



Cemetery Committee Meeting Minutes
Indian Trail Meeting Hall, 113 E. Moore Street
July 23, 2025 2:00 P.M.

Members Present: Larry Ashley, Lynne Geiman, Tish Hatem, David Miller, Musette Steck, Ben Smith

Members Absent: Andrew Parks

Staff Present: Jessie Labell, Staff Liaison, Community Relations
Tom Stanley, Staff Liaison, Public Services

Staff Absent: None

Board of Aldermen Marc Spencer
Liaison :

Guests: Pat Kirkman

A. Call to Order -Quorum determined. Meeting was called to order by Chaiman Ashley at 2:00 PM

B. Welcome

- a. Public Comment: - Pat Kirkman thanked the committee for its continued work and turned over to the board copies of some old files that were from the Susie Carson room housed within the Fort Johnston building.

Pat had some concerns about the leaves in Old Smithville Burying Grounds. Larry mentioned that since John N. Smith cemetery will not be part of contracted services next year, Best Funeral will be doing additional cleanups which will involve leaf pickup.

Pat expressed concern about protecting the oldest headstone (David Hicks), and a possible fence around it to protect it.

Larry also explained that the new cemetery ordinance is almost finalized. Once approved, there will be a clearer path to solving some issues that limit what we can do in the cemetery at the present time. Pat said we need a Cemetery Superintendent and it was mentioned to her that this topic has been in the forefront since the committee was formed.

C. Welcome New Member – Ben Smith – Larry introduced newest board member to the Committee. Ben's background is in risk management/insurance and should be a good asset to the team. Ben toured the cemeteries with Larry recently to view some potential liabilities within the cemeteries.

D. Election of Officers -motion made by Musette to elect the current slate of officers. Seconded by David. Unanimous approval. Officers: Lawrence Ashley (Chair), Tish Hatem (Vice Chair), Lynne Geiman (Secretary)

E. Old Business.

- a. Approval of 6/25/25/25 minutes
Motion by David, seconded by Lynne. All ayes, (1 abstain) Motion carried
- b. Operations
 - i. Northwood Lane Signs – Status Update- ten-foot sign poles were inserted by Public Works. Signs all in place at eight-foot height.
 - ii. Cemetery Mowing – Concerning John N. Smith cemetery, Best Funeral will continue to weed whack for remainder of this contract year and per John Smith Board, no services will be performed next year. Best Funeral will do extra cleanup at other two cemeteries next year. Current contract ends in August.
 - iii. Water Connections -meters are installed and all is running well. Five water taps on each lane.
 - iv. Tree limb removal- Branches at Northwood and Smithville have been trimmed up.
- c. Discussion of Modifications to the Cemetery Ordinance- Larry said he should have a second draft of the ordinance ready in September based on the discussions the board has had over the past few months.

F. New Business

- a. No meeting in August – reminder that we will not meet again until September
- b. Next meeting 9/24/25
- c. Other items as required -none

G. Other Business

- a. Members Comments – none
- b. Staff Liaison Comments – none
- c. Board of Aldermen Liaison's Comments -none

H. Adjourn – Motion by Tish, seconded by Musette, all ayes. Adjourned at 3:40
Next meeting 9/24/25

Minutes taken by Lynne Geiman, Recording Secretary