



## ITEM REPORT CEMETERY COMMISSION

Agenda Date: 7/21/2025  
Agenda Section: New Business

**Department Origination:** Public Works

**Agenda Item:** Rardin Request

**Approval Required:** Simple Majority Vote

### **BACKGROUND**



Judy Rardin contacted City Hall on May 26, 2025 inquiring on the following:

*I am requesting that the use of artificial flowers in headstone saddles be discussed by the cemetery committee and the public works department as an exception to the rule of artificial flowers being removed by June 15th. As the cost of live plants continues to rise, the use of headstone saddles using artificial flowers, is rising. As the saddles are attached to the headstone, they would pose no danger or inconvenience to cemetery workers. Permission for an extended deadline to remove headstone saddles, using artificial flowers, would allow loved ones graves to be decorated for a longer period of time.*

The cemetery regulations recommends elevated plant stands, shepard hooks and saddles.

*Ms. Rardin stated that she had lost two saddles that had been placed on the graves of her parents and nephew in 2024. The cost of the saddles were \$130.00 plus shipping and handling and is seeking reimbursement for the items.*

Cemetery regulations state that the Cemetery Commission or their designee will not be responsible for damage to or loss of plantings, cut flowers, potted plants, wreaths, trees, benches, or other decorations caused by the elements, thieves, vandals, disease, or other causes beyond its reasonable control.

In 2024, the cemetery experienced the theft of several items that had been placed for Memorial Day. I had inquired with maintenance if any of the items had been removed from the gravesite. Following the regulations maintenance staff had only removed items that were placed in the ground.

Ms. Rardin contacted me on June 10, 2025 regarding the disappearance of another saddle that had been placed on her parents' site. Post Memorial Day cleanup in the cemetery does not take place until after June 15<sup>th</sup> of each year and during this clean-up, decorations will be removed from the cemetery, with exceptions for those in permanent vases, saddles, or shepherd's hooks. A post is also placed on the City's Facebook page.

This is the second year that the cemetery has been experiencing theft of items and an increase in patrol has been requested.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

Staff recommends denying the reimbursement request as Cemetery Regulations state the Cemetery Commission or their designee will not be responsible for damage to or loss of plantings, cut flowers, potted plants, wreaths, trees, benches, or other decorations caused by the elements, thieves, vandals, disease, or other causes beyond its reasonable control.

**COMMISSION ACTION REQUESTED**

**MOTION** to deny the Judy Rardin reimbursement request in the amount of \$130.00 plus shipping and handling.