


# COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number:	<b>24-464</b>	Meeting:	<b>November 18, 2024</b>
	Agenda Item:	<b>32</b>	Roll Call:	<b>24-1580</b>
	Submitted by:	<b>Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director</b>		

## 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. When combined with controlling expenses, adjustment to cemetery fees supports the amount of the City subsidy which ranges from \$80,000 to \$465,000.

Funding Source: Additional revenue will be deposited into Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Operating Budget, Parks and Recreation Department, Cemetery, G001 PK200220, Page 166

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- On October 22, 2024, the Parks and Recreation Board unanimously approved the proposed changes to the schedule of fees and rules.
- On August 7, 2024, 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 were last updated in January 2024. 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, 2025. Pricing categories/fees recommended for approval are outlined on the attached current price list.
- The Cemetery Advisory Committee voted at the August 7, 2024, 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 Monday to Friday will be increased from \$1,200 to \$1,250.
    - Adult service for Saturday will be increased from \$1,900 to \$2,000.
    - Infant service for Saturday will be increased from \$475 to \$500.
    - Cremation remains service for Monday to Friday will be increased from \$800 to \$850.
    - Cremation remains service for Saturday will be increased from \$1,000 to \$1,100.
    - Cremation remains service for Saturday between 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. will increase from \$1,300 to \$1,400.
  - **Miscellaneous Cemetery Fees for All Cemeteries–**
    - Disinterment for casket remains will be increased from \$2,900 to \$3,000.
    - Disinterment of cremated remains will increase from \$1,000 to \$1,050.
    - Foundation footing setting fee (charged by square inch) will increase from \$.83 to \$.85.
    - Floral placement fee will increase from \$10 to \$15.
    - Scattering fee (staff scatter cremated remains) will increase from \$50 to \$75.
    - A new charge for placement of location flags marking a burial space will be \$10 per burial location.
  - **Lot Sales for Glendale Cemetery (4909 University Avenue)**
    - Lakeview Columbarium – Facing the pond space will increase from \$3,000 to \$3,100.
    - Lakeview Columbarium – Away from the pond space will increase from \$2,600 to \$2,650.
    - Block 30-B: Single select, upright markers, plantings allowed space will be increased from \$2,000 to \$2,050.
    - Block 30-B: Two (2)-space companion spaces, upright markers, planting allowed space will be increased from \$3,950 to \$4,025.
    - Block 31: Two (2)-space companion, upright markers, planting allowed space will be increased from \$3,900 to \$4,000.
    - Block 36-A: Two (2)-space companion select spaces, upright markers, no planting space will be increased from \$3,750 to \$3,800.
    - Block 36-C: Single select, flush markers, annual plantings only space will be increased from \$1,250 to \$1,275.
    - Block 37: Two (2)-space companion select spaces, upright markers, annual and perennial plantings allowed space will be increased from \$3,950 to \$4,000.

- Block H: Single select space, flush marker and no planting space will be increased from \$1,250 to \$1,275.
- Block H-C: Single select space, flush marker, no planting allowed, cremation only will be increased from \$750 to \$775.
- Block H-D: Two (2)-space companion, upright markers, no planting allowed, space will be increased from \$3,850 to \$3,900.
- Block J: Single select space, flush marker and no planting allowed space will be increased from \$1,250 to \$1,275.
- Block J: Two (2)-space companion, upright markers, no planting allowed space will be increased from \$3,850 to \$3,950.
- Block K: Two (2)-space companion spaces, upright marker, planting allowed space will be increased from \$3,950 to \$4,050.
- Block M (lower half): Two (2)-space companion spaces, upright marker, planting allowed space will be increased from \$4,650 to \$4,675.
- Block N: Single select, upright markers, annual & perennial plantings allowed space will be increased from \$2,300 to \$2,375.
- Block N: Single cremation space, upright markers, annual & perennial plantings allowed space will be increased from \$1,000 to \$1,025.
- Block N: Single cremation space, flush marker and no plantings will increase from \$850 to \$875.
- Block O: Two (2)-space companion spaces, upright markers, annual and perennial plantings allowed space will be increased from \$3,950 to \$4,000.
- **Lot Sales for Glendale Masonic Cemetery (4909 University Avenue)**
  - Blocks A through L: Single select space, upright markers, plantings allowed, 2nd interments allowed space will be increased from \$1,400 to \$2,000.
  - Blocks C, F, G, H, J: Single select space, flush markers, no plantings allowed, 2nd interments allowed, footstones allowed except in Block J, space will be increased from \$1,400 to \$1,450.
  - Chapel Crypts: Northwest wall top three (3) rows-Veterans package, non-select space, up to six (6) burials per each person. Veteran's package includes one (1) veteran burial, opening/closing, installation of Veteran's plaque -- Spouse \$1,000 plus Veterans match plaque paid by purchaser. A new burial space fee of \$1,000.
  - Chapel Crypts: Northwest wall B17, B18, A17-Multiple cremains space up to six (6). Prices include space, opening/closing-family pays for plaques. A new burial space fee of \$1,200.
  - Chapel Crypts: Northwest wall A-18-Community Cremains Space, standard urns (includes opening/closing). A new burial space fee of \$650.
- **Lot Sales for Laurel Hill Cemetery (3601 East Court Avenue)**
  - Block J: Two (2)-space companion select spaces, upright markers, annual plantings allowed space will be increased from \$3,350 to \$3,400.

- Block N: Single cremation space, flush marker and no planting space will increase from \$850 to \$875.
  - Block T-1: Two (2)-space companion spaces, upright marker, with annual plantings allowed space will be increased from \$3,800 to \$3,850.
  - Columbarium 2 - Package includes double niche, engraving and opening/closing. This is a new price of \$2,600.
- Staff recommends the amended fees to become effective January 1, 2025, subject to City Council approval. Preliminary conversations with funeral homes and monument companies have occurred regarding the proposed rate increases. This is necessary since 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 be sent to partners as they work with customers.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: November 6, 2023

Roll Call Number: [23-1549](#)

Action: [Amended](#) Schedule of Fees for Cemeteries under Chapter 34 of the City Code. ([Council Communication No. 23-487](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Boesen. Motion Carried 6-0.

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):**

Board: Parks and Recreation

Date: October 22, 2024

Resolution Number: 24-068

Action: Motion by Bollard to approve the proposed cemetery fees. Second by Beltrame. Motion carried.

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

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