

**MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
HIGHLAND CEMETERY BOARD
JULY 29, 2015**

Chairman Robert Williams called to order the Special Called Meeting of the Highland Cemetery Board at 2:20 p.m., Wednesday, July 29, 2015, at the Highland Cemetery Office. Notice of the meeting and agenda were posted on the City Hall bulletin board as required by State Law.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Gerald (Deuce) Gragg, Raymond Jackson, Robert Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Keith Neitzke, Parks and Grounds Superintendent

Azalee McGahee, Cemetery Sexton

Deborah Long, Recording Secretary

VISITORS: Jack Hanna, Parks and Recreation Director;

Brooks Mitchell, Finance Director

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 1, 2015, MEETING

Jackson asked if the \$176,051.00, in the Cemetery Care Fund included the Perpetual Care Fund.

McGahee answered that it did not.

MOTION by GRAGG; SECOND by JACKSON, to accept minutes of the APRIL 1, 2015, meeting

AYES: Gragg, Jackson, Williams NAYS: None. MOTION CARRIED

DISCUSSION: none

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: none

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

**1. CONSIDER AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION IF NECESSARY TO INCREASE
CEMETERY FEES WHICH ARE CHARGED TO THE PUBLIC**

Jackson asked when the cemetery fees were last raised.

McGahee answered that 2008, was the last time the fees were raised.

Jackson asked for the reason that the fees needed to be raised.

Brooks Mitchell replied that they were trying to close the gap between revenue and expenses. The fiscal year which just ended revealed a deficit of \$194,426.50.

\$ 46,237.50 Revenue coming into the Cemetery

\$240,664.00 Expenses to maintain Cemetery

\$194,426.50 Deficit

Mr. Mitchell continued by saying the City Manager understands that we'll probably not break even and we're not necessarily designed to break even, but we'd like to at least get a little closer if we can. We looked at what some of the other cemeteries charge and we called Sunset and the most inexpensive plot at Sunset is \$775. So, the proposal before this board is to raise the cemetery fee here \$325, to where it's also \$775. We are asking for your support in that, and if so, then I'll be able to take that back to the council.

Jackson asked for the standard around town.

Mitchell answered by saying he called Sunset and Sunset has four different rates, the cheapest being \$775, per plot. They go from \$775, I believe, to \$1,075.

Jackson asked if Mitchell was talking about also raising the opening and closing cost.

Mitchell said he was just talking about plot sales.

Williams called for additional discussion or questions.

McGahee said cremations should be raised as well. He said that by the time they prepare for a cremation they are way over cost. Cremation plots are half the size of a regular plot and cremation plots should be raised to \$300.

Williams called for a motion to raise the price of a cemetery plot from \$450, to \$775; and to raise the price of a cremation plot from \$150, to \$300.

MOTION by GRAGG; SECOND by JACKSON, to raise the price of a cemetery plot from \$450, to \$775; and to raise the price of a cremation plot from \$150, to \$300.

AYES: Gragg, Jackson, Williams NAYS: None. MOTION CARRIED

There were no further comments, discussion, or questions.

MOTION by GRAGG; SECOND by WILLIAMS, to adjourn at 2:30 p.m.

AYES: Gragg, Jackson, Williams NAYS: None. MOTION CARRIED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
ROBERT WILLIAMS, CHAIRMAN
HIGHLAND CEMETERY BOARD