



City of Rochester Hills
AGENDA SUMMARY
NON-FINANCIAL ITEMS

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Legislative File No: 2011-0485

TO: Mayor and City Council Members
FROM: Jane Leslie, Clerk 248-841-2461
DATE: March 23, 2012
SUBJECT: Amendments to Cemetery Rules

REQUEST:

The Cemetery Advisory Committee requests approval to update and amend the Cemetery Rules.

BACKGROUND:

The VanHoosen Jones-Stoney Creek Cemetery has had operating rules since its opening in 1978. These rules have been amended from time to time to recognize changes in operations. At this time, the Cemetery Advisory Committee, the Sexton Calvin Leach, and the City Clerk are recommending an update to the rules to acknowledge the most recent changes.

The basic change to the rules involves reorganization of the layout format to incorporate rules that apply to specific sections of cemetery within the description of those sections. These specifics include sizes of plots, sizes and types of headstones, decorations/plantings, etc. Since our last update in 2002, the cemetery completed the final platting process, opened a Family Plots section, and added a chapel for funeral services. Changes have been made in all sections of the rules and are highlighted in the attached copy.

These amended rules were presented at the November 14, 2011 Regular Meeting on the Consent Agenda. At the request of Vice President Pixley, they were removed to have several questions reviewed. The questions have been reviewed with the Cemetery Advisory Committee at their March 21, 2012 meeting as well as with the city attorney, John Staran. The questions included the following pages of the rules:

- Page 2, Article II, #8 – “shall repurchase”. The concern was how problematic will it be if the cemetery/city does not have the available cash. The buyback rule allows the city to control and track ownership of cemetery lots. At this time, the Perpetual Care fund can accommodate any required buybacks. We will continue to monitor funding.
- Page 6, Article V, # 5 – The committee feels that the chapel is the appropriate location for services. Since its opening, the chapel has been very well received by families and funeral directors. There have been very few requests for alternate locations for services.
- Page 6, Article V, #6 – Remove. The Cemetery Sexton has the ability to consider exceptions.
- Pages 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, and 16 all pages refer to “Monuments/Markers” and “drawings must be submitted and approved by the Sexton prior to purchase.” This language has been in all previous editions of the rules. It provides that the correct dimensions are adhered to; that errors do not occur to cause families additional cost; and that the city is paid for its work.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Rochester Hills City Council approves the proposed amendments to the Cemetery Rules and Regulations.

APPROVALS:	SIGNATURE	DATE
Department Review		
Department Director		
Mayor		
City Council Liaison		

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