


## COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	<b>25-422</b>	Meeting:	<b>November 17, 2025</b>
	Agenda Item:	<b>32</b>	Roll Call:	<b>25-1548</b>
	Submitted by:	<b>Benjamin R. Page, Parks 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 and the metro area. When combined with controlling expenses, adjustment to cemetery fees is anticipated to reduce the Cemetery operating budget, subsidy which ranges from \$80,000 to \$465,000.

Funding Source: All revenue will be deposited into Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Operating Budget, Parks and Recreation Department, Cemetery, G001 PK200220, Page 139

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- On October 27, 2025, the Parks and Recreation Board unanimously approved the proposed changes to the schedule of fees and rules.
- On October 1, 2025, 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 2025. Pricing, product, and service options are now assessed on an ongoing annual cycle 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, 2026. Pricing categories/fees recommended for approval are outlined on the current price list attached to the Roll Call.
- The Cemetery Advisory Committee voted at their October 1, 2025, meeting to recommend forwarding these fees to the Parks and Recreation Board with a recommendation for adoption. Details of the recommendations are as follows:

➤ **Burial Services Fees for Opening and Closing a Grave for Internment at All Cemeteries–**

- Adult services for Monday to Friday will increase from \$1,250 to \$1,350.
- Adult services for Saturday will increase from \$2,000 to \$2,100.
- Infant services for Saturday will increase from \$500 to \$550.
- Cremated remains services for Monday to Friday will increase from \$850 to \$880.
- Cremated remains services for Saturday will increase from \$1,100 to \$1,250.
- Cremated remains services for Saturday from 1-3 p.m. services will increase from \$1,400 to \$1,600.
- Cremated remains, niches/columbarium for Monday to Friday will increase from \$550 to \$625.
- Cremated remains, niches/columbarium for Saturday before 1 p.m. will increase from \$700 to \$800.

➤ **Miscellaneous Cemetery Fees for All Cemeteries–**

- Disinterment for casket remains will increase from \$3,000 to \$3,200.
- Disinterment for infants will increase from \$1,200 to \$1,400.
- Disinterment for cremated remains (inground or above ground) will increase from \$1,050 to \$1,250.
- Reinter infants will increase from \$465 to \$525.
- Foundation footing setting fees (charged by square inch) will increase from \$0.85 to \$0.90.
- Setting of flush markers will increase from \$75 to \$100.
- Right of Interment (deed transfer) will increase from \$100 to \$125.
- Scattering fees by cemetery staff will increase from \$75 to \$100.

➤ **Lot Sales for Glendale Cemetery (4909 University Avenue)–**

- Block T: Non-select space, flush markers only space will increase from \$490 to \$535.
- Block 37-I: Non-select space, bevel or slant marker only space will increase from \$695 to \$750.
- Lakeview Columbarium: Facing the pond space will increase from \$3,100 to \$3,400.
- Lakeview Columbarium: Away from the pond space will increase from \$2,650 to \$2,800.
- Veteran: (Federal government marker required) will increase from \$160 to \$180.
- Veteran Spouse: (Stone must match veteran's markers) will increase from \$800 to \$850.

- Wildflower Scattering Garden: Engraving with year of birth and death on boulder will increase from \$650 to \$700.
- Block 30-B: Single select, upright markers, planting allowed space will increase from \$2,050 to \$2,150.
- Block 30-B: Two (2)-space companion, upright markers, planting allowed space will increase from \$4,025 to \$4,200.
- Block 31: Two (2)-space companion, upright markers, planting allowed space will increase from \$4,000 to \$4,200.
- Block 36-A: Single select spaces, upright markers, no planting space will increase from \$1,900 to \$2,000.
- Block 36-A: Two (2)-space companion select spaces, upright markers, no planting space will increase from \$3,800 to \$3,900.
- Block 36-C: Single space, flush, annual planting only will increase from \$1,275 to \$1,350.
- Block 36-C: Single space, upright markers, annual planting only space will increase from \$1,900 to \$2,000.
- Block 37: Two (2)-space companion select spaces, upright markers, annual & perennial plantings allowed space will increase from \$4,000 to \$4,200.
- Block 37-A: Single select space, flush marker, no planting spaces will increase from \$1,050 to \$1,100.
- Block 41: Single non-select at need space, flush marker and no plantings space will increase from \$1,050 to \$1,100.
- Block H: Single select space, flush marker and no plantings will increase from \$1,275 to \$1,350.
- Block H-C: Single select space, flush marker, no plantings for cremation burials only will increase from \$775 to \$900.
- Block H-D: Two (2)-space companion, upright markers, no planting space will increase from \$3,900 to \$4,100.
- Block M: Two (2)-space companion spaces, upright marker and planting allowed will increase from \$4,675 to \$5,000.
- Block N: Single select, upright markers, annual & perennial plantings allowed space will increase from \$2,375 to \$2,500.
- Block N: Single cremation space, upright marker, annual and perennial planting allowed spaces will increase from \$1,025 to \$1,100.
- Block N: Single cremation space, flush marker and no plantings will increase from \$875 to \$900.
- Block 34-TD: Tai Dam, single cremation space, flush marker and no plantings will increase from \$225 to \$250.
- Block 37-B: Islamic single space, flush marker and no plantings will increase from \$900 to \$1,000.

➤ **Lot Sales for Glendale Masonic Cemetery (4909 University Avenue)–**

- Block A through L: Single select space, upright markers, planting allowed, 2nd interments allowed will increase from \$2,000 to \$2,300.
- Block C, F, G, H, J: Single select space, flush markers only, no planting, 2nd interments allowed but no footstones will increase from \$1,450 to \$1,500.
- Chape Crypts: NW wall top three (3) rows – Veterans package, non-select space, up to six (6) burials per each person to include – veterans package includes one (1) veteran burial, opening/closing, installation of veteran's plaque for spouse, veterans match plaque paid by purchaser will increase from \$1,000 to \$1,100.
- Chapel Crypts: NW wall B17, B18, A17 – Multiple cremains space up to six (6) remains and prices include space, opening/closing – family pays for plaques will increase from \$1,200 to \$1,250.
- Chapel Crypts: East and West walls, single crypts will increase from \$3,500 to \$3,700.
- Chapel Crypts: NW wall A-18 Community Cremains space, standard urns (including opening and closing) will increase from \$650 to \$800.
- Chapel Crypts: East and West wall companions will increase from \$6,500 to \$6,700.
- Chapel Niches: North wall (cremains) will increase from \$2,500 to \$2,600.
- Chapel Outside Crypts: North singles will increase from \$3,500 to \$3,700.
- Chapel Outside Crypts: North, South, and West doubles will increase from \$6,500 to \$6,700.
- Columbarium Crypts-Boaz: East and West singles will increase from \$3,500 to \$3,700.

➤ **Lot Sales for Laurel Hill Cemetery (3601 East Court Avenue)–**

- Wildflower Scattering Garden: Engraving with year of birth and death on boulder will increase from \$650 to \$700.
- Block J: Two (2)-space companion select spaces, upright markers, annual plantings allowed space will increase from \$3,400 to \$3,500.
- Block L: Two (2)-space companion spaces, upright markers, planting allowed space will increase from \$3,800 to \$3,900.
- Block M: Single select space, flush marker and no planting space will increase from \$1,050 to \$1,100.
- Block N: Single cremation space, flush marker and no planting space will increase from \$875 to \$950.
- Block N: Single cremation, select space only, upright marker and no planting space will increase from \$1,000 to \$1,100.
- Block P: Single select space, flush marker and no planting will increase from \$1,050 to \$1,100.
- Block P: Single select space, upright marker and no planting space will increase from \$1,900 to \$2,100.
- Block T-1: Two (2)-space companion spaces, upright marker, with annual plantings space will increase from \$3,850 to \$4,000.

- Block W-B: Single non-select, at need space, flush marker and no planting will increase from \$1,050 to \$1,100.
- Block K: Infant spaces will increase from \$490 to \$535.
- Columbarium No. 2: Package price includes space for two (2) cremated remains, engraving and opening/closing – will increase from \$2,600 to \$2,700.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: November 18, 2024

Roll Call Number: [24-1580](#)

Action: [Adopting](#) an amended schedule of fees for Cemeteries under Chapter 34 of the City Code. ([Council Communication No. 24-464](#)). Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Voss. Motion Carried 7-0.

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

Board: Parks and Recreation Board

Date: October 28, 2025

Resolution Number: 25-070

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

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

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