

New Philadelphia City Council

Parks and Cemetery Committee

Meeting Notes

June 12, 2017 7:00pm

Present for all or portions of the meeting were the following: committee chairwoman Aimee May and committee member Kelly Ricklic and alternate Cheryl Ramos, council members Dean Holland and John Zucal, Council President Sam Hitchcock; Clerk of Council Julie Courtright; Mayor Joel Day; Law Director Marvin Fete; Service Director Ron McAbier; Safety Director Greg Popham and Treasurer Tom Gerber.

ITEMS: To discuss the proposal to acquire cemetery property located on County Road 25 at 20th Street SE.

The tentative offer was to pay Kevin Wallick \$150,000.00 from the Evergreen Trust and 33.06 acres of city property (most of which is hillside, approximately 5 acres are usable) located at the end of Donald Dr. SW in exchange for his property located on County Road 25 at 25th St SE. There isn't enough money in the trust to pay Mr. Wallick his asking price of \$225,000 for the land.

The Mayor stated that this is our best shot at acquiring cemetery land and give us an opportunity to meet a need that we've had in the city for a while now.

Cemetery Superintendent Kelly Herron spoke regarding the lack of land at the current cemeteries. He stated that one acre of land could provide 565 grave spaces, which would generate over \$350,000 in lot sales. In addition to the lots there is the opening and closing costs and veteran's grave markers. He also stated that the city could generate around \$756,000 per acre in revenue. There would also be some cost for development.

Cremations have increased by 50% and there is a need for space for cremations. A cremation niche holding up to 48 urns could average \$48,000 taking up fewer space than grave sites. 8 acres should last 75-100 years according to Mr. Herron.

The intent is that a percentage of each grave site sale will go back into the Evergreen Trust Fund to pay back the money used. The cemetery board is recommending 20% from each sale. The fee of around \$12,000 for the consultant will also come from the trust as well.

There was much discussion on the development costs and the money that we would receive for grave spaces etc. A majority of the work can be completed by the city. Each acre could also be developed individually instead of all at once. Mr. Herron would also like to see the city utilized preformed foundations instead of individual foundations to save costs.

Mr. Zucal expressed the need to have conversations with the homeowners around the proposed site. [At the June 26th council meeting Mr. McAbier noted that he and Mr. Herron did reach out to the homeowners in the area and there were no concerns noted].

Mr. Ricklic made a motion to have the Law Director create legislation to allow the Mayor to enter into a purchase agreement for the property with an intent to use it as cemetery land for the city. Mrs. May seconded the motion with Mrs. Ramos voting no. The motion passed 2-1.

Mr. Zucal also expressed the need to touch base with Kevin Siggs regarding any potential issues with the FAA.
[Mr. Zucal did check with the Kevin Siggs and there were no issues stated].

With no further business to be discussed by the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aimee May". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Aimee May
Chairwoman