

Cemetery Board
November 7, 2024

A regular meeting of the City of Waxahachie Cemetery Board was held on Thursday, November 7, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. in the Hatchet Conference Room at the Charles Beatty Municipal Services Building, 408 S. Rogers, Waxahachie, Texas.

Members Present: Connie McGuire, Chairman
 Perry Giles, Vice Chairman
 Trudy Hankins
 Mark Gundert
 Alex Lohmann

Others Present: Kyle Cooper, Director of Parks & Recreation
 Brad Barnes, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation
 Patrick Souter, Council Representative
 Stephen Hamm, Field Supervisor
 Christopher Gravis, Acting Administrative Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Chairman Connie McGuire called the meeting to order.

2. Public Comments

None.

3. Reorganize the Board

Action:

Connie McGuire moved to nominate Perry Giles as Chairman. Motion was seconded by Trudy Hankins and carried unanimously (5-0).

Connie McGuire moved to nominate Trudy Hankins as Vice Chairman. Motion was seconded by Perry Giles and carried unanimously (5-0).

4. Consider approval of minutes of the City Cemetery Board meeting of September 5, 2024

Action:

Perry Giles moved to approve the minutes of the Cemetery Board meeting of the September 5, 2024 as presented. Motion was seconded by Trudy Hankins and carried unanimously (5-0).

5. Hear update on cemetery plot sales & services

Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation Brad Barnes provided the following update on September services report:

- Burials at the cemetery: 5

6. Hear update on Waxahachie City Cemetery security camera installation

The Item was presented by Mr. Barnes. He presented the quote given by Centennial for installation of concrete, electrical, and earthwork. The quote came in just under \$72,000. He continued by explaining this topic was taken before the Council on November 4, 2024 but, more information was requested before moving forward. The topic was postponed until the November 18th agenda for consideration by Council.

Mark Gundert inquired about how the camera would be linked together once installed. Mr. Barnes explained they would be connected through a form of internet, have individual power supply, and have internal storage. He further clarified there would be five total units and went over the locations in which they would be placed.

Alex Lohmann inquired about surveillance of the cameras and how they would be monitored. Mr. Barnes explained that they would be referred to and used to have record of any events that took place such as the vandalism that took place in 2022. He further explained these would also provide a deterrent to anyone in the future.

Patrick Souter wanted to provide clarity on the security camera installation and give better detail. He stated this issue was before Council during the last meeting, but was pulled from the agenda because of questions regarding the usage of local contractors and costs for the project. Mr. Barnes provided information on how the City's bidding process works and the BuyBoard Purchasing Cooperative. Chris Wright explained the topic will be considered by Council at the next meeting, November 18th, with more specifics being included for Council.

7. Comments from the Board

Trudy Hankins inquired about restrooms at the Cemetery in response to a social media post stating they were closed during a service. She further asked what could be done to resolve the issue in the future and how to deescalate tensions on similar posts going forward. Mr. Barnes explained the issue with the lock and what had happened with it the day of the post. The issue would soon be resolved and if issues arise in the future, to first call the Parks Department for assistance.

Mr. Gundert stated that he spoke with the Police Department and hopes to set up neighborhood watch patrols in the Cemetery to have more of a physical presence on the property.

Perry Giles asked if Stephen Hamm had anything to add and asked if there was a reason for his attendance at the meeting. Mr. Hamm responded by explaining his interest in the upcoming supervisor position and his desire to see the direction the Cemetery is currently moving.

Mr. Lohmann expressed his interest in the Wreaths Across America program and his interest for the Board to be involved with the program in the future. He also asked if there was a current list of all of the Veterans in the cemetery, and it was noted that some Veterans in the cemetery had Veteran markers.

Brad Barnes stated he would send the following contact information to board:

Office and work numbers of: Kyle Cooper, Brad Barnes, Christopher Gravis/ Yadira Campos, and Dustin White.

Mr. Souter welcomed Mr. Gundert and Mr. Lohmann to the Board, and thanked Ms. McGuire, Ms. Hankins and Mr. Giles for their time spent on the board so far.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Gravis
Acting Administrative Coordinator