

1 Minutes of the Centerville **City Council work session** held Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 6:30
2 p.m. with participants present at City Hall, 250 North Main Street.

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4 **MEMBERS PRESENT**

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6 Mayor Clark Wilkinson

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8 Council Members William Ince
9 Stephanie Ivie
10 George McEwan
11 Robyn Mecham

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13 **MEMBER ABSENT** Tamilyn Fillmore

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15 **STAFF PRESENT** Brant Hanson, City Manager
16 Lisa Romney, City Attorney
17 Jacob Smith, Administrative Services Director
18 Nate Plaizier, Finance Director
19 Bruce Cox, Parks and Recreation Director

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21 **CEMETERY HEADSTONE PLACEMENT**

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23 Parks and Recreation Director Bruce Cox explained that in 2018, Ordinance No. 2018-09
24 was passed to prohibit the installation of burial markers prior to the interment of remains within a
25 burial space. Prior to 2018, there had been an increase in the installation of pre-need headstones
26 in the City Cemetery, which caused a variety of issues including increased maintenance cost and
27 liability for the City. City Manager Brant Hanson explained the City had receive a couple requests
28 to install pre-need headstones since the ordinance passed, including one recent request, so the
29 issue was brought back to the Council for discussion.

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31 Mr. Cox commented that many monument companies and mortuaries offered pre-need
32 packages that allowed individuals to pre-pay and have arrangements taken care of for casket,
33 vault, flowers, embalming, funeral services, and headstone. He explained that individuals who
34 paid for placement of a pre-need headstone incurred additional removal and installation cost at
35 time of need. Mr. Cox said he had noticed a trend in favor of the more expensive upright
36 monument headstones over flat headstones. Responding to a question from Councilmember
37 Ince, Mr. Cox said he believed the amount the City charged per burial site for the Perpetual Care
38 Fund did not cover the City's long-term maintenance expenses.

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40 Mr. Hanson stated the staff recommendation was to keep the ordinance as it was, with no
41 change. Councilmember Ince said he believed the fee would need to be significantly higher to
42 allow pre-need installation to recognize the City's risks and costs. Mr. Hanson said he anticipated
43 the City would experience a volume of installation of pre-need headstones similar to what was
44 experienced in the years leading up to 2018 if the ordinance were repealed. The Council and staff
45 discussed liability and costs to the City associated with pre-need headstones.

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47 **ADJOURNMENT**

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49 The work session was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

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4 Jennifer Hansen
5 Jennifer Hansen, City Recorder

10-08-2021
Date Approved

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10 Katie Rust
Katie Rust, Recording Secretary

