

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL GROUNDS/CEMETERY COMMISSION March 9, 2023

A meeting of the Municipal Grounds/Cemetery Commission was held in the office of the DPW 50 Manca Drive on Thursday, March 9, 2023.

Members Present: John Awdycki Chairman; Brian LaRoche; Denise Merriam

Attendees: Dane Arnold, Director of Public Works; Dean Meunier, Foreman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson, John Awdycki called the meeting to order at 7:45 am.

OPEN MEETING RECORDING

ANNOUNCEMENT – any person may make a video or audio recording of an open session of a meeting, or may transmit the meeting through any medium, subject to reasonable requirements of the chair as to the number, placement and operation of equipment used so as not to interfere with the conduct of the meeting. Any person intending to make such a recording shall notify the chair forthwith. All Documents referenced or used during the meeting must be submitted in duplicate to the Secretary of the Committee, pursuant to the Open Meeting and Public Records Law. All documents shall become part of the official record of the meeting. There was no one present taping the meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion made by Brian LaRoche second by Denise Merriam to accept the minutes of the December 8, 2022, meeting as written. All in favor motion carries.

ORDINANCES, GENERAL LAWS, AND SPECIAL ACTS

CORRESPONDENCE

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: REPORTS FROM AUDITOR

Denise inquires on the charges from Pipe Plus dated March 2, 2023. Dean indicates charges due to repair of broken main at Wildwood cemetery.

Motion made by Denise Merriam second by Brian Laroche to accept the financial statement, all in favor motion passes.

STATUS OF FACILITIES

Dean: the department is aware of damage at Wildwood cemetery to flat marker from snow blower during recent snowstorm. Will be reaching out to Family Memorials for repair to marker.

Dane: indicates the facilities are all currently under snow cover.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEAD UNDER COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION

Dane: The Mayor has approved 200K for playground equipment at the Oliva Case playground. Will be removing the wooden structure some time mid-July. Lead time on new equipment is out to August.

Denise: has Mayor sent word of monies for lighting at ballfields? Dane states no, not as of yet.

Dane: working on the possibility of Pickle Ball at Oliva Case playground. The thought is to use part of the basketball court fencing that was just completed.

Also indicates Community Development is building a recreation and pickle ball field off Leo Drive and we will piggyback with the installation of Disc Golf at this location.

NEW BUSINESS

John Awdycki: Call received from Mike Hermanson, on behalf of Chris Watkins regarding the bike path crossing through the cemetery. Feels anything going through the cemetery may seem inappropriate to those buried there. Wanted to make members and department aware.

Dane, Community Development is looking at putting in a parking area and bike path both to pass through cemetery. Dane provides explanation/visual of current city project underway that tie into the passing through of cemetery.

Dane: Currently working on restructuring of Department fees to offset expenses. In particular, a nonresident fee, perhaps an additional fee to those who reside out of town and purchase within?

Decision is made take fee schedule home, review, come up with ideas and revisit once Director has new numbers and Committee has time to review.

Dean: Need to take into consideration what is involved in the fee pricing. Each community varies in what they provide for services.

Brian: Should visit the fee schedule yearly. Then asks Dane if he received any contact from Chuck Lahaye? Had received a call regarding damage at the old cemetery? Tree branches came down and damaged stones. Informed him to contact the committee to be placed on the next agenda.

Dean: Cemeteries are running out of space. Inquiring on the possible expansion of Green Bower cemetery. Possibility of land by solar panels. Small piece of land with potential for use. Would have to do test digging, but thought is to inquire with Mayor.

Also, need to revisit the inquiry of abandoned lots at the cemeteries. Dane states he will reach back out to City Solicitor, John Flick.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2023, at 7:45 am.

Motion made by Brian Laroche second by Denise Merriam to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 am. All in favor, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted:

Christine M. Harty, Administrative Assistant

All documentation mentioned at the meeting may be viewed at the DPW Office at 50 Manca Drive