Chapter 20

CEMETERIES

Article I. In General.

Section 20.1 Cemetery Area Designated; Purpose.
Section 20.2 Control and Regulation.
Section 20.3 Hours of Operation.
Section 20.4 Through Traffic.
Section 20.5 Sale of Lots.
Section 20.6 Prices.
Section 20.7 Resale of Lots.
Section 20.8 Trash to be Removed.
Section 20.9 Vault.
Section 20.10 Number of Burials per Grave Space.
Section 20.11 Markers.
Section 20.12 Plantings.
Section 20.13 Ornamentation.
Section 20.14 Removal of Ornamentation.
Section 20.15 Injury to Markers, Ornaments, Plantings.
Section 20.16 Exhumation.
Section 20.17 Burial of Animals.
Section 20.18 Desecration of Burial Site.
Section 20.19 Penalty.
Section 20.20 Perpetual Care.

ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

Section 20.1 Cemetery Area Designated; Purpose.

The present enclosure shall constitute and compose the city cemetery and shall not be enlarged nor diminished except by direction of the city council. The cemetery shall in the future be know as the Blakely Cemetery and shall be the burial place of persons owning lots therein.

Section 20.2 Control and Regulation.

The city council may from time to time adopt, amend or repeal such rules governing city cemeteries, including but not limited to, the rules governing interment, maintenance, monuments and marking, the construction of walks, walls, etc., the price of lots and such other rules which may be deemed wise in the judgement of the council.

Section 20.3 Hours of Operation.

No persons shall be permitted into the city cemetery including gave sites or walkways except during daylight hours. Violators shall be deemed to be trespassing on city property.

Section 20.4 Through Traffic.

It shall be unlawful for any person to pass through the city cemetery from any direction, whether on foot or in a vehicle, making or suing the same as a public way or road.

Section 20.5 Sale of Lots.

No cemetery lot, burial space or niche space shall be deeded to any person without the payment of said space in advance. Lots are sold only on an as needed basis; lots are no longer sold for pre-planning purposes. A total of four (4) grave spaces may be purchased when there is a need. Once a lot is deeded it belongs to the person to whom it was deeded and their heirs, as such the city has no input as to who can or cannot be buried in said lot.

Section 20.6 Prices.

The cost of a lot, burial space, or niche space in the Blakely City Cemetery shall be such an amount as determined by the mayor and city council from time to time. A list of said charges shall be kept on file at the office of the city manager. At the time of purchase, the buyer must also pay the fee for the recording of the deed at the Early County Courthouse. The fee is set by the County.

Section 20.7 Resale of Lots.

The City of Blakely does not buy back previously sold lots. Owners desiring to sell a plot may do so to an private individual, however, the City of Blakely will not be involved in said sale.

Section 20.8 Trash to be Removed.

All piles of earth, brick, rubbish or building material of any kind shall be removed by the persons placing the same in the city cemetery within 72 hours after the completion of the work for which they were used.

Section 20.9 Vault.

It shall be compulsory for a vault to be used for a burial in the city cemetery. Vaults shall be made of reinforced concrete, stainless steel, fiberglass or suitable materials. All cremation remains must be contained in a suitable sealed container.

Section 20.10 Number of Burials per Grave Space.

There shall be a limit of one (1) adult burial per grave space. There shall be a limit of two (2) infant burials or two (2) cremation remains per grave space.

Section 20.11 Markers.

All graves must be marked with an appropriate marker that will allow law enforcement authorities to locate graves if necessary for any lawful purpose after interment. Markers shall be place, or contracted with a monument company for placement, within one (1) year of interment.

Section 20.12 Plantings.

Trees, shrubs, or plants will not be planted, altered or removed without the express consent of the city. If any trees or shrubs situated in any lot shall, by means of their roots or branches, become detrimental to the adjacent lots, unsightly, or inconvenient to the setup for a funeral service, the city shall have the right to enter the lot and remove trees and/or shrubs, or such parts as shall be determined detrimental, unsightly or inconvenient.

Section 20.13 Ornamentation.

- Glass vases or containers are not acceptable.
- Flowers and floral designs are allowed but must be kept immediately adjacent to monuments or markers. During the time of year for the cemetery to be moved, care must be taken to ensure that flowers do not interfere with the mowing of the cemetery.
- Faux flowers shall be weighted to prevent being blown about by strong winds. Any faux flowers found outside a grave space shall be discarded.

Section 20.14 Removal of Ornamentation.

- Any faux flowers, flags, or other ornamentation left on grave sites shall be removed when they are/or become torn, faded and/or are in a state unbecoming of their original display purposes.
- The city shall have the right to enter upon said lot(s) and remove and properly dispose of said ornamentation that impairs te overall beauty and dignity of the cemetery, or becomes a safety hazard. When it is necessary for the city to enter said lot(s) to perform such work the city shall not be liable for nay damage to property or monuments located on said lot(s).
- Decorations and/or ornamentation may be removed if they interfere with mowing.

Section 20.15 Injury to Markers, Ornaments, Plantings.

No person, without proper authority from the city, shall mutilate or in any manner injure or deface any monument, tombstone, gate, fence, railing or enclosure of any kind, character or description in or around the city cemetery, nor break, injure or destroy any wild or cultivated shrubs, plants, or trees in the cemetery.

Section 20.16 Exhumation.

No body shall be exhumed without a signed authorization for disinterment and reinterment by the local registrar. A copy of the approved disinter form must be provided to the city before remains may be exhumed.

Section 20.17 Burial of Animals.

The burial of animals of any nature shall not be permitted within the city cemetery.

Section 20.18 Desecration of Burial Site.

The destruction, theft or disturbance of any grave, monument, marker, mausoleum, or their defacement in any manner, shall constitute a desecration of the grave site and shall be punishable by applicable law.

Section 20.19 Penalty.

Violation of the provisions of this article shall be punishable as provided in Section 1.7 of the City of Blakely Code of ordinances.

Section 20.20 Perpetual Care.

The Blakely City Cemetery is not a perpetual care cemetery. City personnel will perform basic yard maintenance only. However, the owner or the family member of the owner of each lot is responsible for the care and maintenance of such lot.