

JACKSONVILLE CITY CEMETERIES BOARD MINUTES JULY 21, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Jacksonville City Cemeteries Board was called to order at 8:33 a.m. in the Commission Room of the Jacksonville Municipal Building. 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; Treasurer May Ferguson; Deputy City Clerk Angela Salyer; Superintendent Doug Moore. Absent from the meeting were Members Vicky Scott and Pat Robson. A quorum was declared.

AGENDA: Motion was made by Newby, seconded by G. Scott, to approve the July 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 June 16, 2023 Minutes as presented in advance. **By voice vote, motion carried.**

FINANCE:

a.) Treasurer's Investment Report – June 2023:

Treas. Ferguson reported that the \$50,000 American Express Certificate of Deposit (CD) is set to mature August 17, 2023. Upon the recommendation of the Board, Treas. Ferguson is planning to withdraw interest from the Money Market Cemetery Account to include with the \$20,000 August transfer from the Cemetery Trust Fund, and the above mentioned \$50,000 CD for a total investment of \$75,000. Interest rates on the short term still appear to be very attractive. The Federal Reserve does not meet again until September, but the odds appear to favor a 25 basis point increase. Because there does not appear to be any reductions scheduled in the short term interest rates until some time in 2024, the \$100,000 CD set to mature in January 2024 may benefit from the higher rates as well. The stock market continues to improve. Aggregate portfolio value is \$1,234,822.25 at the end of June, 2023. Motion was made by G. Scott, seconded by Newby, to accept the Treasurer's Report. **By voice vote, motion carried.**

b.) Cash Receipts Report – June 2023:

Chair Brown gave a brief overview of the June Cash Receipts Report noting that the operating fund cash balance is \$168,713.07 as opposed to a balance of \$177,850.91 at this same time last year. The current Money Market Account balance, which is 45% of lot sales, is \$26,500.56 and is used by the Treasurer to augment investments for perpetual care. Two checks totaling \$2,741 were received from the Mary Carson Trust Account. The current Year to Date revenue balance is \$211,507.34 (46.08% available) and the Year to Date expenditure balance is \$198,623.66 (53.46% available) at the end of June.

c.) Cash Receipts Report and Claims Approval – June 2023:

Motion was made by Newby, seconded by G. Scott, to approve Financial Statements for the month ending June 30, 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:

- ✘ Supt. Moore recently met with Doug Birdsell from Birdsell Machine & Ornamental regarding repairs to a wrought iron fence between Diamond Grove and Calvary Cemeteries that was damaged. Because the insurance payment was less than the estimate, and in trying to keep costs down, Mr. Birdsell is attempting to repair the panels rather than trying to match new panels to the original panels. Supt. Moore has also requested that Mr. Birdsell reset the panels to the north to clean up the area, similar to the south side.
- ✘ Diamond Grove Cemetery suffered extensive damage during the storm on June 29th. Ten mature trees were completely pulled out of the ground, and some were broken in half. Supt. Moore commended

his staff for a job well done in cleaning the cemeteries of landscaping debris. Additionally, Ald. Oldenettel is working to secure a grant to purchase trees for the city as well as the cemeteries. Due to the weather he is considering waiting until Spring to plant the new trees.

- ✘ The City Council accepted the bid of \$3,954 from Sayer Concrete for the purchase of new pads and walkways for the original columbarium. These will be placed between the columbarium and the road at Diamond Grove Cemetery. For the new columbarium at Diamond Grove, there is a tree that will need to be removed and then the new columbarium will be placed in the center, keeping in mind future expansion. Work is planned for the landscaping of the area. Chair Brown suggested replanting the tree in a new area. Supt. Moore explained that depending on the size of the tree, the space needed to plant a tree would be approximately 8 burial spaces, so planting one in an open area can have a major impact on the ability to sell those spaces.
- ✘ Supt. Moore is hoping to extend the summer employees help into the Fall, but he may be down to only two summer employees left at the end of August due to school schedules.
- ✘ Local area cemetery representatives and funeral home representatives have met to discuss the formation of a Cemetery District. That matter has been dropped due to lack of interest. Many on the Board feel that upkeep of these smaller cemeteries is a real concern, and that most of these representatives do not have the means for upkeep of their cemeteries.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No discussion.

OLD BUSINESS:

Steve Hackett continues to contact Supt. Moore regarding a transfer of plots from the Maddox Family to himself. He has located an individual locally who he is trying to connect to the ownership we have on file, but has been unsuccessful to date. Supt. Moore has put that matter aside at this time because the proper paperwork is not in hand. Chair Brown is not comfortable with someone who is wanting to buy someone else's spaces contacting the family, especially if they have burials on those lots. Mr. Newby suggested Mr. Hackett install a private columbarium. General discussion ensued.

NEW BUSINESS: No discussion.

ADJOURNMENT: Hearing no further business, a motion was made by Newby, seconded by G. Scott, to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 a.m. **By voice vote, motion carried.** The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Jacksonville City Cemeteries Board will be held **Friday, August 18, 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.