

**CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION 98-020  
JANUARY 19, 1998 AGENDA**

**SUBJECT:**

**CEMETERY FEES AND CHARGES  
POLICY, 1998**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

**DON TRIPP  
PARK AND RECREATION DIRECTOR**

**SYNOPSIS –**

Approval of proposed changes to the cemetery fees and charges policy for 1998.

**FISCAL IMPACT –**

Approximately \$25,000/year.

**RECOMMENDATION –**

**Approval.**

**BACKGROUND –**

At its regular monthly meeting on January 13, 1998, the Park and Recreation Board recommended a six percent increase, rounded to the nearest \$5, in all cemetery fees and charges except grave sites of two or more spaces (those remain comparable with other cemeteries in the Des Moines area). Exceptions to the \$5 rounding included foundation work rounded to the nearest \$.01/sq. inch, records searching rounded to the nearest \$1, and flower placement services rounded to the nearest \$1. The last increase in cemetery fees and charges was effective in March of 1996.

Recent increases of three percent annually in employee salaries for both FY98 and FY99 and changes in similar fees by private sector competition prompted the Committee to recommend these increases. Fees and charges for non-residents were maintained at 20 percent above those for residents. This figure approximates the combined General Fund and capital improvement subsidies for all cemetery expenses. The success of holding down expenses, making small

increases in fees and charges, and initiating promotion of the cemeteries to increase space sales has enabled the non-resident subsidy to be maintained.