

**City of Buffalo City – Cemetery Committee Meeting
Monday, June 3, 2019, 7pm at the Buffalo City Cemetery**

The Cemetery Committee meeting was called to order by Mayor Russ Lorenz. Present: Lorenz, Council President Ben Holien, City Superintendent Stan Meier and City Clerk Jenny Ehlenfeldt

Thrivent Financial Advisor Cory Campbell discussed investment options with the committee for cemetery funds that were not able to be invested due to restrictions on cemeteries in the state in the past. Since the council passed the resolution more than a year ago to dissolve the cemetery funds into the general city accounts, more options that can yield higher gains are available. Campbell will put some options together to present to the entire council. Lorenz said the council is very interested at this time in investing the money so that yearly returns will at the very least cover the cost of the trust to beautify graves deeds past councils signed. These trusts cost the City over \$5,000 per year to provide flowers and have no expiration date along with a stipulation that those funds can not be used, only the interest on them. Currently that interest amounts to about \$900 per year.

Lorenz also discussed the possibility of using some of the \$130,000 perpetual care fund that has been dissolved into the general funds to purchase a columbarium to house cremations above ground. The columbarium could save a lot of room in the cemetery as well as provide a new option he thinks many would be interested in. Holien agreed. The committee reviewed bids from a few companies. They agreed Johnson Monument out of Chippewa Falls had the best pricing and options. It would be nice to get a group started to help with things like flowers, beautifying the cemetery and expansions. Ehlenfeldt will work on a “Friends of the Cemetery” group recruitment campaign to hopefully have set up at the 4th of July celebration.

Meier to get quotes on cement for a columbarium project and Ehlenfeldt will put together a final estimate of total cost for the project and future expansion. Ehlenfeldt will also get the old cemetery donor display back together.

Committee discussed maintenance. Johnson Monument will fix the 7 stones requested soon. They will also look at the Weinday Mausoleum and give us an estimate to fix the roof supports. Lorenz said new supports are needed badly.

Committee reviewed rates and feel they are very comparable to other local cemeteries and do not need to be adjusted at this time.

Respectfully submitted for the Cemetery Committee,

Jenny Ehlenfeldt
Clerk/Treasurer