

## CEMETERY DISTRICT --- March 22, 2016

In coordination with City Attorney, Sam Painter, multiple options for a process to create the district (based upon the applicable Statute - MCA 7-11-1007) were provided to the County Commissioners and County Attorney. After discussion with the Commissioners, they indicated that they felt comfortable with foregoing approach. Since that meeting with the Commissioners, I had two additional meetings with Commissioner Prinkki.

At this point, the process is wholly driven by the County. The Commissioners' agreed to hold a first public hearing which has been set for May 5, 2016 at the Commissioner's Hearing Room at 10 a.m.

I have been asked to attend the hearing and agreed, however I suggested that it would be more appropriate for my role to be that of background support; and to allow either or both Dan and Maryvette to be the presenters. Unless the Council directs otherwise, I will plan to simply offer technical support to Dan and Maryvette.

Dan explained to the Commissioners that he is prepared and ready to move forward with a campaign throughout the community to educate the public about the need for the cemetery district.

## Next Steps ---

1. Commissioners conduct a public hearing (5-5-16) regarding the proposed cemetery district. At that May 5, 2016 public hearing, the Commissioners may either:

- > Vote to not adopt a resolution of intent for the creation of the district. If the issue fails the process to create the district ends.
- > Vote yes to adopt a resolution of intent to create the proposed district. If the issue passes, a second public hearing will be required for the Commissioners to formally adopt the resolution of intent to create the cemetery district.

2. At the second public hearing, the Commissioners receive additional comments regarding the creation of the proposed cemetery district. At that second public hearing, the Commissioners may either:

- > Vote to not adopt a Resolution of Intent to Create the Cemetery District. If the Resolution of Intent is not adopted, the process to create the district ends.
- > Adopt a Resolution of Intent to Create the Cemetery District. If the Resolution of Intent is Approved, a third public hearing will be held to adopt a Resolution Ordering a Referendum Vote on the creation of the district during a future election.

3. At the third public hearing, the Commissioners receive additional comments regarding the creation of the proposed cemetery district. At that third public hearing, the Commissioners may either:

- > Vote to not adopt a Referendum Resolution. If the Referendum Resolution is not adopted, the process to create the district ends.
- > Adopt a Referendum Resolution ordering a vote on the creation of the district. If the Referendum Resolution is approved, the election date is set.

FYI -- Commissioner Prinkki and I had a follow-up conversation and he confirmed that the County will cover the cost of public notice for the hearings but the City will need to cover the costs of the actual election. It is believed that a mail ballot will be required. Although it was initially believed that all property owners within the proposed district boundary would be able to vote, it was subsequently determined by the elections department that only registered voters within the proposed district boundary will be eligible to vote. This is good news for the City as it will greatly reduce the City's cost in setting up the election.

4. After the election, the Commissioners adopt either a Resolution to Create or Resolution to Not Create the cemetery district based on the result of the election.