

CHAPTER 8.3

CEMETERIES

Section 8.3-1. Cemeteries---Definitions.

For the purposes of Sections 8.3-2 and 8.3-3:

Cemetery plot is any subsection or portion of a publicly designated and approved cemetery within the City of Laurel, whether described by lot number or metes and bounds.

Monument includes but is not limited to any commemorative burial marker or structure composed of any substance, including but not limited to wood, plastic, metal, stone, granite or marble.

Source: Ordinance No. 836-1979, § 1, 1-16-79; Ordinance No. 1664-2017, 8-22-2017

Section 8.3-2. Burial Procedure Policy.

Upon recommendation by the Cemetery Committee of the Laurel City Council finds and determines the need for the adoption of a burial procedure policy for Oak Hill No. 2 Memorial Cemetery of Laurel, Mississippi, and the following procedure is hereby adopted:

- (1) Inform funeral homes that they will be held responsible for digging and they will be fined and or lose the privilege to bury if they bury without prior approval which consist of payment of \$200.00 for the maintenance fee and adherence to all other regulations as outlined in this policy. First offense will be a \$1500.00 fine and the second offense will be the loss of the privilege to bury in the cemetery.
- (2) All requests to dig graves would come through the city clerk, and be requested by a funeral home that appears on an established list of homes kept by the city clerk.
- (3) The City will establish a list of grave digging services from funeral homes and also the funeral homes will provide the City Clerk's office with the name, address and phone number of the grave opener for each funeral, no others will be allowed. No private/personal digging will be allowed. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- (4) All graves will require a permanent head marker with name, etc.
- (5) All graves shall be opened and closed according to state law. Funeral homes shall be responsible for removing excess dirt from grave site and cemetery to prohibit maintenance problems.
- (6) The cemetery will be open from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. each day. The walk thru gates will be open 24 hours a day.
- (7) Burials are only allowed for immediate family (husband, wife, mother, father, sister, brother and grandparents) with loved ones at Oak Hill Memorial.

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Source: Ordinance No. 1426-2003, 2-18-03; Ordinance No. 1664-2017, 8-22-2017

Section 8.3-3. Prohibited Acts.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to place any burial monument or marker on the burial plot of another located within cemetery grounds owned by the City without prior securing of a permit issued by the City Cemetery Manager authorizing and approving the placement of such a monument or marker. A permit approving the placement of a burial marker or monument may be obtained upon the payment of Five Dollars (\$5.00), proper demonstration of authorization to place such a monument and an accurate description of the cemetery plot upon which the applicant desires to rest a monument.
- (b) It shall be an offense for any person to place a burial monument or marker upon any portion of the burial plot of another, or in such a position as to encroach upon the designated walkways, thoroughfares or vehicle paths located within the cemetery grounds owned by the City. The penalty for such violation shall be in the amount of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00).
- (c) It shall be unlawful for any person, whether by unintentional, willful, wanton, reckless or malicious means, to desecrate the burial marker or cemetery plot of another or to damage or destroy any foliage, tree, shrub, grass, walkway or vehicle path within the cemetery grounds owned by the City. The penalty for such violation shall be in the amount of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00).

Source: Ordinance No. 836-1979, § 1, 1-16-79; Ordinance No. 1664-2017, 8-22-2017

- (d) No person can be denied the use of any public cemetery because of race, creed, color or national origin.

Source: Ordinance No. 1214-1993, 6-30-93; Ordinance No. 1664-2017, 8-22-2017

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