

December 13, 2022

Oskaloosa City Council and City Manager,

On behalf of Forest Cemetery please accept these documents in support of our letter dated December 6, 2022 with respect to asking for the City of Oskaloosa's \$95,000 financial funding for fiscal year 2023-24. I plan on submitting Forest Cemetery's annual profit/loss statement for 2022 on January 3, 2023.

Forest Cemetery's projected 2023 budget presents a projected loss of \$20,850. If depreciation was not accounted for (\$22,000) then a projected gain of \$1,150 would be realized. To achieve this Forest Cemetery is in need of the city grant for \$95,000 requested. In addition Forest Cemetery will need to use proceeds from our Agency Account (\$20,000) to achieve a break-even budget. Please note that our Agency Account is strictly derived from up to 4% interest distribution from our Perpetual Care Trust Account Investments. If annual investments are weak then Forest Cemetery would forego an annual allowable distribution because by state law we are required to maintain a minimum balance in our Perpetual Care Trust. Please note that such was the case in 2022. Fortunately we had better than anticipated lot and internment revenue for 2022 and thus expect a positive year end balance for 2022.

Forest Cemetery also uses the Agency Account for Capital Improvements. Priority for improvements in 2023 are: 1) office roof may need new shingles. 2) dead tree removal / trimming in need (\$20,000 quote). 3) dredging two ponds, no quote yet but would be in the thousands.

We thank the City of Oskaloosa for your past support to Forest Cemetery and respectfully hope the city will agree that our need is justified and our request for \$95,000 for fiscal year 2023-24 will be granted.

On behalf of Forest Cemetery thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jeff Smith, President / Forest Cemetery

Oskaloosa City Manager, Amal Eltahir

December 6, 2022

Mayor, David Krutzfeld

Oskaloosa City Council Members,

Forest Cemetery is very grateful for the continued financial support from the City of Oskaloosa over the past nine years. Forest Cemetery Association was incorporated in June, 1860 after the enactment of the first burial law and in 1925 became a perpetual care cemetery. Our purpose is: a non-profit association of lot owners consisting of the sale of burial lots, collection of interment fees, servicing burials, continual maintenance and upkeep of the cemetery grounds office building and maintenance barns, and employing personnel to manage the operation. Forest Cemetery encompasses 80 acres with 64 acres currently developed for burial sites. We employ one full time grounds and burial manager, one assistant grounds employee, 4-5 part time seasonal employees and one office manager. We are directed by a seven-member board of directors and one city council liaison.

Forest Cemetery Association of Oskaloosa, a non-profit (c)(13), is again respectfully requesting \$95,000 from the City of Oskaloosa for the fiscal year 2023-2024. Last year this was two equal payments of \$47,500 in the months of July and January and we are seeking the same payments for 2023-24. This money goes directly into our operating budget which allows us to operate in a financially positive manner supporting personnel, equipment needs and annual maintenance. Special projects over the years has included upgrading roads, security, water and electric services; all have been done with private donations and fundraising. In 2021 Forest Cemetery personnel removed several dead ash trees with still about six more dead trees to remove. Carl Drost donated his time and heavy equipment (\$16,025) in clearing approximately ten acres of Forest Cemetery pasture ground on the east side of the property. The ground was seeded this fall with wild flowers.

Forest Cemetery would not be a viable cemetery and would not benefit from necessary upgraded infrastructure and capital improvements without the financial support from the City of Oskaloosa and the generous donations from our benefactors. With this combined, ongoing financial support we are proud to be able fulfill our mission statement which reads as follows: "It is our intent and obligation to preserve Forest Cemetery as a final resting place for the deceased and to safeguard it as a part of Oskaloosa history today and for generations to come".

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Respectfully,



Jeff Smith

President, Forest Cemetery Association