

TITLE 14

CEMETERIES

CHAPTER

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CHAPTER 1

SPECIAL PROVISIONS

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14-101. Sale of Lots. In order that the City may at all times have a permanent record of the ownership of all cemetery lots, it shall be unlawful of any person, firm or corporation owning a cemetery lot in any City owned cemetery to sell, transfer or convey the same without notifying the City Recorder at the time of sale, transfer, or assignment.

14-102. Price of Lots. The price of lots shall be established by the City Commission in regular session and future changes in the price of lots may be governed as economic conditions may dictate.

14-103. Grave Markers and Monuments. Only one (1) monument shall be erected on any single grave lot or any full size lot containing multiple gravesites. The area of the base of the memorial shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the area of the lot. The length of the base of the memorial shall not exceed sixty percent (60%) of the width of the lot. The width of the base of the memorial shall not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the length of the lot. Foot markers may be permitted, provided they are placed flush with the ground. Exceptions to the above may be made for all markers or monuments furnished by the Federal government. Foundations will be required for all monuments and markers of every description. All foundations must be of concrete flush with the ground, and of ample size and depth to properly carry the size and weight of the stone. All markers erected will be erected with the inscription facing as directed by City employees.

The City of Paris shall not be responsible for the care, maintenance, or upkeep of any grave markers or monuments, or for any damage to grave markers or monuments caused by accident, vandalism, theft, weather, or any other man-made or natural causes.

14-104. Fences, Walls, Ornaments, and Decorations. No fences, curbing, walls, enclosures, benches, chairs, settees, barriers, planter boxes, toys, bottles, glass or breakable items, or any other similar decorations shall hereafter be erected in any City Cemetery and no corner markers or slabs shall rise above the ground. Any such listed items previously placed on any cemetery lot prior to the enactment of this Ordinance shall be allowed to remain on any said cemetery lot. Provided, however, if such listed items fall into disrepair or are unsightly then they shall be removed and cannot be replaced or repaired and will thereafter be prohibited from any City Cemetery.

14-105. Shrubbery, Plants, Flowers, Trees, or Growth. The planting of shrubs, plants, flowers, trees, or other natural or artificial growth shall not be permitted. No person shall disturb the sod, plants, trees, shrubs, or flowers that have been planted by the City of Paris or interfere in any manner with the general design of the Cemetery. No natural or artificial flowers or arrangements may be placed directly on the ground but must be placed on monuments or headstones. Wreaths, flags, freestanding disposable vases, or other temporary decorations may be placed upon headstones or positioned next to headstones so that they do not interfere with normal mowing or other maintenance, provided however, the City shall have the right to remove them after a reasonable time as they become unsightly or mar the beauty or the appearance of the Cemetery. Further, the City shall remove, without notice, all flowers real or artificial that remain over 15 days.

14-106. Unlawful Entry. It shall be unlawful for any person or persons, other than duly authorized officials or employees of the City, to enter into or be upon the grounds of any City Cemetery during the time after sunset and before sunrise of any day. It shall further be unlawful at all times for any persons to enter or leave the grounds of any City Cemetery other than by the established and open entrances or gateways.

14-107. Trespass, Loitering; Exceptions. It shall be unlawful for any person to loiter or trespass upon the grounds of any City Cemetery or for the parent or guardian of any child under the age of 18 to permit such person to be within said Cemetery grounds unless accompanied by an adult person or unless visiting the graves of relatives or friends.

14-108. Cemetery Speed Limit. It shall be unlawful for any person to drive any vehicle in any City Cemetery faster than 10 miles per hour.

14-109. Rubbish and Debris. It shall be unlawful for any person to dispose of any rubbish, trash, waste materials, litter, or debris of any kind in any City Cemetery.

14-110. Property Damage. No person shall remove, damage, mar, deface, throw down, or destroy any headstone, monument, survey marker, corner marker, tomb, vault, mausoleum, or decoration on any cemetery lot in any City Cemetery, or open, disturb, or molest any grave or place of burial therein. This Chapter shall not prohibit acts by City officers or employees or other public officials in carrying out any official duties.

14-111. Identification of Lots and/or Gravesites. Employees of the City of Paris may assist owners of lots of record insofar as it may be practical so that any undue hardship or other inconvenience to the family or friends of the deceased may be minimized.

14-112. Depths and Boundaries of Graves. All graves shall be at least six (6) inches within the boundary lines of the burial lot, and shall be at least four (4) feet in depth.

14-113. Responsibility of Mortuary. It will be the responsibility of the mortuary or other persons responsible for preparing gravesites to remove all surplus dirt from the gravesite or area surrounding the gravesite provided such surplus dirt was created as a direct result of preparing a gravesite.

14-114. Compliance with Ordinance. All cemetery lot owners will be furnished a copy of the Cemetery Ordinance upon request or at the time of purchase of a lot. It is hereby further provided that the owners of lots of record prior to the adoption of this ordinance are subject to the terms and provisions of this ordinance upon its final passage by the City Commission.

14-115. Uses. Cemetery lots are hereby set apart and dedicated as a burial place for the remains of human beings only and for no other burial thereon.

14-116. Administration and Management. The management of City Cemeteries shall be under the direction of the City Manager, who in turn shall be responsible to the City Commission for direct and complete supervision of the cemeteries. The City Recorder is designated as the custodian of all maps and the issuing and recording of deeds and causing proper entries to be made in all permanent records maintained by the City of Paris. The City Finance Director will be the custodian of all cemetery funds and will disburse any such funds at the direction of the City Commission (Ord. #380, 07/05/66); (Ord. # 1231, 5/3/18).