

**City of Peabody
Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes**

Date: September 18, 2025

Time: 6:10PM—7:30PM

Location: Peabody City Hall, 24 Lowell St., Peabody, MA

Attendance:

Faye Kolhonen—Chairperson/Commissioner

Marty Goldsworthy—Commissioner

Celeste Sullivan—Commissioner/Clerk

Conor Morgan—Cemetery Superintendent

Mayor Ted Bettencourt

Administrative Matters:

Call to order: Chairperson Kolhonen called the meeting to order at 6:10PM

Staffing: Liane Woods was hired to fill position formerly held by Christine Turner.

Jason Dupont has been promoted to Foreman.

The Craftsman position has been offered and accepted with a start date of October 8th. The appointment is contingent upon the new employee obtaining a hoisting license within 6 months.

Mayor Bettencourt expressed appreciation to Alice Noble who served part time as cemetery secretary and assisted in training Ms. Woods.

New Business:

Section K Configuration:

Mayor Bettencourt emailed the commissioners prior to the meeting with diagrams showing proposed plot configurations and footings for Section K. There was an in depth discussion on the pros and cons of graves being in a toe to toe layout.

Supt. Morgan reported that approximately \$14,000 was quoted for scanned the area to detect ledge, but since there is a 2+ foot margin of error, he decided against the scanning.

Section K Expansion—Specifications:

Commissioner Sullivan asked about irrigation, noting it appeared on the drawings but not in the specification sheet. Supt. Morgan informed her that any item appearing on the drawings is included in the scope of work. Mayor Bettencourt said the a pre-bid meeting is held to ensure that all details are

CITY OF PEABODY
2026 AUG - 5 AM 11:19
CITY CLERK

clarified before awarding a contract. As not bids have yet been received, the deadline has been extended to 10/16/2025.

There was a long discussion about the number and placement of trees in the new section, and the pros and cons of trees in cemeteries.

Section K Expansion—Pre-sales:

Supt. Morgan stated that no municipal cemeteries in Massachusetts currently offer pre-sales or Saturday burials. Commissioner Sullivan disagreed. Discussion followed regarding the advantages and disadvantages of pre-sales. No final decision was made.

Commissioner Sullivan asked whether plots would be assigned or chosen by families. Mayor Bettencourt stated that such policies are determined by the commission.

Current available plots:

Section J—13 double lots

Section F—5 single lots

Veterans area—6 single graves

Supt. Morgan stated that the city plans to purchase two columbaria—one for veterans and one for civilians.

Budget:

Funds for Section K1 and K2 have been approved for \$200,000. Columbarium funding has a reserve of \$50,000. Mayor Bettencourt assured everyone that these funds are held separately for these specific projects.

Oak Grove:

Supt. Morgan reported that, having laid out a new section at Oak Grove, he named the street Scarlett Oak Avenue as he would like to plant Scarlett Oaks at each corner.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.