

Minutes of the Centerville **City Council Work Session** held Tuesday, November 1, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., with participants present at City Hall, 250 North Main Street, and remotely.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Council Members	Gina Hirst, Mayor Pro Tem
	William Ince
	George McEwan
	Robyn Mecham
	Spencer Summerhays

MEMBER ABSENT

Clark Wilkinson, Mayor

STAFF PRESENT

Brant Hanson, RDA Executive Director
Lisa Romney, City Attorney
Jennifer Robison, City Recorder
Jacob Smith, Administrative Services Director
Nate Plaizier, Finance Director
Bruce Cox, Parks and Recreation Director
Mike Carlson, Public Works Director

**FEE SCHEDULE AMENDMENTS – CEMETERY FEES – DEFINITION OF RESIDENT –
CFS 6.010**

City Manager Brant Hanson spoke of two recent burials at the Centerville Cemetery of former long-time residents of Centerville. Because of current regulations, both burials were charged non-resident burial fees. The Council and staff previously discussed the possibility of amending policy to charge resident burial fees when a former resident had lived a significant length of time in Centerville. Mr. Hanson presented proposed Fee Schedule amendments, including a change in the definition of “resident” to include those who lived in Centerville for at least 25 years, regardless of residence at time of death. Mr. Hanson said he suspected the issue was more about showing respect for those who lived a significant amount of time in Centerville than about the fee.

Councilmember Mecham suggested the definition of “resident” include those who lived in Centerville for a certain number of years (at least 20) within the last 40-50 years. Councilmember McEwan said he looked at it the same as having veteran status – even if someone had been out of the service for many years, they were still a veteran. He stated that 25 years was a good chunk of someone’s life, and he was comfortable not adding to the proposed definition. Mr. Hanson said staff recommended making the change retroactive to July 1, 2022, to provide refunds for at least the two most recent burials. Parks and Recreation Director Bruce Cox added that staff had found three burials that would qualify for a refund with the proposed July 1, 2022 effective date.

Mr. Cox shared resident definitions in neighboring cities. He pointed out the need to establish how length of residence would be proven/verified. Councilmember Summerhays suggested the definition of resident include those who lived in Centerville for at least 25 years, or for 20 of the last 40 years. Councilmember Mecham said she would be comfortable with the suggestion. The Council discussed possible scenarios.

1 Mr. Cox said staff previously asked a former Council to consider granting resident status
2 for burial purposes to individuals who had worked for the City for a certain number of years,
3 regardless of city of residence. He said the Council at the time rejected the idea. Councilmember
4 McEwan suggested extending resident status for burial purposes to anyone who had served on
5 the Centerville City Council, or a full term on a City board or commission. Councilmember Ince
6 said he would be in favor of extending resident status to employees of a certain number of years,
7 and to individuals who had served on a City Council, board, or committee for at least five years.
8 Councilmember McEwan said he would be comfortable extending resident status to individuals
9 who had retired from Centerville. The Council discussed potential employee scenarios.
10 Councilmember Hirst suggested extending resident status to employees who had worked for
11 Centerville for at least 20 years, or retired from Centerville employment at age 65.
12

13 Councilmember Summerhays suggested the following additions to the definition of
14 resident: lived in Centerville for at least 25 years; lived in Centerville at least 20 of the past 40
15 years; at least 60% of life lived in Centerville; served on board, commission, Council, or Mayor for
16 a period of at least four years; employee of Centerville for at least 20 years, or retired from
17 employment with Centerville. Mayor Pro Tem Hirst suggested perhaps the Council was getting a
18 little too much into details, and said individual situations could be considered as needed. Staff
19 emphasized the need for a set policy.
20

21 Regarding proof of duration of residence, Councilmember McEwan said he was
22 comfortable relying on the honor system, and comfortable with a personal attestation. City
23 Attorney Lisa Romney pointed out that the current policy of sale only at time of need would place
24 the burden of proof on family members.
25

26 Mayor Pro Tem Hirst said she liked the idea of making it easier for former residents to be
27 buried with resident status, but questioned if reducing the amount of fees collected was fair to
28 current residents considering the potential bond for new cemetery space. Mr. Hanson stated
29 current burial fees were: \$400 for resident and \$1,400 for non-resident on weekdays, and \$600
30 for resident and \$1,600 for non-resident on weekends. He suggested changing burial fees to \$800
31 or \$1,000 for both resident and non-resident burials. Ms. Romney suggested the Council review
32 and reconsider cemetery fees if and when new cemetery space was available.
33

34 Mayor Pro Tem Hirst suggested approving the proposed amended definition for now to
35 accommodate the recent situations, with continued discussion at a later time. She expressed
36 concern with potential impact of a more complex definition on staff. Mr. Hanson mentioned the
37 responsibility of stewardship of funds. He commented that conversations with individuals at time
38 of need were often full of emotion, and encouraged the Council to keep the policy simple.
39

40 Councilmember McEwan recommended the Council direct staff to consider suggestions
41 made during the discussion and come back with a recommendation. The Council discussed a
42 definition of resident that would include: resident of Centerville for at least 25 years, or 60% of
43 life.
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45 **PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT**

46

47 Public Works Director Mike Carlson reported it had become more and more difficult to find
48 employees for the Public Works Department. He asked the Council to refer to him anyone needing
49 employment and willing to learn skills and work. Further presentation from Mr. Carlson would be
50 added to the agenda for the first meeting in December.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:56 p.m., Councilmember McEwan **moved** to adjourn the work session.
Councilmember Summerhays seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote (5-0).


Jennifer Robison, City Recorder

11-15-2022
Date Approved

