



# CITY OF RAPID CITY

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
125 WATERLOO STREET  
RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701

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To: Mayor and City Council Members  
From: Jerry Cole, Director *EC*  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
Subject: 2012 Cemetery Rates  
Date: October 17, 2011

**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:** Approve a 5% increase in fees (including opening and closing charges and grave sales) to help reduce or at least maintain the current subsidy level of the Cemetery budget. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board approved the proposed changes on October 13, 2011.

Historically the City of Rapid City has maintained the Cemetery as an enterprise budget with fees from grave sales and opening and closing charges helping to cover operational expenses. In the past we have also established reduced pre-need charges in an attempt to increase or stimulate the sales of graves within the city cemetery. Additional fees such as monument setting fees have been adopted 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 graves sales have been fairly constant over the years. The City owned cemetery competes with a local privately owned cemetery as well as the Black Hills National Cemetery. Competition on our part is 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 sector. Fortunately the stability of the city operating and managing the cemetery helps to attract families as well as the overall care and quality given to the cemetery grounds.

We are also seeing an overall increase in the expenses and costs of maintain the cemetery. Fuel, wages and benefits as well s equipment parts and repairs are going up each year. For example, as the sprinkler system ages, the cost of repairs 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 to make the cemetery more attractive which will in turn attract more families wishing to purchase graves.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2011-132  
ESTABLISHING FEES FOR GRAVE SPACES AND CEMETERY SERVICES**

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City of Rapid City that the following rates for grave spaces and cemetery services are hereby established effective January 1, 2012.

Grave Opening and Closing Costs:

Infant or Small Grave	\$ 250.00
Large Child	\$ 510.00
Adult or regular Grave	\$ 690.00
Cremain Grave	\$ 250.00
Surcharge for Saturday Opening or Closing	\$ 215.00
Monument Setting Fee	\$ 60.00

Disinterment:

Within Cemetery – three times the regular opening and closing cost.  
Removal from Cemetery – twice the regular opening and closing cost.

<u>Grave Space Costs:</u>	<u>Pre-Need</u>	<u>As-Need</u>
Single Adult Grave	\$ 640.00	\$ 690.00
Double Stack Grave	\$ 785.00	\$ 850.00
Cremain Grave	\$ 320.00	\$ 345.00
Infant or Small Grave	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
Large Child	\$ 510.00	\$ 510.00

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of November, 2011.

CITY OF RAPID CITY

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Finance Officer

(SEAL)