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**Mosier Pioneer Cemetery Operating Policies**

**PURPOSE**: The Mosier Pioneer Cemetery is an historic pioneer cemetery. It is the policy of the City of Mosier to reopen Mosier Pioneer Cemetery for new interments while maintaining the historic and environmental character currently established. Changes to the cemetery beyond the impact of permitted grave markers shall minimally impact the current landscape, native vegetation and visual essence of the cemetery. All new grave markers shall blend with the ***natural*** landscape and shall be visually subordinate to the existing historic grave markers.

The policies presented herein implement Mosier City Ordinance No. 156, which created Title 11, Chapter 11.05 of the Mosier Municipal Code. Questions regarding these policies or the requirements of the underlying ordinance may be directed to the Cemetery Superintendent at 541-478-3505.

**RIGHTS OF INTERMENT:**  Purchase of a lot as defined in the ordinance conveys no real estate whatsoever. What is conveyed is the exclusive right to interment of between one and four urn/s.

**LOT FEES:** Fees for a single lot allow for the interment of up to four cremation urns. Fees for interments, disinterments, scatter garden plaques, and scattering of cremains shall be posted by the city on a schedule annually (attached separately). The City Council shall establish by resolution, and may from time to time, amend the fee for interments or the scattering of remains in the Pioneer Cemetery, and all services rendered by the City.

The Superintendent will not authorize the right to interment in a specific lot until the fee is paid in full. All fees paid are final and not refundable; however, if interment is not completed and the responsible party requests, a refund may be made at the discretion of the Superintendent. Fees are not transferable and are not refundable once interment has occurred.

**INTERMENT SPECIFICATIONS:** Up to four (4) cremated remains may be buried in a single lot. If more than one cremains is interred, the owner may place no more than one upright grave marker and three small ground level markers, or four ground level markers with no upright marker within the boundaries of the lot.

All graves dug shall be excavated to a depth such that the bottom of the grave is at a depth of between 24 and 30 inches, depending on the height of the urn or container holding the cremated remains. A minimum of 12 inches is needed over the top of the urn.

**GRAVE MARKER SPECIFICATIONS AND CARE:**

1. Material and Color: All grave markers shall be of natural unpolished stone. The stone shall be of neutral coloring of gray, beige or sand and of earth and brown tones.
2. Size: Grave markers shall be no taller than a height of two feet, and the width and length may total no more than four linear feet. Ground level markers shall be flush with the ground and no larger than six (6) by ten (10) inches.
3. Number of grave markers per lot: no more than one upright grave marker and three small ground level markers, or four ground level markers with no upright marker within the boundaries of the lot.

1. Foundations: If the grave marker has a concrete foundation, the foundation must be flush with the ground and not extend beyond the grave maker more than four inches on any side. The existing grade shall be maintained.
2. Decoration: Grave markers shall be made entirely free of ornamentation, metal, photos, or any other non-engraved trimming.
3. Engraving: Engraving should be done directly on the stone. Metal plaques are NOT allowed. Text relaying personal story is encouraged. Personal graphics will not exceed more than 10% on any one side of the stone. Examples of personal graphics include, but are not limited to, representations or symbols associated with hobbies or personal interests of the decedent, such as pets, sports, etc.
4. Repair: Repairs to any grave marker is prohibited without written consent of the Cemetery Superintendent and Cemetery Committee.

**LOT SPECIFICATIONS & CARE**: The construction, installation or repair of any curbing surrounding any lot or group of lots and the erection or placement of fences or enclosures around graves or lots; placement or installation of crushed or decorative rock; and all machine grading is prohibited without written consent of the Cemetery Superintendent and Cemetery Committee.

**LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE:** There will not be routine mowing, trimming, or maintenance of the natural vegetation throughout the year other than any prescribed and limited fire prevention control by the Mosier Valley Fire Department in coordination with the cemetery superintendent. (NOTE: Keep this in mind when choosing a ground level grave marker). Pruning and brush clearing is prohibited. Any changes to the landscape in the cemetery is prohibited. The superintendent may remove any item left at the grave site at his/her discretion.

**GRAVE MARKER INSTALLATION PROCESS**:

Before you purchase a grave marker, the size, material and design will need to be reviewed and approved by the Pioneer Cemetery Committee. Be prepared to provide a photo of the stone prior to engraving, with a word description of the stone type, measurements, design and installation plan. The following local vendors may be able to assist in meeting the requirements of this policy:

Columbia Gorge Studio, Mosier, 541-478-3447

Joseph’s Monuments, White Salmon, 509-493-3331

The Dalles Marble & Granite, The Dalles, 541-296-4124

Andersons Tribute Center, Hood River: 541-386-1000

(Disclaimer: The names listed are solely for the purpose of providing information. The City of Mosier does not guarantee or warrantee the vendors named and references to them do not signify our approval to the exclusion of others.)

It is the responsibility of the owner of the right to interment to transport and install the grave marker(s) in accordance with the ordinance. Access is by foot traffic only or small garden type motorized vehicle/cart (not to exceed path entrance width). No heavy equipment is allowed. Graves must be dug with hand held tools.

**LIMITATIONS ON USE:**

1. No automobile, motorcycle, skateboard, bicycle, truck, tractor, van, backhoe, crane, or any other vehicle and/or recreational equipment shall be permitted in the cemetery unless specifically authorized by the in advance by the Cemetery Superintendent.

2. All dogs must be leashed. Dog owners must clean up their pets' waste and dispose of it at their personal residence or in an appropriate trash container.

3. No rubbings shall be made of a gravemarker without prior approval of the Cemetery Superintendent.

4. No organized gathering of more than 10 persons within the cemetery may occur without notice given seven (7) days in advance to the Cemetery Superintendent.

5. Only natural flowers and other natural decorations may be left at the gravesite.