

CITY OF CHARDON SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING
Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2023

Service Committee Members Present: Deborah Chuha, David A. Lelko

Also Present:

Ben Chojnacki, Law Director
Leroy Dowling, Streets Superintendent
Tom Greenawalt, Streets Foreman
Paul Hornyak, Public Service Director
Mike Ostovic, via Zoom

Brittany Randles, Finance Accounting Clerk
Becky Repasky, Secretary
Randy Sharpe, City Manager

David Lelko, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Chuha made a motion to approve the June 15, 2023 minutes. Mr. Lelko seconded it with the correction “removed by staff and tagged” regarding shepherd’s staffs at the cemetery. The vote carried 2-0.

Mrs. Chuha made a motion to move New Business before Old Business. It was seconded by Mr. Lelko. The vote carried 2-0.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDER REQUEST FOR CREMATION REMAINS INSIDE CEMETERY MARKER

Mr. Ostovic has purchased a plot and selected a headstone that can accommodate cremations inside. Photos were provided to the Committee. The headstone can hold two (2) cremations. Mr. Ostovic said he has not ordered anything yet. Mr. Ostovic noted the plot next to his is designated for a tree – he has offered to buy and donate a tree for when his monument is ready to be placed.

Mr. Lelko shared there is already one marker currently in the cemetery that holds cremations, and that is Mrs. Chuha’s parents.

Mr. Dowling said the Street Department has nothing to do with sealing markers - that will be the responsibility of the monument company.

The Committee informed Mr. Ostovic that Council needs to give final approval and not to buy anything until going before Council. Mr. Lelko said he is okay with Mrs. Ostovic’s ashes going into the monument.

The Committee agreed to: no more than four (4) cremations in the stone, four (4) cremations buried in the ground, and one full burial in the ground. No more than five (5) remains can be put in one (1) plot. Mr. Lelko added that once cremations are in the stone, it is not to be moved. Therefore, a full burial must be made before a stone with cremations is installed.

OLD BUSINESS

REVISIT CEMETERY MARKER AND DECORATIONS RULES

Mr. Lelko asked how many current headstones are out of compliance. He suggested a date of December 31, 2024 for markers to be in compliance. Mr. Sharpe asked if a notice should be published. Mr. Chojnacki said there is nothing legally that says it has to be published, but it is a good idea to publish a notice. Mr. Lelko suggested Mrs. Randles research contact information.

Mr. Lelko requested another meeting to review a draft of rules and regulations as prepared by: Leroy Dowling, Paul Hornyak and Brittany Randles. It will include what is currently in violation at the cemetery. The goal is to go to Council in October with all of these items.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – none

OTHER BUSINESS –

Mr. Dowling said he received a phone call asking if someone could plant a cypress bush on a grave. The Committee said no because it is not approved by the City Arborist and plantings should be limited to planting locations. The person could buy and donate a tree for planting.

ADJOURN

Mrs. Chuha made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Lelko seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

DAVID A. LELKO, SERVICE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Rebecca Repasky, Secretary