

City of Rittman

30 N. Main St., Rittman, OH 44270

330/ 925-2045

FAX 330/ 925-2066

CITY OF RITTMAN CEMETERY BOARD MEETING @ RITTMAN CEMETERY JUNE 23, 2021 12:00N

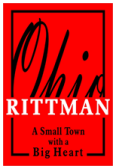
ATTENDANCE: Board Members: Jordan Hart, Keely Dreher, Richard Schumacher
Bobbie Beshara, City Manager; Chuck Lengacher, Service Director; Don Rediger, Service Supervisor; Jason Fankauser, Cemetery Sexton; Kris Fetter, Cemetery Clerk

OLD BUSINESS:

- Widening the Rittman Cemetery Road- Completed early in 2021
- Indigent Burial Policy- Completed and on file at City Hall and with Auble Gillman Funeral Home.
- Tree removal and replacement- Several trees were removed in 2020 and 2021. Several more will be taken down yet this year. The pine trees along the West side of Section G will be removed according to a phased plan. Not all can come down at once. A new wind break will need to be established during the construction of our new section.
- Standardization of foundation sizes- An addendum was made after our June 2020 meeting as it was determined this would create a non-uniform look. We are staying with a 3-inch border on all.
- Maintenance staging area- Trees were planted around the side and back of the maintenance garage in the spring of 2021. As the trees grow, our sand & dirt piles and storage items will be hidden.
- Increase of cemetery fees- Fees were increased December 1, 2020 upon the recommendation of the Cemetery Board and approval of City Council.
- Honor Guard Sidewalk recognition- The donor of funds to pour the sidewalk prefers to remain anonymous. No marker was installed.
- Erosion problem with back pond- This is still a work in progress. Currently waiting on a quote from a local excavator to install pipe.
- Discussion of cemetery expansion- The property has been surveyed and the electric installed/ moved. need to decide where the road will be placed so the base foundation may be started.
- Cremation only section- An area has been reserved for our cremated remains area. The project will move forward when the new road is started and the rows may be sectioned off.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Motion was made by Jordon Hart to approve the minutes from the 2020 Cemetery Board Meeting. Motion was seconded by Keely Dreher. All agreed. Motion carried.
- Welcome to Richard Schumacher as our newest Cemetery Board Member.



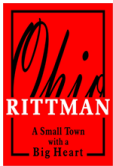
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- The Spring 2021 Foundation Pour was delayed due to weather but all foundations were in prior to Memorial Day.
- Headstone Restoration- The City Manager has been in contact with Doug Mayer to obtain a quote to perform headstone restoration on some of our older markers in both of our cemeteries. The quote is pending.
- Apostolic Christian Faith Church Inquiry- The new Rittman church wants to put a cemetery behind their new building on Rufener St. Our Board of Zoning has denied their request for a new cemetery. The Board of Zoning advised the church they may want to purchase a bulk number of lots in our Municipal Cemetery as we are in the process of expanding. No official request has been made to date.
- Permanent Cement Pad at Soldiers Circle- A permanent cement pad was poured near Soldiers Circle for use during the annual Memorial Day Ceremony. The American Legion has their own pop-up tent to place on the pad for use during the event. Cemetery staff will no longer need to put down a wood platform or erect our old tent.
- Stamping Machine- a new machine was purchased to stamp metal that is necessary to mark areas/ sections of the cemetery.
- Replacement of Cremation Stand Cover- A replacement cremation stand cover was purchased due to mice eating through the existing cover. The replacement will be kept in a tight plastic container.
- Temporary Marker Ordinance Request- A request was made to add an item to Ordinance 991.04.to limit the amount of time a temporary marker may be placed at a grave. Several graves have had a temporary marker in place for over 20 years that have been replaced several times. A temporary marker is a small metal stake about 18 inches in length that has a 6" x 8" top that has the deceased information typed on it. Funeral homes supply the marker until a permanent marker can be placed. A temporary marker is not designed to be in place a long time. Therefore, they break or get removed during clean up periods causing distress to the families. The cemetery board felt that a 2-year period was more than enough time for a family to secure a permanent marker. Keely Dreher motioned to amend the ordinance and Jordan Hart seconded it. All in attendance agreed. The new paragraph will state: "Temporary grave markers, supplied by a funeral home, are allowed for a maximum of two (2) years after a burial. Temporary markers will be removed after the allotted time frame. Any unapproved temporary markers will be removed immediately".
- The Rittman Historical Society wants to make a donation to the cemetery to plant trees along the east side of Knupp Church as a privacy hedge. Francey Morris of the Historical Society is working with Jason to make this happen.
- The City of Rittman Law Director is sending a letter to a family that continues to mow their families graves even though they have been asked to stop. If mowing doesn't stop, the family may be prosecuted. No mowing should occur on cemetery premises by anyone other than authorized personnel as stated in our Codified Ordinances and on the cemetery deed. Individual mowing creates a disruption in the cemetery appearance.
- The Cemetery Board recommended that signs be posted in the Cemetery with General Cemetery Rules with a notation on how to view the complete Municipal Cemetery Rules and Regulations. The Service Department will complete this task.



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- The cemetery board requested to have workshop meeting during the year to review Chapter 991 of our codified ordinances. It has been many years since all sections were evaluated.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting Date: To be advised.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Fetter, Cemetery Clerk