

Cemetery Board
November 3, 2022

A regular meeting of the City of Waxahachie Cemetery Board was held on Thursday, November 3, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. in the City Council Conference Room, 401 S. Rogers, Waxahachie, Texas.

Members Present: Connie McGuire, Chairman
Perry Giles, Vice Chairman
Chelsea Holder
Marion Reynolds

Member Absent: Robin Dukes

Others Present: Kyle Cooper, Director of Parks & Recreation
Brad Barnes, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation
Amber Villarreal, City Secretary
Patrick Souter, Council Representative

1. Call to Order

Brad Barnes, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation, called the meeting to order.

2. Public Comments

None.

3. Reorganize the Board

Action:

Mr. Perry Giles moved to nominate Connie McGuire to serve as Chairman. Ms. Marion Reynolds seconded, All Ayes.

Chairman Connie McGuire moved to nominate Perry Giles to serve as Vice Chairman. Ms. Chelsea Holder seconded, All Ayes.

4. Approval of minutes of the City Cemetery Board meeting of September 8, 2022

Action:

Ms. Chelsea Holder moved to approve the minutes of the Cemetery Board meeting of September 8, 2022. Chairman Connie McGuire seconded, All Ayes.

5. Hear update on Cemetery vandalism repairs

Mr. Barnes reported Texas Cemetery Restorations was scheduled to begin repairs in October; however, they have been delayed until November due to their full schedule.

6. Hear update on Babyland headstone project

Mr. Barnes explained the Jones family has prepared a draft letter to send to families in Babyland to gauge interest for them to provide a flat marker with the child's first and last name and dates for unmarked graves. He noted there are currently 9 unmarked spaces and staff has contact information for 8 of those spaces.

It was the consensus of the Board to proceed with sending out letters to the families in Babyland with unmarked graves.

7. Hear update on security camera project

Mr. Barnes explained \$50,000 was budgeted for FY 23 and staff is working with the Information Technology Director on a joint effort to purchase and install security cameras at the cemetery. He noted the cameras are planned to be installed at the cemetery entrance, near the parks shop, near the new restroom, and at each section where the trail meets the cemetery. Mr. Barnes explained staff explored the option of using a solar system but they were not reliable or adequate.

The Board expressed support for providing a security system in the cemetery to deter vandalism or to assist with investigating issues.

8. Discuss and consider upcoming clean-up events

Mr. Barnes reviewed the City's current ordinance regarding clean-up at the cemetery and noted in the past staff has posted signs notifying the public of upcoming clean-up dates to provide them an opportunity to remove items they wish to keep. He explained the clean-up efforts assist with improving overall maintenance of the cemetery grounds.

The Board discussed clean-up efforts in Babyland and opportunities to notify the public of the ordinance in place outlining the rules and regulations of the cemetery.

It was the consensus of the Board to provide public notification, through signs, social media, and other notification outlets, regarding a future clean-up date at the cemetery.

9. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Villarreal
City Secretary