

Minutes of the Centerville **City Council work session** held Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. with participants present electronically via Zoom and streamed on YouTube due to infectious disease COVID-19.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor	Clark Wilkinson
Council Members	Tamilyn Fillmore William Ince Stephanie Ivie George McEwan Robyn Mecham

STAFF PRESENT

Brant Hanson, City Manager
Lisa Romney, City Attorney
Janet Denison, City Recorder
Paul Child, Centerville Police Chief
Bruce Cox, Parks and Recreation Director
Cory Snyder, Community Development Director
Jacob Smith, Administrative Services Director
Kevin Campbell, City Engineer

VISITOR

Karla Sorensen

DETERMINATION

Mayor Wilkinson read aloud a determination regarding electronic meetings without an anchor location due to COVID-19

CEMETERY HEADSTONE DISCUSSION

The Council recently received a request from a citizen to reconsider the ban on upright headstones at the Centerville Cemetery. Bruce Cox, Parks and Recreation Director, explained the previous suggestion from Staff that resulted in approval of the resolution in 2018 requiring flat headstones – to preserve space for maintenance equipment to maneuver around the cemetery, and possibly provide additional burial sites by utilizing space between known sites. Mr. Cox reminded the Council that the City had records for 40 individuals buried in the Centerville Cemetery between 1848 - 1975 with exact burial locations unknown. He stated that, in utilizing space between existing burial sites, remains of the 40 individuals would most likely be unearthed. *Mr. Cox recommended against disturbing the final resting places of the 40 individuals.* He expressed the opinion that the few additional sites that might be made available would not justify the disturbance or expense involved. Multiple Councilmembers stated they thought the decision had already been made to not disturb the unmarked graves.

Brant Hanson, City Manager, stated Staff recommended the Council repeal the 2018 resolution banning upright headstones, and abandon attempts to find additional burial spaces between known marked burial sites.

Councilmember Ince stated he would lean toward continuing with efforts to find additional burial space between known burial sites, and continuing to ban upright headstones.

1 Councilmember Ivie said she was concerned about the Cemetery, and would love to find more
2 burial spaces, but she did not think it would be wise to go looking for more given the ambiguity of
3 what was already there. She said she thought the Council had already given direction to Staff to
4 bring back recommendations for a niche wall.

5
6 Mr. Cox described the respectful process Staff followed if remains were found when a
7 burial site was excavated. Councilmember McEwan said he voted against the 2018 resolution
8 because he believed burial markers gave character to a cemetery. He said he was in favor of not
9 attempting to find more space in the Cemetery, and either declaring Centerville was no longer in
10 the business of providing new burial spaces, or look for new land to purchase and develop as a
11 cemetery with a bond arrangement. Mr. Cox pointed out the Cemetery had many unoccupied
12 burial spaces that had been purchased but not yet utilized. Space for maintenance and excavating
13 equipment would continue to be necessary for many years.

14
15 Councilmember Fillmore said she was in favor of not attempting to find more burial spaces
16 between existing spaces, and in favor of repealing the 2018 resolution. Councilmember Mecham
17 expressed agreement. Councilmember Fillmore said she had thought the Council had already
18 given direction to move forward with a niche wall, and said she would like information presented
19 to the Council as soon as possible.

20
21 A majority of the Council indicated they were in agreement that the Centerville Cemetery
22 had no new burial spaces available. Mayor Wilkinson said he had already considered the
23 Cemetery full and had been looking into new options for years. Mr. Hanson said Staff would
24 prepare language to repeal the 2018 resolution, and bring a recommendation regarding a niche
25 wall to the next Council meeting.

26 27 **CEMETERY FUNDING AND BALLOT INITIATIVE DISCUSSION**

28
29 City Engineer Kevin Campbell showed an overhead image of hillside property owned by
30 Centerville City, and stated that, on a conceptual level, approximately five acres of land in the
31 "bowl" area could have the same approximate slope as the existing Centerville Cemetery. The
32 existing Cemetery was approximately seven acres. He estimated \$3 million would be needed to
33 improve the area. Councilmember Fillmore said she would want to look into the possibility of
34 xeriscape landscaping if hillside space were used for a cemetery. Councilmember Mecham said
35 she believed many community members would be unhappy with the idea of converting the bowl
36 area to cemetery space. She commented that a cemetery focus-group previously identified
37 hillside property near Twin Hollow Park in Bountiful as possible cemetery space.

38
39 Councilmember McEwan asked if owners of hillside property currently unable to develop
40 their land because of City restrictions would be able to argue that they should be able to develop
41 their land if the City developed a cemetery on the hillside. Cory Snyder, Community Development
42 Director, said there were not many large privately-owned parcels of land along the hillside. He
43 suggested creating access to the subject area would be the biggest problem. Councilmember Ivie
44 asked how the City's drinking water supply from the bowl area would be affected if the land were
45 used for burials. Mr. Cox responded the water supply would not be negatively affected. Mr.
46 Campbell commented that the existing Cemetery was within a wellhead protection zone.
47 Responding to Councilmember McEwan's question, Mr. Campbell explained that private hillside
48 property owners would be subject to different development restrictions from the State than the
49 City would for a cemetery. He commented that electrical connections were available at the Island
50 View Reservoir. He said he agreed with Councilmember Fillmore's suggestion to utilize xeriscape
51 landscaping. Mr. Cox suggested the possibility of utilizing solar power on the site. Mr. Snyder

1 pointed out that xeriscape landscaping would likely have a higher installation cost than turf, with
2 the benefit of greater longevity. Mr. Campbell added that irrigation at that elevation would soak
3 through and return to City wells.
4

5 Mayor Wilkinson emphasized a desire to look at all possibilities, and mentioned the option
6 of bonding and purchasing private property for a new cemetery, acknowledging the possibility that
7 eminent domain may become necessary in that scenario. Councilmember Ivie stated she was in
8 no way interested in exercising eminent domain. Mr. Hanson shared estimated costs of bonding
9 for new cemetery space, and stated that available parcels of land appropriate for cemetery use
10 within the City were extremely limited.
11

12 Police Chief Paul Child said he believed the Council needed to be aware of the need the
13 City would have in coming years for a new Police Station. He said Kaysville City recently built a
14 station comparable to what Centerville would need for around \$5 million. Mr. Hanson agreed Staff
15 and the Council needed to discuss and prioritize infrastructure and facility needs with the goal of
16 keeping property tax rates as low as feasibly possible.
17

18 Mr. Cox commented that a second cemetery would necessitate the addition of one or two
19 year-round full-time City employees, as well as additional seasonal employees. Councilmember
20 Mecham commented that, if being buried in Centerville was important enough to community
21 members to vote in favor of a bond initiative, the cost of the burial sites at the new cemetery
22 should be much higher than had been charged at the existing cemetery. Councilmember Fillmore
23 said she agreed. Mr. Hanson said he believed it would not be to the City's advantage to price the
24 *burial sites so high that not all residents in the City would be able to afford them.* Councilmember
25 McEwan said he agreed that if a community offered the service, it should be affordable to
26 everyone in the community. Mr. Cox commented that a variety of product types could be offered
27 within one cemetery.
28

29 Mr. Hanson requested Council feedback regarding which direction to pursue.
30 Councilmember McEwan said he would like the cemetery issue prepared for a ballot initiative,
31 and possibly the police station issue as well. Councilmember Fillmore responded she did not
32 consider the two issues to be comparable because the cemetery would generate revenue and
33 possibly pay for itself over time, and the police station would not. She expressed a desire for the
34 cemetery discussions to continue in a timely manner to be ready for a November ballot.
35 Councilmember Ivie stated that, as much as she wanted more cemetery space, she would not be
36 willing to use eminent domain.
37

38 TRUTH IN TAXATION

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40 The Council decided to discuss this issue at a future meeting.
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42 ADJOURNMENT

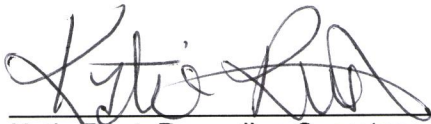
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44 At 7:03 p.m., Councilmember Ince **moved** to adjourn the work session, and
45 Councilmember Ivie seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote (5-0).
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50 Janet Denison, City Recorder

Feb. 2, 2021
Date Approved

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Katie Rust, Recording Secretary

