

To: Ordinance Review Committee
From: Mark Eyerman
Subject: Revised Draft Cemetery Rules
Date: February 17, 2021

The following are a revised draft set of rules for City maintained cemeteries that incorporate Rusty's feedback on the January draft. The draft rules focus on the issues related to the ability of the City to maintain the cemeteries. I have tried to keep these simple and straight-forward while covering the key concerns.

Draft City Cemetery Rules

- 1. Applicability** – These rules apply to cemeteries owned and/or maintained by the City of Gardiner.
- 2. Purpose** – These rules are adopted by the City Council to assure that City owned/maintained cemeteries are attractive places that can be efficiently maintained.
- 3. Responsibility of the City** – The City of Gardiner is responsible for the overall upkeep of the cemeteries including maintaining the infrastructure, periodic mowing and cleanup. The City is not responsible for any work involving the maintenance of individual grave sites or monuments or markers. The City reserves the right to remove dead or unsightly plants or flowers or other ornaments on individual graves and to move or relocate planters or flower boxes that do not conform to these rules or that interfere with the normal maintenance of the cemetery. The City shall not be responsible for any grave decorations or other items that may be lost, misplaced, broken or stolen.
- 4. Seasonal Cleanup** – All flowers, potted plants and other ornamentation or decorations shall be removed from all graves in the spring not later than April 15th and in the fall no later than October 1st to facilitate the seasonal cleanup of the cemetery.
- 5. Grave Decorations** – The following limitations apply to grave sites. The City will remove any decorations that are not in compliance with these rules:
 - a. Only memorial insignias, living plants and flowers, or silk flowers are permitted as grave decorations. Plastic plants and flowers are not permitted. Eternal lights including solar lights are permitted for special occasions and may be used for a maximum of three (3) days.
 - b. Seasonal flowers may be planted on the grave but must be located close to the monument and maintained by the owner or family.
 - c. The planting of trees or shrubs is prohibited.

- d. Urns or flower boxes not more than three (3) feet in length may be placed close to the monument but may not be placed on other parts of the lot.
- e. Dead or damaged flowers or plants shall be removed from the grave by the owner or family in a timely manner.
- f. The placing of boxes, shells, toys, metal designs, ornaments, chairs, settees, fences, edging materials, shepherd's hooks, trellises, or similar items is not permitted.
- g. No concrete, plastic or wood edging is allowed around flower beds.
- h. White marble chips, granite chips, or other rock materials are not allowed in flower beds or on cemetery lots.

6. Failure to Maintain a Grave Site – The City reserves the right to take steps to maintain a grave site if it is not adequately maintained including the following:

- a. Any grave marker in poor or dangerous condition may be either removed by the City or set flush with the ground.
- b. Any existing trees, shrubs, or bushes that become overgrown, unsightly or hazardous may be trimmed or removed by the City.