

Village of South Charleston

Commission Meeting

April 24, 2018

5:00 P.M.

Members Present: President Samuel Stucky, Vice President Larry Durfey, Village Manager Trecia Waring, and Clerk Jessica Hiser

Guest: None

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

I. Roll Call

II. Open floor to discuss cemetery price increase for Greenlawn Cemetery

President Stucky said he looked over the prices from other places and it looks we are on the short end of some but comparable on others. His increases for the graves are he would like to increase from \$425 to \$525 for a resident and for non-resident he would like it to be \$475-\$700. They also discussed if it should be resident of the Village or Township. Commissioner Taylor said that he did not feel it was losing money as when they have burials it is usually our whole day so they were still being paid either way. He also feels that we could also use the General fund to help pay for the shortfalls in the cemetery. We are spending some extra money on other things so a few thousand dollars on that are not a big deal. Commissioner Taylor asked where we were paying for the new mowers and that is coming out of cemetery and also the general fund so he does not see why we would need to raise the cost but he also does understand bringing the cost up since it has been 10 years. He does agree that it should be the township not just a resident of the Village. Vice President Durfey said he does not think we should be asking everyone for an increase in the price of the cemetery because we just asked them for an increase for the streets. He thinks that we are asking a lot of everyone and we should at least wait a year. Moreover, President Stucky said that we are not asking everyone it is only going to effect a few people. Trecia said she understand but the figures that Jessica has figured out right and there is not only our labor cost but also the other expenses. This is an emotional expense

and nobody wants to pay for it anyway but we do need to cover the cost. This came up over a holiday funeral, the funeral started several hours later, and it ended up having a person there for 5 hours on holiday pay. Jessica explained that when that came up and then we are in the need of new booklets so she did some figuring and came up with the different prices and wanted to put it in front of the commission to have them vote and make the decision as to increase or not. Commissioner Taylor asked if there is not any reason we could not change that aspect to protect ourselves and Jessica said no but we would need to change it to add an additional charge. President Stucky asked if we can take it out of the General Fund and Jessica said that yes we can transfer the money. Vice President Durfey said that he does not think it is year we should ask because of the levy. President Stucky said that he does not think the two are related and he would not change his mind in a year. He would like to see the cemetery self-sufficient. Vice President Durfey asked why the cruisers are not always in the garage. Moreover, the one cruiser was not put back there after use but the cruisers are always put away when not in use. Commissioner Taylor does understand their points and he is not against it but he is not for it either. Trecia wanted them to know that since they have not been updated in quite a while her and Jessica would go ahead and get everything to put in front of the commission to decide if it was time to update. Jessica said that she made up the figures with the thought that this could be what one would cost. The prices she gave were an idea of not to get rich but not to lose money either. And on some of these burials we do make money because they are quick and easy but on some of the others we are losing money. We should also keep in mind that we are maintaining graves for the rest of eternity. Therefore, there is only so much they are paying for and when the graves are dug or they purchase a grave this is the only money we would receive to take care of and maintain the grave. Vice President Durfey asked if the Yamada or Buckeye income tax increases yearly and Jessica said that yes, it can or it can decrease it depends on how many workers and what their salaries are each year. If they up and leave the Village, we will be hurting for funds. Commissioner Taylor does question some of the spending. He also wants to know about adding to the cemetery. Jessica said we have about 100 graves left so at the rate we are selling it would last about 10 years, we would need 5 years to cultivate the land, and it would cost above \$500,000 to add to the cemetery. Commissioner Taylor said he would need more time to consider the increase and would like to table it for now. Trecia said that she does understand that these are people

loved ones out there and she has loved ones out there as well. They spend about 80% of the time in the summer in the cemetery and our part-time person will help with the weed eating and push mowing. Trecia really wants to make the cemetery look nice but part of the problem is that people compare our municipal cemetery to the private cemeteries. Trecia is going to look into spraying the cemetery this year and it is something we have not done in the past. President Stucky agreed that we will table the discussion until the future.

III. Motion to Adjourn

President Stucky motioned to adjourn the meeting and with a second from Commissioner Taylor and a vote of 3/0, the meeting adjourned.

Meeting Adjourned 5:47 pm

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Jessica N Hiser/Clerk

Samuel D Stucky/President

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE MINUTES AS TAKEN FROM THE FILES OF THE CLERK FOR THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH CHARLESTON COMMISSION.