

City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska

Monday, November 2, 2020

Regular Meeting

Item Reports1

Council discussion and instruction to staff regarding implementing an Ordinance to erect roadside memorial signs.

Staff Contact: Rick Kuckahn, Interim City Manager

Good afternoon,

My name is Frank Wimberley. I am writing this email to inquire as to whether or not Scottsbluff has an ordinance on erecting roadside memorial signs. On Monday, September 28, I attended the Gering City Council meeting and asked them to approve an ordinance of this type. My father, Donald Wimberley, was struck by a distracted driver on May 4, 2019. He died from those injuries 52 days later on June 25, 2019. Gering did not have an ordinance for this type of sign, so in working with the City Clerk and her staff, we were able to draft an ordinance, and get it passed unanimously 6-0.

If there is no ordinance for this in Scottsbluff, what would it take to present the idea to city council? Is this an idea you feel that the city would get behind and support? My idea for the ordinance was very similar to a state highway program. Families who suffer a loss due to a drunk or distracted driver, can apply to have a memorial sign erected for the victim within city limits. There would be a \$50 application fee which would cover the sign and placement. The sign would remain for two years from the date of the setting. These signs would not only help the grieving families, but also serve as a public reminder that our actions have very real consequences.

The Gering ordinance, once published, will be ordinance number 2090. I would be glad to send a draft copy of the ordinance if need be. Please reach out to me at your earliest convenience if this is an idea worth pursuing. Thank you for your time.

Frank Wimberley
719-649-0794