



**Council
Communication**
Office of the City Manager

Date

June 4, 2007

Agenda Item No. 14

Roll Call No. 07-

Communication No. 07-343

**Submitted by: Don Tripp, Park and
Recreation Director and
Jeb E. Brewer, P.E., City Engineer**

AGENDA HEADING:

Authorization to Pursue Acquisition of Property for the Future Expansion of the Glendale and Woodland Cemeteries by Gift or Negotiation.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend authorization to pursue acquiring property by gift or voluntary purchase for future expansion of the Glendale and Woodland Cemeteries. This action provides the Real Estate Division of the Engineering Department with approval to contact adjoining property owners to determine their willingness to participate in a voluntary purchase of their property. Currently staff has identified funding options to pay for only a few of the parcels, but this process will help in the planning process, including the preparation of the recommended Capital Improvements Budget. Negotiation of terms and costs for each acquisition will be subject to CIP funding availability and final City Council approval.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: To be determined on a property-by-property basis.

Funding Source: To be determined on a property-by-property basis.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Cemetery Division of the Park and Recreation Department has developed a long range plan to expand both the Glendale Cemetery and the Woodland Cemetery properties, subject to funding availability through the Capital Improvement Program.

Glendale Cemetery:

The long range expansion plan for Glendale Cemetery includes extending the entire West property line to 55th Street from University Avenue to Franklin Avenue. Currently, there are nine (9) remaining residential properties along this section of 55th Street. The purchase of these properties will allow the cemetery to expand and better utilize adjacent cemetery property that could not be accomplished without ownership of these properties. Cemetery management has multiple options available to develop the expansion area such as extending the existing Veterans burial blocks to the south, use of in-ground and/or above-ground cremation niche spaces, and creating a high yield memorial garden area for single and companion upright monuments. Ownership of these properties will also allow for a continuous, uniform fence along 55th Street for improved cemetery security. The Real Estate Division will contact

these property owners to determine their willingness to sell on a voluntary basis. The terms and costs of any acquisition agreement for any of the properties will be subject to CIP funding availability and final City Council Approval.

Woodland Cemetery:

The long range expansion plan for Woodland Cemetery includes extending the North property line of the St. Ambrose section of the cemetery to Olive Avenue from 22nd Street to Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway. Currently there are four (4) residential properties and six (6) vacant lots along this section of Olive Avenue. The purchase of these properties will allow the cemetery to expand and better utilize surrounding cemetery property that could not be accomplished without ownership of these properties and will also allow the City to vacate this section of Olive Avenue and incorporate it into the cemetery's internal street system. Cemetery management has multiple options available to develop the expansion area such as additional burial plots, use of in-ground and/or above-ground cremation niche spaces, or creating a high yield memorial garden area for single and companion upright monuments. The Real Estate Division will contact these property owners to determine their willingness to sell on a voluntary basis. The terms and costs of any acquisition agreement for any of the properties will be subject to CIP funding availability and final City Council Approval.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Approval of terms and costs for acquisition of specific properties and acceptance of real estate documents.