

STAFF REPORT TO FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

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DATE: June 8, 2021

TO: STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND AUDIT

NAME AND TITLE: Blake McIntosh, Acting Director, Civic Operations

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendments to Cemetery Bylaw and Corresponding Fees and Charges

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Summary of Proposed Amendments to Cemetery Bylaw No. 8046, 2008
2. Draft "City of Prince George Cemetery Bylaw No. 8046, 2008, Amendment Bylaw No. 9220, 2021"
3. Summary of Proposed Amendments to Schedule A-3 of the Comprehensive Fees & Charges Bylaw No. 7557, 2004
4. Draft "City of Prince George Comprehensive Fees and Charge Bylaw No. 7557, 2004, Amendment Bylaw No. 9221, 2021"

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Standing Committee on Finance and Audit:

1. RECOMMENDS to Council approval of the proposed amendments to the "City of Prince George Cemetery Bylaw No. 8046, 2008" and
2. RECOMMENDS to Council approval of the proposed consequential amendments to Schedule A-3 – "Cemetery Fees" of the "City of Prince George Comprehensive Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 7557, 2004",

as presented in the report dated June 8, 2021 from the Acting Director, Civic Operations titled "Proposed Amendments to Cemetery Bylaw and Corresponding Fees & Charges".

PURPOSE:

This report provides the Standing Committee on Finance and Audit with information relating to various amendments to the Cemetery Bylaw No. 8046, 2008 and the consequential amendments to the Comprehensive Fees & Charges Bylaw No. 7557, 2004, Schedule A-3 Cemetery Fees.

BACKGROUND:

In 2008, Council approved a large number of amendments to Cemetery Bylaw No. 8306. As a result of public consultation, public and client inquiries and a comprehensive review of current practices and industry standards in subsequent years, Parks and Solid Waste Services staff is recommending the

changes identified in the attached Cemetery Bylaw No. 8046, 2008 and the Comprehensive Fees & Charges Bylaw No. 7557, 2004.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The vision and management of the Memorial Park Cemetery aligns with Council's City Government Strategy of commitment to citizen centered service and sustainable fiscal management.

DISCUSSION:

The once common method of burying full caskets in ground plots has been on a steady decline since the late 1990's. Interment statistics in Prince George would support this trend as Memorial Park Cemetery records show full interments have fallen over the last decade.

Interment and Rights Transfers Statistics 2010 to 2020										
Interments	201 1	201 2	201 3	201 4	201 5	201 6	201 7	201 8	201 9	2020
Full Interments	81	75	79	77	54	70	71	70	48	59
Cremated Interments	94	108	117	102	87	119	106	129	107	113
Niche Enurnments	24	25	28	43	31	25	17	41	20	18
Crypt Entombments	1	5	1	5	3	2		2	6	2
Scattering of Remains										4
Total Interments	200	213	225	227	175	216	194	242	181	196

As the practice of cremation continues to trend upwards, it is important that the City of Prince George examine the interment services offered at Memorial Park Cemetery for cremated remains. In 2019, a number of additional interment options were added by Cemetery staff in an effort to provide families the opportunity to memorialize loved ones at Memorial Park, whose cremains may otherwise be scattered illegally or even retained at home. These additional interment options/fees form part of this proposed bylaw update. Other notable amendments include proposed housekeeping updates to language that would bring current definitions in line with the *Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act*. In British Columbia, the *Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act* has been established to protect consumers when it comes to end of life choices and places of interment. Cemeteries and funeral providers are required to follow legislation set out by the Act and are monitored by Consumer Protection British Columbia to ensure compliance.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

This report includes new interment options that will generate additional revenue at Memorial Park Cemetery. The proposed fees and increases will reflect the actual cost of current practices in the Cemetery/Mausoleum and will work toward meeting the goal of being financially self-sustaining in the operation of the Cemetery and Mausoleum.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

The attached documents outline proposed amendments to Cemetery Bylaw No. 8046, 2008 and the consequential amendments to the Comprehensive Fees & Charges Bylaw No. 7557, 2004 to ensure that administration and management of the Memorial Park Cemetery reflect current practice and industry standards. These amendments to the bylaw will assist staff in continuing to provide a suitable level of service to the public while meeting the goal of sustainable fiscal management.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Blake McIntosh, Acting Director, Civic Operations

PREPARED BY: Sean LeBrun, Manager, Parks and Solid Waste Services

APPROVED:

Walter Babicz, Acting City Manager

Meeting Date: 2021-08-30