BILL 2014-31

****** Full Reading ******

Agenda Item

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Mark S. Gaugh, City Manager

DATE: May 21, 2012

RE: Cemetery Fee Ordinance

Issues

The City has been operating cemeteries for decades to provide burial services in Cameron. However, the cemeteries have, and will continue to cost more to operate than they take in. The City Clerk has surveyed other cities to determine their burial plot fees. Cameron's fees are the lowest of the surveyed cities. To increase them to roughly what an average fee would be, we would need to raise them to around $600 per plot. This fee will not offset all expenses, but will help provide a little more revenue that is needed to maintain the cemeteries in good condition. For example, the new fee would help pay for mowing equipment, which gets heavily used in maintaining the cemeteries each year.

When the cemeteries have all plots taken, the only revenue will be from donations, while expenses will continue to increase.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the City increase the burial fee to $600 on a full reading.

Bill 2014-31

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE COST OF GRAVE SPACES IN THE CITY OF CAMERON, CLINTON AND DeKALB COUNTIES, MISSOURI CEMETERIES

Whereas, the fee charges for burial spaces in McDaniel, Evergreen, Packard, Graceland and Graceland Memorial Cemeteries has been constant since 2000; and

Whereas, the maintenance costs and associated fees for the cemeteries have continued to increase creating substantial losses in the Cemetery portion of the General Fund; and

Whereas, Staff has surveyed surrounding public cemetery fees and finds the City of Cameron fees to be well below the average; and

Whereas, Staff recommends an increase in the cost for the burial spaces in an effort to lessen the stress on the General Fund and to continue to maintain the dignity and solemnest of the city cemeteries.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAMERON, CLINTON AND DeKALB COUNTIES, MISSOURI AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Repeal Section 9-61 Deed to burial space., DIVISION 1, GENERALLY, of Article III of Chapter 9 of the Cameron City Code.

Section 2. Establish a new Section 9-61 Deed to burial space., DIVISION 1, GENERALLY, of Article III of Chapter 9, of the Cameron City Code as follows:

> Purchasers of burial spaces in the City's cemeteries shall be entitled, upon the payment of the full purchase price of Six Hundred Dollars ($600.00) for burial space in all City of Cameron cemeteries, to a deed for the space purchased. Such deed vest in the purchaser, his/her heirs and assigns, a right in fee simple to such space for the sole purpose of sepulcher alone, for human bodies, only, subject to the rules and regulations and ordinances governing the cemeteries.

Section 3. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its passage and approval.

Read two times, passed and approved this 4th day of August 2014.

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Mayor Dennis M. Clark

Attest:

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City Clerk/Finance Clerk

Full Reading