



City of Boynton Beach Agenda Item Request Form

Meeting Date: 05/ 5/2026

Discussion and direction regarding the Boynton Beach Municipal Cemeteries Rules and Regulations - specifically, whether to amend the existing rules to better reflect current practices and community expectations, or to direct staff to begin consistent enforcement of the rules as currently adopted.

Requested Action:

Staff is presenting this item to provide the City Commission with an overview of the existing rules, highlight the provisions that are most frequently the subject of complaints, confusion, or inconsistent enforcement, and request direction on the path forward.

Explanation of Request:

The current Cemetery Rules and Regulations governing Boynton Beach Memorial Park, Sara Sims Cemetery, and the Boynton Beach Mausoleum were last revised on November 16, 2023. While the rules are comprehensive, staff has identified a growing gap between several provisions in the adopted rules and current operating practices, lot owner expectations, and conditions observed at the cemeteries.

Staff is presenting this item to provide the City Commission with an overview of the existing rules, highlight the provisions that are most frequently the subject of complaints, confusion, or inconsistent enforcement, and request direction on the path forward.

Areas where the gap between the written rules and current practice is most pronounced include, but are not limited to:

- **Decorations and personal items at gravesites** (General Rule 3) — The rules limit a gravesite to three items in addition to the marker, prohibit glass vases and figurines, and require flower containers with a solid base not exceeding 18 inches in height. In practice, many gravesites exceed these limits, and the rule prohibiting live plants, trees, and bushes planted in the ground (General Rule 2) is not consistently enforced.
- **Marker specifications** (General Rules 5–8) — Requirements for material, thickness, and dimensions of permanent markers, as well as the six-month limit on temporary

markers, are not consistently applied.

- **Mausoleum vase, flower, and decoration rules** (Mausoleum Rules 4-M) — Limits on fresh flowers (three days), the prohibition on artificial flowers other than silk, the one-vase-per-crypt limit, and the prohibition on potted plants in chapels and walkways are inconsistently observed.

Staff seeks Commission direction on whether to:

1. Initiate a formal revision of the Rules and Regulations to align the rules with current practice and contemporary expectations of cemetery use, with a draft to be brought back for Commission approval; or
2. Direct staff to begin consistent enforcement of the Rules and Regulations as currently adopted, including notification to lot owners, removal of non-conforming items, and assessment of fees as written; or
3. A combination of the above — selective amendment of certain provisions and stricter enforcement of others.

How will this affect city programs or services? Either path will affect Public Works/Parks operations and the City Clerk's Office, which administers cemetery sales, records, and burial coordination. Stricter enforcement will require additional staff communication with lot owners and may result in initial public concern as non-conforming items are removed. A rule revision will require staff time to draft amendments, conduct outreach to lot owners and funeral directors, and bring proposed changes back to the Commission.

Account Line Item and Description: Not applicable

Fiscal Impact: No direct fiscal impact from this discussion item. Depending on the direction provided, future fiscal impacts may include staff time for rule revision, signage and notification costs, and potential changes to fee revenue.

Attachments:

[Cemetery Rules Regulations.pdf](#)

[Boynton_Beach_Cemetery_Presentation_-_PowerPoint_-_Fees___Rules__2__1_\(1\).pptx](#)