

## JACKSONVILLE CITY CEMETERIES BOARD MINUTES APRIL 21, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Jacksonville City Cemeteries Board was called to order at 9:08 a.m. at Kim's Place, 211 East Court Street, Jacksonville, Illinois. The meeting was publicly announced by posting and by written notice to the local newspaper and radio stations.

**ROLL CALL:** Members present were: Chairman Linda Brown, Tom Newby, Gerald Scott, Vicky Scott, Pat Robson; Treasurer Mary Ferguson; Deputy City Clerk Angela Salyer; Superintendent Doug Moore. A quorum was declared.

**AGENDA:** Motion was made by G. Scott, seconded by V. Scott, to approve the April 21, 2023 Agenda as presented in advance. **By voice vote, motion carried.**

**MINUTES:** Motion was made by Newby, seconded by G. Scott, to approve the March 31, 2023 Minutes as presented in advance. **By voice vote, motion carried.**

### **FINANCE:**

#### **a.) Treasurer's Investment Report – March 2023:**

Stock prices continue to rise and fall, and bond prices are rising in part to the financial scare that developed during the month of March with the potential bank failures. In 2022, the nation saw the largest and swiftest increase in the overnight rate that governed the yield curve for fixed income securities, going from 0% to 5% all within 12 months. That movement has caused the prices of the bonds we hold to fall significantly because they carry lower interest rates, making them worth less in the marketplace as they could be replaced at a higher interest rate. There was a lot of volatility in equities markets both domestically and internationally, making 2022 a rough year for all points of investment portfolios, which was at the root of that bank issue witnessed in March. The jobless rate is on the rise which means the need for additional interest rate increases to slow the economy down probably are not going to be as necessary as had been forecast last year. Potentially the Federal Reserve could ease up or even start decreasing that overnight deposit rate, which means that mortgage rates would decrease, thereby strengthening the mortgage market. April will look stronger because we have seen improvements in both equities and bond markets. The upside is that with interest rates decreasing, the valuation in our investments will increase. Treas. Ferguson pointed out that the majority of the Money Market balance of \$56,961.09 is held in the Land and Buildings Fund, and that the next scheduled maturity is August 17<sup>th</sup>.

Motion was made by V. Scott, seconded by Newby, to approve the Treasurer's Report for March, 2023. **By voice vote, motion carried.**

#### **b.) Cash Receipts Report – March 2023:**

Chair Brown gave a brief overview of the March Cash Receipts Report noting that the operating fund cash balance is \$174,191.13 as opposed to a balance of \$175,013.26 at this same time last year. The current Money Market Account is at \$20,642.21. The current Year to Date revenue balance is \$295,864 (75.43% available) and the Year to Date expenditure balance is \$344,398.59 (80.70% available) at the end of March.

#### **c.) Cash Receipts Report and Claims Approval – March 2023:**

Motion was made by Newby, seconded by G. Scott, to approve Financial Statements for the month ending March 31, 2023, to approve the Cash Receipts Reports and to pay claims when funds are available. **By voice vote, motion carried.**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Supt. Moore reported on the following:

- ✦ The activation process with i3 Broadband for the cemeteries failed, causing phone and internet problems. There was some confusion that the City's purchase with i3 Broadband, which was

originally deemed to be inclusive of all the City locations to provide internet, was to be free of charge, but that was not the case. Based on the current service, which runs around \$300 per month, monthly fees were slated to reduce to \$60 per month for a much better product. But because of the issues with i3, the decision was made to try to get both cemeteries hooked directly to City Hall as an extension. That will fix the phone issues, but will not fix the internet issues. The assumption is that the City will eventually switch to i3, which has been installed, but has not been activated.

- ✘ The Cemetery Department purchased two new pieces of equipment through the Capital Improvement Fund, one mower and one spreader. Stipulations of purchasing the spreader was that there needs to be personnel with the appropriate credentials to use the machine, and that the Department put together a comprehensive sprayer program for both properties. Supt. Moore would prefer to use an organic, or green, type of application rather than spreading a wide range of chemicals due of the long term effects of using of harsh chemicals.
- ✘ Supt. Moore will be seeking permission from the City Council to purchase a smaller, stand-on mower to use in the sections where the larger mower will not fit. Cost of the mower is approximately \$7,600.
- ✘ The north half of the roads in East Cemetery will be repaired using a portion of the Motor Fuel Tax funds.
- ✘ Cemetery employees found an urn of ashes buried in the mulch at East Cemetery. Supt. Moore was able to track the ashes back to Williamson Funeral Home and found that the decedent was from Beardstown, Illinois and passed away in 2010. Supt. Moore is in the process of attempting to locate family to return the urn to or to make arrangements for a proper burial.

Discussion ensued regarding the mowers in use at the Cemetery Department and the mowing season. Supt. Moore noted that there are some lingering issues with the new mower that he and his department are working through. He will most likely continue to purchase Toro machines in the future. He also noted that Henry's Service Center still has possession of one of our trade-in mowers so he would like to work out an agreement that the City can use that mower as a backup if the current mower is inoperable.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No discussion.

**OLD BUSINESS:** No discussion.

**NEW BUSINESS:** No discussion.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Hearing no further business, a motion was made by G. Scott, seconded by Newby, to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 a.m. **By voice vote, motion carried.** The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Jacksonville City Cemeteries Board will be held **Friday, May 19, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.** in the Commission Room at the City of Jacksonville Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Brown  
LMB:ams

Recorded by Deputy City Clerk Angela Salyer.