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## MEMORANDUM

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TO: City Council  
FROM: Robert Barbian, City Administrator  
SUBJECT: **Oak Knoll Cemetery, rule amendment**  
DATE: July 23, 2020

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Over the last four months the City Council has been discussing the rules and regulations governing the cemetery. The City has reached out to the community asking for input in order that changes and improvements in the rules can be considered and made. The City Council and City Staff have talked to a number of people on issues and topics with differing views sometimes with opposing viewpoints. At various council meeting the City Council has heard additional input on the rules and the modifications considered. The Council did make a couple minor modifications or adjustments to the rules. At that time, I was directed by the City Council to meet with Melissa Ramage and Jenny Englund to hear their concerns. Two meeting occurred leading to their request for a rule to be added.

The letter from Melissa Ramage and Jenny Englund dated July 9, 2020 is attached.

Their request was reviewed by Mayor Schumacher and Jenny Gerold and discussed with the Public Works Director and me. After consideration it was concluded that a modification of the rules similar to the request would work. The language being recommended to the City Council to add to the Rules and Regulations of the Cemetery, section 11.1 follows in red:

11.1 Plans, flowers and **items of remembrance** may be placed in an urn sitting in a holding post above ground or an urn with its own integral base. The urn must be at least 8” above ground for mower clearance. Anything placed or planted not in accordance with this rule will be removed immediately by the cemetery caretaker. The City take no responsibility for pots or stands should they be destroyed.

**Live plants or flowers planted six inches from the front or back of the base of the stone/marker (not the sides) are allowed.**

July 9, 2020

Melissa Ramage and Jenny Englund

Mayor Schumacher, City Council & Staff,

We greatly appreciate all of the discussion and consideration being given on the care and maintenance of the City of Princeton Cemetery. It has been and always will be a special place for so many of us in the Princeton community for so many reasons.

We understand the balance which the City Council and City staff have regarding the cemetery. We have also taken time to consider this balance and ask the City to consider slightly modifying a rule which recognizes what has been occurring over the decades, yet not covered in the rules. Please consider the following proposal to update to the current Oak Knoll Cemetery rules and regulations:

*11.1 Plants, flowers and items of remembrance may be placed in an urn sitting in a holding post above ground, an urn with its own integral base, or within the border of each individual plot, not to exceed 12 inches above or below each gravestone or monument and not to exceed beyond the plot border. Any plants, flowers or items of remembrance that are not in accordance with this rule will be subject to immediate removal. Should items be removed for non-adherence to this rule, the City takes no responsibility should they be destroyed.*

This is a change from the rule as it currently stands, which I have included here for convenience:

*11.1 Plants and flowers may be placed in an urn sitting in a holding post above ground or an urn with its own integral base. The urn must be at least 8" above ground for mower clearance. Anything placed or planted not in accordance with this rule will be removed immediately by the cemetery caretaker. The City takes no responsibility for pots or stands should they be destroyed.*

We feel this is a logical rule adjustment, given that it is already a standard in the cemetery. Please see the following pages, where we have attached images of current gravesites in Oak Knoll Cemetery that are decorated in this manner. These pictures were taken after this year's annual cemetery clean up.

We thank you for your consideration to this matter.

Sincerely,

Melissa Ramage and Jenny Englund







