

New Philadelphia City Council

Parks and Cemetery Committee

Meeting Notes

June 25, 2018 7:00pm

Present for all or portions of the meeting were the following: Committee chairwoman Aimee May; committee members Rob Maurer and Kelly Ricklic; alternate Dan Lanzer; Council members John Zucal and Dean Holland; Clerk of Council Julie Courtright, Mayor Joel Day; Service Director Ron McAbier; Treasurer Tom Gerber; Law Director Marvin Fete; Council President Sam Hitchcock.

The Parks and Cemetery Committee met to discuss proposed Ordinance 14-2018 which would allow the city to take the funds from #812 and move them to a separate fund #815. This would initially allow the administration to pay off the current loan for new cemetery land. This proposed legislation doesn't get rid of the endowment it just maintains it and opens the uses. The city of Cleveland did the exact same thing several years ago.

Per the Law Director, only the interest from the existing Endowment Fund #812 can currently be used. The proposed Ordinance 14-2018 would transfer that money into new fund #815 with rules and regulations that would allow the principal and interest for cemetery use. Per the proposed ordinance the funds could be used for the purpose of enlarging, improving, embellishing, maintaining and caring for all cemeteries of the city.

There was discussion on how we would differentiate between what get paid from the cemetery operating fund and this new fund 815. Per the Auditor the money could be used in the same way from both funds except fund 815 could not be used to for employee salaries.

According to the Mayor, once the new cemetery land is developed there is the possibility of bringing in approximately 9 million dollars into the Cemetery Fund from the new lot sales. The administration has hired a consultant regarding the development of the new cemetery land as well as existing cemeteries. The initial goal is to develop the new land and purchase column bariums for the existing cemeteries. It was discussed that the Cemetery Board previously recommended 20% of the new lot sales go back into Fund #815 to replenish it.

It was determined by the committee that the ordinance needed to be reviewed by the Cemetery Board again for specific recommendations regarding how the funds can be used and what percentage of new lot sales would go back to the fund for replenishment and the time frame for repayment. The next Cemetery Board meeting is on July 12th and Mrs. May will start the conversation with the Cemetery Board for recommendations at that meeting.

With no further business to be discussed by the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Aimee May
Chairwoman