

Goshen Cemeteries Board of Trustees

June 5, 2025

Members present: Colin Yoder, Michelle Kercher, Pete Weddell, Doug Nisley (City Council Rep)

Burt Matteson, Erin Fowler

Absent: Mayor Gina Leichty, Jim McKee, Jeff Weaver

Our meetings will now be held in Council Chamber so they can be streamed for the public.

The meeting was called to order by Colin Yoder at 2:01 p.m.

Minutes of March 6, 2025, Minutes – Pete Weddell motioned to approve and seconded by Michelle Kercher. Approved.

Clerk Treasurer's Report:

- Report through May 31, 2025
 - Budget Report was shared
 - Funds Balance Report was shared
 - Capital Improvement Report
 - Several large projects completed
 - Burt is working on next year's budget
 - Michelle Kercher made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Pete Weddell seconded. Approved.

Old Business

- Reviewed Green Burial discussion from March Meeting (Bill Davis conversation)
 - Pete left it vague about state of funding and costs.
 - Bill wanted designs but we kept it vague other than location
 - Bill wants it done but we cannot afford it at this time
 - Waiting to see what City gets back from the State
 - Colin shared that they get questions frequently about Green Burials
 - City needs to be aware and consider how to address it

New Business

- Resolution to provide public notice of meetings
 - No one from City to guide us through resolution plan
 - Colin had some questions
 - Is it the Cemetery Board's responsibility to publicize these meetings?
 - We already have meetings listed on our minutes
 - Does that cover our responsibility?
 - Colin asked "do we have to have the Cemetery Board Meetings on minutes or does the city need then sooner to report to public."
 - Reasonable Time Frame to share minutes – 1 to 2 weeks
 - Feedback from Amanda Guzman
 - City takes care of posting meeting information
 - Calendar has a current Zoom meeting link
 - On City Website
 - Bill Davis shared the city website is very vague
 - Minutes/Agendas will be sent to Erin Fowler, and she will get to the necessary people at the City
 - Michelle will include the following in the minutes she sends to Erin.
 - Date, Time, Location, in minutes for public information

- Pete Weddell made a motion to approve resolution as is with comments we have shared, Michelle Kercher seconded. Approved.
- Resolution to Adopt a Policy for Electronic Meetings and to Allow Members to Attend by Electronic Means of Communication
 - Michelle Kercher Concerns
 - We all rarely miss meetings as we meet quarterly and there is a concern it will make people less likely to attend in person.
 - Michelle mentioned this has happened on another board she sits on
 - Colin Yoder Concerns
 - Technology does fail at times
 - Then we cannot run an efficient meeting
 - Technology lags behind in City Council Chambers
 - Pete Weddell Concerns
 - What happens when someone cannot get on Zoom?
 - Section 2C
 - We do not establish things of this nature
 - The resolution is so broad
 - Pete Weddell made a motion to table resolution until we get more information from the Mayor's Office that is specific to our board
 - Doug Nisly Shared
 - If this resolution is not passed it must come back in another form
 - Mayor said no concession to resolution
 - City Council feels if you are on a board, you should be in person
 - Clarification to original motion: Pete Weddell amended his motion to not adopt the resolution, and Michelle Kercher seconded the motion.
 - Roll call: Michelle Kercher – Yes to the amended motion, Colin Yoder – Yes to the amended motion, Pete Weddell Yes to the amended motion. Cemetery Board votes down resolution.

Burt Report:

- Memorial Day:
 - Despite some weather issues the week before, preparations for Memorial Day stayed on track. Oakridge looked good thanks to the attention of Cadi and the staff. The crowd that gathered for the ceremony was a little larger than normal and it went very well.
- Staff
 - A good summer crew helped the Memorial Day event shine. We have taken on six for the growing season.
- Property updates this spring
 - We updated the West Goshen building – the office and restroom areas have been improved. We also replaced aging fluorescent fixtures with new LED shop lighting, improved overhead doors and installed gutter guards.
 - We have been replacing/adding signage across all our cemeteries this year. This includes not only entry signs, but large easel-style map signs and smaller signs that highlight unique or historic features.
- City cooperation
 - In addition to our normal interactions/ cooperations with other departments, Streets went over and above in aiding with our sign project, saving the taxpayers some dollars.
- Columbarium
 - The final columbarium was installed at Violett Cremation Garden. This increases the number of niches to 128, of which about 42% are sold.
 - Michelle Kercher asked if this is the final one

- Burt shared that:
 - No room for anymore
 - We would need to add space to Violett or another cemetery
- Pete Weddell asked about moving the columbariums
 - Burt shared that:
 - They cannot be moved as the foundations are too deep
 - New columbariums might look different
 - Columbariums are not currently part of the new plans for Violett
 - Personal Columbariums were part of plan but not multi niche ones
 - There will continue to be a greater need for cremations
- Pete asked about consideration for flush burials
 - Burt shared
 - Not currently

Additional Business:

- Safety Concern
 - Pete Weddell shared that he observed dirt being pushed with person on trailer and Burt said this is a contractor not our employees, but he will share with contractor our concerns
- New Board Members
 - Pete Weddell still questions why we cannot go outside city limits to get a Township Representative for the Cemetery Board
 - Colin Yoder responded that this would require a change at the By-Law Level.

Motion to Adjourn – Michelle Kercher motioned, and Pete Weddell seconded to adjourn. Adjourned at 2:52.

Upcoming Meetings for 2025:

Thursday, September 4, 2025

- 2:00 p.m.
- City Council Chambers

December 4