harold Carpenter made a motion to adopt financial statement ending March 31, 2012, for the cemetery department, seconded by Cemetery Board member Owen. Motion carried 2-0.

Board member comments

Cemetery Board member Jack Owen

Owen thanked staff for the good job they have been doing with the cemetery. Rodgers stated the city has obtained a new contract for an eight-man inmate squad crew, and it has assisted with keeping the cemetery looking as good as it does.

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Mayor C. Harold Carpenter

Mayor Carpenter stated he also appreciated the good job staff and the inmate crew has been doing on the cemetery.

Mayor Carpenter thanked Owens for his input and serving on the cemetery board.

Municipal Services Supervisor Rick Rodgers

Rodgers welcomed City Manager Bowers and City Clerk Loretta Laird to the cemetery board meeting.

City Manager Sara Bowers

City Manager Bowers stated she thought Rodgers was doing an excellent job and has had no complaints.

There being no further business, Mayor Carpenter adjourned the meeting at 5:23 p.m.

ADOPTED this 15th day of January, 2013

C. Harold Carpenter
C. Harold Carpenter, Mayor

ATTEST:

Loretta A Laird
Loretta A Laird, City Clerk