

A G E N D A

A regular meeting of the City of Waxahachie Cemetery Board to be held on ***Thursday, May 5, 2022*** at ***8:30 a.m.*** in the City Council Conference Room, 401 S. Rogers, Waxahachie, Texas.

Members: Peggy Crabtree, Chairman
Chad Hicks
Connie McGuire
Chelsea Holder
Perry Giles

1. Call to Order
2. ***Public Comments:*** Persons may address the Cemetery Board on any issues. This is the appropriate time for citizens to address the Board on any concern whether on this agenda or not. In accordance with the State of Texas Open Meetings Act, the Board may not comment or deliberate such statements during this period, except as authorized by Section 551.042, Texas Government Code.
3. Approval of minutes of the City Cemetery Board meeting of March 3, 2022
4. Consider request by Jerry and Shirley Chapman to purchase lots adjacent to Addition 2, Block 3, Lot 6
5. Hear update on cemetery plot sales and services
6. Hear update on cemetery vandalism
7. Discuss footstone remnants and take action
8. Adjourn

The Cemetery Board reserves the right to go into Executive Session on any posted item.

This meeting location is wheelchair-accessible. Parking for mobility impaired persons is available. Any request for sign interpretive services must be made forty-eight hours ahead of the meeting. To make arrangements, call the City Secretary at (469) 309-4006 or (TDD) 1-800-RELAY TX

Notice of Potential Quorum
One or more members of the Waxahachie City Council may be present at this meeting.
No action will be taken by the City Council at this meeting.

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

Members Present: Peggy Crabtree, Chairman
Chad Hicks
Connie McGuire
Chelsea Holder

Member absent: Perry Giles

Others Present: Michael Scott, City Manager
Amber Villarreal, City Secretary
Gumaro Martinez, Executive Director of Parks & Leisure Services
Brad Barnes, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director
Yadira Campos, Recreation Specialist
Travis Smith, Council Representative

1. Call to Order

Member Mr. Chad Hicks called the meeting to order.

2. Public Comments

Mr. Jerry Chapman discussed and requested assistance from the City to discover available plots in his family plot. He stated if vacant plots were not available in his family plot he will be interested in purchasing plots nearby.

After further discussion, Mr. Gumaro Martinez, Executive Director of Parks & Leisure Services stated there are options to address Mr. Chapman's questions and will also be discussed further in a future agenda item. City Manager Michael Scott commented options can be reviewed in the meantime.

3. Approval of minutes of the City Cemetery Board meetings of November 4, 2021 and January 6, 2022

Action:

Ms. Connie McGuire moved to approve the minutes of the Cemetery Board meetings of November 4, 2021 and January 6, 2022. Ms. Chelsea Holder seconded, All Ayes.

4. Discuss cemetery activities

Mr. Martinez reported cemetery activities as follows:

- Total for 2021 - 91 plot sales, 6 cremation plots sales, and 4 columbarium sales. There were 93 funeral services held.
- January - 4 plot sales and 6 funeral services held.
- February - 4 plot sales and 5 funeral services held.

5. Discuss damaged grave marker remains

Mr. Martinez shared information in regards to remnants of older markers that have been located at the Parks Dept. shop since the City contracted for maintenance approximately 20 years ago. He asked for recommendations on how to appropriately handle the markers. Chairman Peggy Crabtree stated she spoke with a cemetery expert that recommended burying the markers near or around the location where they were found in order to protect them from the elements and future damage. Mr. Martinez stated he would research areas of the cemetery to be considered for burying the markers.

Mr. Martinez discussed recent vandalism at the Cemetery noting approximately 280 headstones were damaged with the majority located in the older additions of the Cemetery. He stated the Waxahachie Police Dept. is working to identify suspects and create a security plan for the Cemetery. Mr. Martinez thanked the community for their donations to the City and added the approximate cost to make repairs will be between \$50,000 and \$100,000. He noted the Parks Dept. is coordinating with professional restoration companies and volunteers to assist with repairs and cleanup under City supervision.

Mr. Scott stated the community is troubled by the vandalism and willing to help. Mr. Hicks recommended utilizing contractors that specialize in headstone restoration. Mr. Scott replied the City is researching professionals to best assist in the repair efforts. Councilmember Travis Smith recommended posting signage throughout the Cemetery notifying visitors of the ongoing investigation and to not touch the headstones and markers. Mr. Martinez stated signs will be placed throughout the Cemetery asking for leads to be directed to the Waxahachie Police Dept. and information on repairs be directed to the Parks Dept.

The Board further discussed security efforts, identifying damaged headstones, and funds specifically utilized by Crime Stoppers to encourage leads to identify suspects. Mr. Martinez stated he will keep the Board up to date.

Chairman Crabtree suggested researching the flooding issues near the creek and how the water affects the headstones. Mr. Scott stated a study is being conducted for Waxahachie Creek for plans of improvement on creek flow. Mr. Martinez noted he will look into the issue.

6. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Yadira Campos
Recreation Specialist

(4)

1/3/2022

Waxahachie Cemetery Board
Mrs. Peggy Crabtree - Chair
401 South Rogers
Waxahachie, TX 75168

RE: Chapman Lot: Addition 2, Block 3, Lot 6

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Until recently, we believed our family lot had 2-3 vacant spaces. Due to the accidental death and internment of our son in 2019, we are told there are no more vacancies. My wife, Shirley, and I are seeking to be buried, when the time arrives, in this family lot or this lot extended. Our 20' by 20' lot contains eleven family members including four great-grandparents, two grandparents and as mentioned, our only child (please see reverse side).

Gumaro Martinez and his staff have been helpful but no solution has yet been achieved. We will pay any and all expenses related to a solution.

If you plan on using xray services anytime soon, we would pay to have our lot xrayed for verification, as one vacant space could accommodate two coffins and our solution.

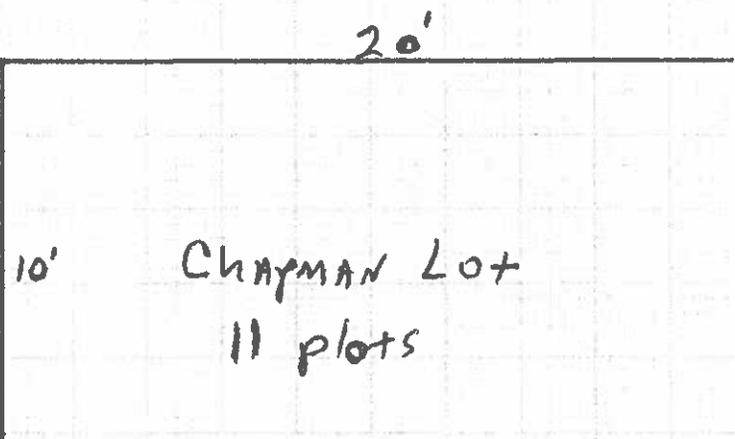
If that option doesn't work, we are requesting the ownership identity of the attached spaces, signified by the broken lines. We are told that no more sales are being made in this section. If these two plots are not privately owned, we ask for the Board to grant an exemption for us to purchase them at any reasonable price. If said two spaces are privately owned, we will investigate the heirs to purchase, assuming said spaces can be added to our lot and used as mentioned above. However, since there has been no activity since 1909, ownership could be greatly convoluted over 5 generations, making this option almost impossible.

We very much appreciate the Board's consideration and cooperation. Thank you.

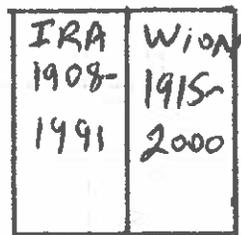
Jerry and Shirley Chapman, 401 E Marvin Ave, Waxahachie, TX 75165
jerryandshirleychapman@gmail. com 972.825.7092

□ = 2 feet

John M^c Davie/
one plot



Addition 2 }
Block 3 }
Lot 7 } →



M^c Carter

10'

← Addition 2
Block 3
Lot 6

M^c Carter Lot

AVENUE D