

**TOWNSHIP OF PULASKI
COUNTY OF JACKSON, MICHIGAN
CEMETERY ORDINANCE
ORDINANCE NO. 16**

An Ordinance to protect the public health, safety and general welfare by establishing regulations relating to the operation, control, and management of cemeteries owned by the Township of Pulaski, Jackson County, Michigan; to provide penalties for the violation of said ordinance; and to repeal all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict therewith.

**TOWNSHIP OF PULASKI
COUNTY OF JACKSON, MICHIGAN
ORDAINS:**

SECTION I

Title

This Ordinance shall be known and cited as the Pulaski Township Cemetery Ordinance.

SECTION II

Definitions of Cemetery Lots and Burial Spaces

- A. A cemetery lot shall consist of burial spaces sufficient to accommodate from one to five burial spaces.
- B. A burial space shall consist of a land area four (4) feet wide and ten (10) feet in length.
- C. Multiple burials allowed on single burial space in case of cremation, with a limit of six and only one headstone allowed. Multiple names allowed on same marker.

SECTION III

Reservation of Lots of Burial Spaces

- A. All burial sites to be used only for human remains.
- B. Hereafter, cemetery lots of burial spaces shall be reserved for the person whom is reserving or a designated person. No reservation shall be made to funeral directors or others than as heretofore set forth. The township clerk, however, is hereby granted the authority to vary the aforesaid restriction on reservations where the purchaser discloses previous residence in the township.
- C. All such reservations shall be made on a form approved by the township board, which grants a right of burial only. Such form shall be executed by the township clerk.
- D. The person reserving a site is not entitled to transfer the site to another person, unless accepted by the clerk.

SECTION IV

Reservation Price and Grave Opening Charges

- A. The township board may by resolution establish the reservation price for burial spaces for township residents, former residents, and non-residents who are permitted to reserve space in the cemetery.
- B. The opening and closing of any burial space, prior to and following a burial therein, and including the interment of ashes, shall be at a cost to be determined from time to time by resolution of the township board, payable to the township.
- C. The township board, by resolution, may periodically alter the forgoing fees to accommodate increased costs and needed funds for cemetery maintenance and acquisition.
- D. No burial spaces shall be opened and closed except under the direction and control of the cemetery sexton and clerk. This provision shall not apply to proceedings for the removal and reinterment of bodies and remains, which matters are under the supervision of the local health department.

SECTION V

Markers or Memorials

- A. All markers or memorials must be of stone or other equally durable composition.
- B. Any large upright monuments must be located upon a suitable foundation to maintain the same in an erect position.
- C. Only one monument, marker or memorial shall be permitted per burial space.
- D. The footing or foundation upon which any monument, marker or memorial must be placed, shall be constructed by the sexton with cost to the owner of the burial right. All foundations shall extend five (5) inches beyond the base of the monument, marker or memorial.
- E. The township has the right to bury broken or irreparable markers on existing grave site if persons or family show no sign to repair such. Township clerk will record same. The family will be notified by certified mail.
- F. All burials shall be made so as to allow sufficient room at the end for footings and/or markers.

SECTION VI

Interment Regulations

- A. Full Burial: Only one person may be buried in a burial space except for a parent and infant burial at the same time in the same vault.
- B. Cremations are limited to six (6) burials per site or one (1) cremation with a full burial.
- C. Not less than 36 hour notice shall be given in advance of any time of any funeral to allow for the opening of the burial space.
- D. The appropriated permit for the burial space involved, together with appropriate identification of the person to be

buried therein, where necessary, shall be presented to either the cemetery sexton or the township clerk prior to interment.

- E. All graves shall be located in an orderly and neat appearing manner within the confines of the burial space involved.

SECTION VII

Ground Maintenance

- A. There shall be no more than two (2) urns per site placed within 18" of the grave marker and kept in line, OR two (2) shepherd hooks allowed per site, next to ends of foundation. No wire frames under three-quarters inch (3/4") diameter allowed.
- B. No planting of plants, shrubberies or trees allowed. Glass, plastic, breakable containers and/or ornaments are prohibited.
- C. All summer flowers in removable pots or urns, may be placed one (1) week before Memorial Day and removed by October 1st. Winter arrangements may be placed by November 15th and removed by March 1st.
- D. The Township Board reserves the right to remove or trim any tree, plant or shrub located within the cemetery in the interest of maintaining proper appearance and use of the cemetery.
- E. The sexton shall have the right and authority to remove and dispose of any and all growth, emblems, displays, containers and/or urns which through decay, deterioration, damage or otherwise become unsightly, a source of litter, or a maintenance problem.
- F. All refuse of any kind or nature including, among others, dried flowers, wreaths, papers, and flower containers, must be removed.
- G. Surfaces other than earth or sod are prohibited.

SECTION VIII

Forfeiture of Vacant Cemetery Lots or Burial Spaces

A cemetery site reserved after the effective date of the Ordinance and remaining vacant ten (10) years from the date of their reservation shall automatically revert to the township upon occurrence of the following events:

- A. Notice shall be sent by the township clerk by certified mail to the last known address of the last owner of record informing him of the expiration of the 10 year period and that all rights with respect to said lots or spaces will be forfeited if he does not affirmatively indicate in writing to the township clerk within 60 days from the date of mailing the notice, his desire to retain said burial rights.
- B. No written response to said notice indicating a desire to retain the cemetery lots or burial spaces in question is received by the township clerk from the owner of record of said lots or spaces, or his heirs, or legal representative within 60 days from the date of mailing of said notice.
- C. Site reservation will not expire if a headstone and foundation is placed on site prior to expiration.

SECTION IX

Records

The township clerk shall maintain records concerning all burials, and issuance of burial permits, separate and apart from any other records of the township and the same shall be open to public inspection at all reasonable business hours.

SECTION X

Vault

All burials shall be within a standard concrete vault installed or constructed in each burial space before interment.

SECTION XI

Cemetery Hours

- A. The cemetery shall be open to the general public from the hours of dawn to dusk each day.
- B. No person shall be permitted in the township cemeteries at any time other than the foregoing hours, except upon permission of the township board or the sexton of the cemetery.

SECTION XII

Errors May be Corrected

The township clerk shall have the right to correct any errors that may be made, either in making interments, disinterment's, or removals, or in the description, transfer or conveyance of any interment property, either by cancelling such conveyance and substituting and conveying in lieu thereof other interment property of equal value and similar location as near as possible, or as may be selected by the township clerk, or by refunding the amount of money paid for reservation.

In the event the error involves the interment of remains of any person in such property, the township clerk shall have the right to remove and re-inter the remains in such other property of equal value and similar location as may be substituted and conveyed in lieu thereof.

SECTION XIII

Penalties

Any person, firm or corporation who violates any of the provisions of the within Ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine of up to \$500.00 and/or imprisonment for up to 90 days in jail as may be determined by a court of competent jurisdiction. Each day that a violation continues to exist shall constitute a separate offense. Any criminal prosecutions hereunder shall not prevent civil proceedings for abatement and termination of the activity complained of.

SECTION XIV

Severability

The provision of the within Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable and should any provision, section or part thereof be declared invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall only affect the particular provision, section or part thereof involved in such decision and shall not affect or invalidate the remainder of such Ordinance which shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION XV

Effective Date

This Ordinance shall take effect on January 28, 1994. All Ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION XVI

Fees

The Township Board shall have the authority to set fees pursuant to this Ordinance from time to time by resolution. Such fees can include, but are not limited to, a fee or fees for a burial permit, disinterment permit, grave opening, setting of foundations, grave closing, winter or holiday burial, the price for a new cemetery site, transfer fees for cemetery sites and other matters.

TOWNSHIP OF PULASKI

Robert Jones, Supervisor

Kristine Runyon, Clerk

Amended: May 10, 1999
March 14, 2016
July 15, 2016



**PULASKI
TOWNSHIP
CEMETERIES**

**Rules and
Regulations**

Any and All Inquiries To:

Township Office
(517) 524-6061