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3 **City of Olmsted Falls**
4 **Minutes of a Joint Union Cemetery Association Meeting**
5 **Tuesday, May 10, 2016, at Olmsted Falls City Hall**
6 **26100 Bagley Road - Council Chambers, 7:00 p.m.**

7 Chairman Roy Gropitch called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m. Roll call was conducted. Jay Linn
8 (**arrived at 7:26 p.m.**), Linda Garrity, Jim Haviland, Bob Sculac, Paul Stibich, Terry Duncan, Kyle
9 Miller, Jeanene Kress, Tiffany Fischbach and Lisa Zver were present. Audience 3.

10
11 **Approval of Minutes:**

12 Ms. Kress **moved** to approve the minutes from the Joint Cemetery Meeting of June 23, 2015; Mr.
13 Sculac **seconded**. Poll: 10 ayes; 0 nays. **Motion carried**.

14
15 **Financial Statement:**

16 Ms. Garrity moved to **approve** the Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet dated 12/31/15;
17 Ms. Duncan **seconded**. Voice Vote: 10 ayes; 0 nays. **Motion carried**.

18
19 Mr. Stibich inquired as to the reason for the \$49,000 expense for property maintenance on the profit
20 and loss statement. Ms. Wilmink, the treasurer for the cemetery, indicated that there have been
21 many improvements done to the cemetery including a new driveway and fence.

22
23 **Old Business - None**

24
25 **New Business:**

- 26
27 (1) Consideration of official name change from “Union Cemetery Association” to “Chestnut
28 Grove Union Cemeteries”

29
30 Mr. Sponseller indicated that the name change can be done by the appropriate resolution and file
31 with Columbus. Ms. Kress stated that she would like to transpire prior to the next joint meeting in
32 May.

- 33
34 (2) Discussion of expiring terms for Chairman, Roy Gropitch, and Olmsted Falls
35 Representative Linda Garrity.

36
37 Ms. Kress stated that Mr. Gropitch has been an outstanding community representative and has
38 served the cemetery board for nine years. She would like to see the leadership change to a
39 representative from the Township. She would like to propose John Phillips as the chairman
40 beginning in 2017. Mr. Phillips is an Olmsted Township resident for 31 years. He serves on the
41 Township Board of Zoning Appeals, a member of the Board of Directors for “Eddie Johnson
42 Memorial Foundation.” She stated that Mr. Gropitch has served the cemetery well and believes
43 that Mr. Phillips will continue that tradition.

1 Ms. Kress moved to **appoint** John Phillips to the chairman position of the cemetery board of
2 trustees; Ms. Garrity **seconded**. Poll: 10 ayes; 0 nays. **Motion carried**.

3
4 Ms. Kress moved to **re-appoint** Linda Garrity as the Olmsted Falls representative on the cemetery
5 board; Mr. Haviland **seconded**. Poll: 10 ayes; 0 nays. **Motion carried**.

6
7 Mr. Linn stated that Ms. Garrity steps up to the plate whenever needed in all capacities. Ms. Kress
8 indicated that she does and right now we have a very good working board and she believes that will
9 continue. She is very proud to serve on the board.

10
11 ***Joint Resolution 01-2016***

12 A JOINT RESOLUTION FIXING AND RENEWING THE RATE OF TAXATION
13 AS TWO-TENTHS (.2) OF A MILL ON EACH DOLLAR OF VALUATION OF ALL
14 TAXABLE PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF OLMSTED FALLS AND THE
15 TOWNSHIP OF OLMSTED FOR THE YEAR 2015 FOR CEMETERY PURPOSES

16 **First Reading**

17
18 Ms. Garrity moved to **suspend**; Mr. Stibich **seconded**. Voice Vote: 10 ayes; 0 nays. **Motion**
19 **carried**. Mr. Stibich moved to **waive** the reading in its entirety; Ms. Garrity **seconded**. Voice
20 Vote: 10 ayes; 0 nays. **Motion carried**. Mr. Stibich moved to **adopt**; Ms. Garrity **seconded**. Poll:
21 10 ayes; 0 nays. **Motion carried**.

22
23 **Superintendent Report**

24 Mr. Hill stated that last year the cemetery had a total of 53 burials in both cemeteries, 27 were
25 cremations and 26 were full. When the new cemetery was built a cremation garden was added. We
26 also have a raised cremation garden if the sunken one is full. There were also 13 burials in old
27 cemetery so the old cemetery is still viable. There is a restriction to purchase in the old cemetery
28 for only those who have relatives already buried in there or a vote by the board of trustees.

29
30 He stated that the Chestnut Grove Cemetery is a hidden gem. We have received a lot of floral
31 donations. In the old cemetery dogwoods will be added. If you drive through the cemetery there is
32 a daffodil hill which comprises of 3,000 daffodils and hope to expand.

33
34 He would also like to remind everyone that lots cost \$325.00 as compared to the cost of Sunset's
35 lots which are \$1,200 to \$1,500 and then are charged \$2,100 to open and close the grave, our cost
36 for the open and closing are \$425.00. He would advise everyone to let people know as the
37 cemetery does not advertise.

38
39 He stated that we are a community and family oriented cemetery. We are getting a lot of the new
40 style headstones which are flat stone like other cemeteries and the names are going on the front and
41 back which accommodates six people. Our lots are 3'4" x 10' and it is very important to keep
42 accurate records because there is one inch between graves.

43
44 Mr. Sculac stated that he made a motion last year that a decision be made regarding the parcels in
45 terms of who owns them and asked for the progress. Ms. Kress replied no progress. Mr. Sculac
46 stated that it's been a year and no progress has been made and inquired as to why. Ms. Kress
47 replied no progress, it's not a high priority for us right now. Mr. Sculac stated that his
48 understanding is that the property needs to be in the name of the city per the Ohio Revised Code.
49 Ms. Kress replied correct. Mr. Sculac stated that when a motion was made a year ago he would

1 expect that some report be made back to this body as to the progress. Obviously, there has been no
2 progress. Secondly, two years ago he made a motion that was approved to have minute's
3 distributed to this body at the end of every meeting of the cemetery board and that is still not being
4 done and would like to know why. Ms. Kress stated that minutes are distributed when approved.
5 Mr. Sculac stated that he has not seen minutes on a regular basis until they come in a packet for the
6 joint meeting. Ms. Kress replied that would be fixed. Mr. Sculac indicated that he would like the
7 other issue fixed as well.

8
9 Ms. Garrity asked for clarification he is inquiring about the deed to the property for the entire
10 property. Mr. Sculac stated that the total property of the cemetery, per Ohio Revised Code, needs
11 to be deeded to the city. Currently part of the property is deeded to the city and part to the township
12 and there seems to be a third parcel that is questionable as to who owns and this needs to be
13 resolved. This issue has been going on for quite some time. After making a motion last year and
14 going a full year without any progress he thinks is unconscionable of the board.

15
16 Ms. Lunn stated that she checked today and a 1988 deed of the three cemetery trustees to the City
17 of Olmsted Falls as required by Ohio Revised Code 759 that deed has not been recorded thus if it is
18 lost or destroyed it will need to be re-created with more legal expense. That deed contains the
19 parcel of the house and barn, which is the city's and the balance of 34 acres which is the cemetery is
20 yet unrecorded. Mr. Sculac stated that again, he asked for a resolution to this issue.

21
22 Mr. Sponseller stated that to identify the parcels we can get a title company to do an appropriate
23 title search, identify the transfer history and clarify the ownership. Mr. Stibich asked if a motion
24 was required to expend funds for legal fees related to transferring the title and recording the deed.
25 Mr. Sponseller indicated that he would volunteer to coordinate.

26
27 Ms. Lunn stated that on August 10, 2015 she asked the Clerk of Council to look in the safe where
28 Bev Smith recalled the deed that is unrecorded being stored. Before, we spend more money she
29 believes it would be more appropriate to have someone look for this deed.

30
31 Mr. Stibich moved to approve the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$2,500 for title search
32 and legal work for preparation of a deed; Mr. Linn seconded. Voice Vote: 10 ayes; 0 nays. Motion
33 carried.

34
35 Ms. Garrity indicated that she will contact Mr. Venefee to see if he has any information regarding
36 the deed.

37
38 Ms. Kress would like to thank Trudy Wilmink for her service to the cemetery board and she does a
39 great job for us. She stated that Mr. Hill knows everyone living or dead in Olmsted Township and
40 Olmsted Falls. She stated that with genealogy now cemeteries are show places and where people
41 go for walks. Over the past couple of years, the fencing was added to the property, there was only a
42 gravel road previously so the cemetery completed a road replacement, there was an entrance
43 replacement, we've purchased two mowers, there was a flag installation which honors the veterans
44 of the services, a daffodil hill that Ms. Dumound wrote an article about, record retention policy was
45 improved, Ms. Wilmink and Ms. Grospitch did a good job identifying the graves in Turkeyfoot to
46 make sure the map was accurate, records were moved from the basement to the first floor.

47
48 She stated that she and Ms. Wilmink attended a webinar regarding POMTEM, which is a computer
49 software package that tracks everything in the cemetery, provides for genealogy and has a
50 capability to withdraw reports for various classification of graves. The cost is approximately

1 \$1,500 and we are excited about this software. We are looking at the possibility of a veterans
2 memorial ceremony on Veterans Day.
3

4 **Questions from the Floor**

5 An unidentified woman asked that she hopes moving forward that the quarterly meetings that are
6 supposed to be held will be held during a public time and not at noon when no one can attend the
7 meetings. She also saw the \$49,000 expense on the profit and loss report for two major projects
8 and she believed that both boards had to approve these types of projects. Ms. Kress replied no. The
9 unidentified woman indicated that she believes there is a dollar amount that requires both boards.
10 Mr. Grospitch indicated that a project cannot be over \$25,000. The unidentified woman asked what
11 the cost of the new road improvements would be. Mr. Grospitch indicated approximately \$22,000.
12 She replied isn't that convenient. Mr. Grospitch indicated that he completes the work and has been
13 in the concrete business since 1968. Ms. Kress indicated that the project will come before the board
14 for approval. Ms. Garrity stated that this past year the board discussed being more cognizant of the
15 bidding process and have worked hard reviewing specs so that when projects go out for bid we can
16 compare them equally. The new furnace and the fence were projects that were reviewed. As far as
17 the road projects, in the past the board had a five to ten year plan for future projects and she has
18 requested that this plan be reviewed. The new road also opened up grave sites and if anyone is
19 interested in purchasing plots Mr. Hill and Mr. Wilmlink will take people around to look at sites.
20 The board has not been rubber stamping any projects and have been diligently reviewing bids and
21 comparing them.
22

23 Mr. Stibich asked the unidentified woman if she believed the money spent on the roads was
24 extravagant. She replied that she does and does not believe the fence was necessary and should
25 have been placed in the back of the property so the adjacent property owners do not encroach and
26 the cemetery has another lawsuit. She believes the concrete roads are extravagant and does not
27 understand why blacktop cannot be used. Mr. Grospitch indicated that it was deteriorating. She
28 stated that the same problem is happening at the entranceway even with the concrete so whether it's
29 concrete or blacktop you have the same problem. She would also like to bring up that the board
30 place signs indicating that dogs need to be on leashes as the cemetery is turning into a dog park.
31 Ms. Kress stated that she is at the cemetery all the time as her husband is buried there and the
32 people she has seen are very respectful of the property and treat it as though it was their own home.
33 She has seen people picking up trash that was blown in from winds. There is a lot of work on the
34 cemetery's 60 acres. The unidentified woman indicated that in public parks there are leash laws.
35 Ms. Kress stated that when she has seen individuals in the cemetery their animals were on a leash
36 and they clean up after their animals. Mr. Hill stated that there are individuals who let their dogs
37 run off the leash for a little while. Ms. Kress stated that she was not aware of that and will consider
38 the request.
39

40 An unidentified man stated that the veterans ceremony is a nice suggestion but if there is no help
41 setting up the ceremony it will not take place. There is no VFW's in town, the American Legion is
42 no longer here. He stated that Brook Park, Berea, or North Olmsted will help so it is the
43 community that will have to put on the ceremony. He has the same ceremony in Wellington at
44 Greenwood Cemetery because he is a member of the American Legion in that area, we also have
45 the high school band march from downtown to the cemetery and back. There is a dedication in the
46 town square and they have the town involved.
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1 **Adjournment:**

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3 Mr. Sculac moved to **adjourn**; Mr. Stibich **seconded**. Poll: 10 ayes, 0 nays. **Motion carried.**

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6 The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

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11 _____
12 *Roy Gropitch, Chairman*

_____ *Angela Mancini, Clerk of Council*