



CITY OF RAPID CITY

300 SIXTH STREET
RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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Parks and Recreation Memo

Date: October 7, 2004

To: Legal and Finance Committee/ City Council

From: Lon Van Deusen, Parks Division Manager

Subject: Cemetery Rates for 2005

Summary: The Cemetery Enterprise budget operates at a deficit and the operation and maintenance of the City owned Cemetery requires an annual subsidy to cover expenses.

Recommendation: Park and Recreation Department staff recommends a **5% increase in fees (including opening and closing charges and grave sales) to possibly reduce or at least maintain the current subsidy level of the Cemetery Budget.**

- 4. Analysis/Background:** Historically the City of Rapid City has maintained the Cemetery as an enterprise budget with fees from grave sales and opening and closing charges to help cover operational expenses. In the past we have also established reduced pre-need charges to help increase or stimulate the sales of graves within the city cemetery. Additional fees such as monument setting fees have been adopted as well to help reduce the subsidy level. A Saturday surcharge was also instituted to help cover expenses for Saturday funerals which require overtime pay for Cemetery Staff. Burials, as well as pre-need grave sales, have been fairly constant over the years. The City owned Cemetery also competes with a local privately owned Cemetery as well as Black Hills National Cemetery. Competition on our part is somewhat limited as we are not able to provide a "full service" product to the customer. The City of Rapid City does not provide monument, vault, or casket sales which may be offered by the private cemetery sector in Rapid City. Fortunately with the stability of the city operating and managing the Cemetery this helps to attract families as well as the overall care and quality given to the City Cemetery grounds.

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We are also seeing an overall increase in the expenses and costs of maintaining the Cemetery. Fuel, wages, benefits as well as equipment parts and repairs are going up each year. As the sprinkler system, for example, ages the cost of repairs for this item also increases. Many of the old mature elm trees in the Cemetery are being removed as a result of Dutch Elm Disease and we would like to replant trees in the Cemetery to make it more attractive which will in turn attract more families wishing to buy graves.

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING FEES FOR
GRAVE SPACES AND CEMETERY SERVICES

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Rapid City that the following rates are hereby established from and after January 1, 2005.

Opening and Closing Costs:

Infant or Small Grave	\$ 200.00
Over-sized Infant	400.00
Adult or regular Grave	535.00
Cremain Grave	200.00
Surcharge for Saturday Opening or Closing	155.00
Monument Setting Fee	35.00

Disinterment:

Within Cemetery: Three times regular opening and closing cost.
Removal from Cemetery: Twice regular opening and closing cost.

<u>Grave Space Costs:</u>	<u>Pre-Need</u>	<u>As-Need</u>
Single Adult Grave	\$ 500.00	\$ 535.00
Double Stack Grave	620.00	660.00
Cremain Grave	250.00	265.00
Infant Grave	200.00	200.00
Over-sized Infant	400.00	400.00

Dated this _____.

THE CITY COUNCIL

MAYOR

ATTEST:

Finance Officer

(SEAL)