

**BOARD OF CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS
COUNCIL ROOM, CITY HALL
106 W. DIVISION STREET
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025
6:00 P.M.**

The Board of Cemetery Commissioners met in City Hall, Chair Clough presiding. On roll call: Council Member Daniel Clough, Mandy Krejci, Lori Pekol and City Clerk-Treasurer Rex R. Roehl present. Council Member Rolly Gelhaus absent.

Also present: Cemetery Sexton Regan Barth.

The minutes of the previous meeting were declared approved.

Sexton Barth reported on normal maintenance of Cemetery grounds – lawnmowing, weed whacking, plowing snow, grave care, watering flowers and road maintenance. There are 31 dead ash trees in the Cemetery. They will be cutting down the worst ones first, dig out the stumps and replace if possible or close to the same location. Trimming bushes, straightening headstones, trapping and poisoning moles. The City does not clean headstones.

Chair Clough stated that the Commission had a presentation on a columbarium in 2022 with an estimated cost of \$50,000 to \$55,000. The City does not have the money; the Grants Committee researched it and found no grants for one; the City Attorney has stated perpetual care funds do not allow for construction, they are limited to maintenance.

Discussion on the number of traditional burials vs cremations; are people asking for it; financing through the City's budget, dissolving the City's perpetual care fund with the City assuming all responsibility for the Cemetery operations or borrowing funds as part of a future City borrowing for other projects; and possible sites for a columbarium.

Motion Krejci, second Pekol, to recommend to the Finance Committee to allocate funding for a columbarium in the future whether by budget funding or borrowing. All Aye.

Sexton Barth presented the proposed 2026 Cemetery Budget. Barth stated that his salary is 2/3 Cemetery and 1/3 Parks.

<u>Budget Line</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>	<u>2026 Proposed Budget</u>
Sexton Salary (2/3)	\$ 35,568	\$ 36,636
Extra Help	21,024	21,658
Utilities	4,000	4,000
Telephone & Internet	1,750	1,850
Conferences & Travel	1,000	1,000
Repairs & Maintenance	10,200	10,200
Seeds, Plants & Trees	1,000	1,000
Landscaping	1,000	1,000
Gas, Oil & Grease	4,000	4,500
Street Maintenance	500	500
Care Fund	4,000	4,000

Equipment (1/2)	-0-	-0-
Vehicles (1/2)	-0-	-0-
Lawnmowers (1/2)	<u>4,650</u>	<u>4,500</u>
Totals	<u>\$ 88,692</u>	<u>\$ 90,844</u>

Sexton Barth stated wages were increased 3% per the Personnel Committee recommendation; Telephone & Internet was increased for internet costs; Gas, Oil & Grease was increased for increased costs; and Lawnmowers (1/2) is decreased reflecting a better trade-in value than last year, since we went to a three-year rotation on commercial mowers – quotes were received from TCR Power, Neillsville and Tri-County, Withee.

Motion Pekol, second Krejci, to recommend the proposed 2026 Cemetery Budget to the Finance Committee. All Aye.

Sexton Barth stated replacing the gravel area in front of the new Cemetery shop with concrete would be nice and prevent washouts.

Discussion followed with Barth to look into the cost.

Motion Krejci, second Pekol, to adjourn. All Aye.

Daniel Clough, Chair

Rex R. Roehl, Clerk-Treasurer