



# City of Grand Island

Tuesday, May 27, 2014

Council Session

## Item F-4

**#9491 - Consideration of Amending Chapter 10 of the Grand Island City Code Relative to Allowing Upright Markers in Section J**

Staff Contact: Todd McCoy, Parks & Recreation Director

# Council Agenda Memo

**From:** Todd McCoy, Parks and Recreation Director

**Meeting:** May 27, 2014

**Subject:** Approve City Code Amendment to Allow Upright Markers in Section J of City Cemetery

**Item #'s:** F-4

**Presenter(s):** Todd McCoy, Parks and Recreation Director

## Background

The Grand Island Cemetery is a 90 acre tract of land located in western Grand Island. The Cemetery facilitates approximately 160 interments annually. The property is becoming limited for space.

A City Council study session was held on April 1, 2014 to consider options for addressing space issues at the Cemetery. To provide improved space selection, it was discussed to amend City Code so that upright markers could be sold in Section J.

## Discussion

Flat marker lot sales in Section J are not popular with only a handful of spaces sold each year. Although allowing upright markers in Section J will not solve long term space issues, it will increase upright selection by 320 spaces immediately.

It is recommended that City Code Section 10-17 be amended to allow upright markers in the four eastern rows in the South Block of Section J.

### **CHAPTER 10 CEMETERY Article I. General**

#### **§10-17. Tombstones, Monuments, Copings, etc.**

No tombstone, monument, gravemarker or vases shall be erected in the city cemetery except those that meet the approval of the cemetery and the following provisions:

- (1) All markers in the South Block of Section J shall be set flush with the turf **with the exception of rows 170-339, 169-340, 168-341, and 167-342.**

(2) A minimum five-inch wash shall be used on all new or reset stone or monument work, and all spaces of 30 inches or less between stones or monuments shall be filled with concrete on new or reset work.

(3) No stone or monument shall extend beyond the property boundary of the lot owner.

(4) No lot or grave copings, curbs, or above-ground corner stones shall be constructed within the cemetery.

(5) All new foot stones shall be set flush with the turf, except to match existing above-ground foot stones on the same lot.

(6) Permanent vases shall not be allowed in alleys in front of stones or monuments, nor shall they be allowed on the grave side of an individual pre-need marker. Permanent vases shall only be allowed on the ends of stones or monuments in Sections M, N and P of the cemetery.

(7) It shall be the responsibility of the lot owner to reset any stones, monuments, or vases removed by the cemetery to allow room for a burial.

(8) The maximum width of any stone or monument, including the wash, shall be 26 inches. No stone or monument requiring more than 26 inches for width shall be delivered to the cemetery without the prior written approval of the cemetery superintendent.

Amended by Ordinance No. 9197, effective 11-12-2008

### **Alternatives**

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Move to approve
2. Refer the issue to a Committee
3. Postpone the issue to future date
4. Take no action on the issue

### **Recommendation**

City Administration recommends that City Council approve an amendment to City Code to allow upright makers in Section J of the City Cemetery.

### **Sample Motion**

Move to approve amending the City Code to allow upright makers in Section J of the City Cemetery.

ORDINANCE NO. 9491

An ordinance to amend Chapter 10 of the Grand Island City Code; to amend Sections 10-17 (1) to make general corrections to various code sections as now existing, and any ordinance or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith; and to provide for publication and the effective date of this ordinance.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA:

SECTION 1. Section 10-17 (1) of the Grand Island City Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

**CHAPTER 10  
CEMETERY  
Article I. General**

**§10-17. Tombstones, Monuments, Copings, etc.**

No tombstone, monument, gravemarker or vases shall be erected in the city cemetery except those that meet the approval of the cemetery and the following provisions:

(1) All markers in the South Block of Section J shall be set flush with the turf **with the exception of rows 170-339, 169-340, 168-341, and 167-342.**

(2) A minimum five-inch wash shall be used on all new or reset stone or monument work, and all spaces of 30 inches or less between stones or monuments shall be filled with concrete on new or reset work.

(3) No stone or monument shall extend beyond the property boundary of the lot owner.

(4) No lot or grave copings, curbs, or above-ground corner stones shall be constructed within the cemetery.

(5) All new foot stones shall be set flush with the turf, except to match existing above-ground foot stones on the same lot.

(6) Permanent vases shall not be allowed in alleys in front of stones or monuments, nor shall they be allowed on the grave side of an individual pre-need marker. Permanent vases shall only be allowed on the ends of stones or monuments in Sections M, N and P of the cemetery.

(7) It shall be the responsibility of the lot owner to reset any stones, monuments, or vases removed by the cemetery to allow room for a burial.

(8) The maximum width of any stone or monument, including the wash, shall be 26 inches. No stone or monument requiring more than 26 inches for width shall be delivered to the cemetery without the prior written approval of the cemetery superintendent.

Amended by Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_ 2014

Approved as to Form	▣ _____
May 23, 2014	▣ City Attorney

ORDINANCE NO.9491 (Cont.)

SECTION 2. Any ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith be, and hereby are, repealed.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall be in force and take effect from and after its passage and publication, within fifteen days in one issue of the Grand Island Independent as provided by law.

Enacted: May 27, 2014.

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Jay Vavricek, Mayor

Attest:

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RaNae Edwards, City Clerk