


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number:	22-505	Meeting:	November 7, 2022
	Agenda Item:	29	Roll Call:	22-1736
	Submitted by:	Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving and adopting an amended Schedule of Fees for Cemeteries under Chapter 34 of the City Code.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of the Parks and Recreation Board, Cemetery Advisory Committee and staff recommended changes to the Schedule of Fees for Municipal Code Chapter 34 Cemeteries.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: New fees include annual rate adjustments for cemetery services associated with a product option, and marketing-strategy pricing of popular high-demand amenities and locations. Accurately predicting the overall increase in revenue is not possible given the fact that at-need sales vary by the number of individuals passing away in our community each year. Cemetery fees are positioned to meet the market demand based on customer needs and are comparable to private cemeteries within Des Moines.

Funding Source: Additional revenue will be deposited into FY 2023 Operating Budget, Cemetery, G001 PK200220, page 150.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- On September 27, 2022, the Parks and Recreation Board unanimously approved the proposed changes to the schedule of fees and rules.
- On June 8, 2022, the Cemetery Advisory Committee approved adopting the Schedule of Cemetery Fees, as is required by Municipal Code Sec. 34-69. The fee changes brought existing pricing up-to-date with the competition and demand in the marketplace, products, services, and increased maintenance costs. Fees have not been changed since January 2022. Pricing, product, and service options are now assessed on an ongoing basis to adjust according to consumer demand, trends, and depletion of inventory in high-sales areas of the cemeteries. Fees have since been established as new areas in the City's cemeteries have opened to sales and all fees are being assessed on a regular basis to determine where adjustments should be made.

- All price changes will be effective January 1, 2023. Pricing categories/fees recommended for approval are outlined on the attached current price list.
- The Cemetery Advisory Committee voted unanimously at the June 8, 2022, meeting to recommend forwarding these fees to the Parks and Recreation Board with a recommendation for adoption. Details of the recommendations follow:
 - Burial services fees for opening and closing a grave for full interment at all cemeteries:
 - Adult services for Saturday will increase from \$1,875 to \$1,900.
 - Miscellaneous cemetery fees for all cemeteries:
 - Disinterment for casket remains will be increased from \$2,650 to \$2,700.
 - Foundation footing setting fees (charged by square inch) will increase from \$.78 to \$.80.
 - State filing fee as required for perpetual cemeteries will increase from \$10 to \$15.
 - Lot sales for Glendale Cemetery (4909 University Avenue):
 - Block 36-A – Single select spaces, upright markers, no planting allowed space will be increased from \$1,800 to \$1,900.
 - Block 36-A – 2-space companion select spaces, upright markers, no planting space will be increased from \$3,500 to \$3,700.
 - Block M (lower half) – 2-space companion spaces, upright monument, planting allowed space will be increased from \$4,600 to \$4,650.
 - Block N – Single select cremation burials only, upright markers, annual and perennial plantings allowed space will be increased from \$900 to \$1,000.
 - Block O – 2-space companion select spaces, upright markers, annual and perennial plantings allowed space will be increased from \$3,700 to \$3,900.
 - Lot sales for Laurel Hill Cemetery (3601 East Court Avenue):
 - Block J – 2-space companion select spaces, upright markers, annual plantings allowed space will be increased from \$3,100 to \$3,300.
 - Block L – 2-space companion select spaces, upright markers, annual and perennial plantings allowed space will be increased from \$3,500 to \$3,600.
 - Block P – Single select space, upright markers, no plantings allowed space will be increased from \$1,650 to \$1,700.
 - Block W-B – Single non-select space, flush markers, no plantings allowed space will be increased from \$925 to \$1,050.
- Staff recommends these fees to become effective January 1, 2023, following City Council approval. Preliminary conversations with funeral homes and monument companies have occurred regarding the proposed rate increases. This is necessary because funeral homes offer package prices sold in advance of a customer's passing. Once the new prices are approved by City Council, formal communication will prepare the municipal cemetery partners as they work with customers.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: October 18, 2021

Roll Call Number: [21-1572](#)

Action: [Amended](#) schedule of fees for cemeteries under Chapter 34 of the City Code, effective January 1, 2022. ([Council Communication No. 21-433](#)) Moved by Boesen to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Parks and Recreation

Date: September 27, 2022

Resolution Number: 22-064

Action: Motion by Potter to approve the proposed cemetery fees. Second by Davis. Motion carried.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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