

# TIPTON MASONIC CEMETERY

## **RULES FOR VISITORS:**

The cemetery is open to visitors at all-times between the hours of sunrise and sunset.

Visitors are forbidden to pick any flowers (either wild or cultivated); injure any shrub, tree or plant; or mar or deface any monument, stone or structure in the cemetery.

Vehicles traveling within the cemetery shall proceed at a speed not to exceed ten (10) miles per hour.

Dogs will be permitted. They must be cleaned up after and under control of their owner at all times.

Firearms will not be allowed at the cemetery except at military funerals.

The spreading of ashes above ground is prohibited.

## **DECORATING OF GRAVES:**

Decorations may be placed on the north or south side of a monument within the stone row. Each plot is four feet wide, and all decorations must remain within the plot boundaries and be positioned next to the base of the monument. The stone row will be maintained to the best of the lawn care contractor's ability; however, individuals who place decorations in this area may be responsible for maintaining the space around those decorations. The City shall not be held responsible for any decorative items placed in the cemetery.

No above-ground landscaping is permitted on the east or west side of the monument. Any decorations placed on the east or west side (front or back) of the monument may be removed by the city or the lawn care contractor. Exceptions are allowed during the two weeks before and the two weeks after Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, and Labor Day. During these periods, decorations must still be placed against the base of the monument and must be removed within two weeks following the holiday.

Any flower that set into the floral containers on the tombstones will be permitted at all times. However, they will be removed when they become unsightly.

The following are **forbidden**:

- a. The use of glass containers.
- b. The complete burying of any container.
- c. Planting of trees, shrubs, perennial, and annual flowers.

Artificial wreaths and evergreen blankets and wreaths are permitted between November 1<sup>st</sup> and April 15<sup>th</sup> only.

The cemetery will be completely cleared of all decorations during the months of April and October. Exceptions to this are decorations in permanent planters or in permanent containers on the tombstones. These will be removed only when they become unsightly. If you wish to save any flowers, pots, wire stands, etc., they need to be removed prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> of April and/or the 1<sup>st</sup> of October.

## **CEMETERY RECORDS:**

A plat of the cemetery, records of lot owners, lot descriptions, and grave locations are kept in the Tipton City office at 407 Lynn Street.

The sale or transfer of all plots shall be evidenced by a **Certificate of Interment Rights Agreement**, better known as a **Deed**. The City does not repurchase interment rights of plots that have previously been purchased. Purchaser has the right to sell and convey the interment rights, but any transfer of ownership by will or otherwise, will be recognized by the Cemetery only after it is recorded at City Hall and a new **Certificate of Interment Rights Agreement** is issued to the new owner.

If not specified at the time of purchase, the City shall permit the Right of Interment as follows:

- a. The surviving spouse of the plot owner shall have the first right to interment or to direct the right of interment.
- b. As stated per the purchasers will.
- c. When there is no surviving spouse, no designation per a will, nor a will: the devisees or heirs of the owner may, by agreement in writing, determine who among them shall have the right of interment. The agreement shall be signed by all parties, notarized and filed with the City.

For any one plot there may be one full burial; one full burial with cremated remains; or two cremated remains. The second burial will only be allowed if the plot can accommodate a second headstone; or if the existing headstone has proper space to document the second burial.

## **INTERMENTS/INURNMENTS:**

The Cemetery Contractor shall be given a minimum of forty-eight (48) hour notice prior to all grave openings for the opening and preparation of the interment.

All burials shall be in an outer burial vault.

All grave openings and closings shall be made under the direction of the Cemetery Contractor. Person ordering grave openings will be held responsible for payment in full per the established fees and charges.

## **MEMORIALS:**

FOUNDATIONS for all monuments/markers in the Tipton Masonic Cemetery:

No foundation or digging before first consulting the Cemetery Contractor or Public Works Director.

- a. Must be of concrete.
- b. Have no less than four-inch (4") extension on each end and no less than four-inch (4") extension on front and back.

- c. Must be at least 42" deep with a minimum of 2 pillars or post holes with 8" cylinder to support 8"-10" thick foundation base.
- d. Must be set within the monument row / west end of the grave site and no more than twenty-four inches wide (24", front to back).
- e. Foundations set by any entity other than the City of Tipton or cemetery contractor, shall be under the supervision of the cemetery contractor or public works director.

**MONUMENTS/MARKERS:**

All new graves must have a temporary marker.

A monument or engraved marker must be in place no longer than one year after Interment. In the event that a monument or permanent marker is not in place prior to an interment, a (\*) \$600.00 deposit will be required. A required deposit will be held until proof of a marker / monument order is presented to the cemetery's records keeper. If documentation is not presented within a year's time, the deposit will be used to purchase a flat monument and to have it placed. [\* -The Tipton Masonic Cemetery reserves the right to adjust the deposit amount to account for any increase in costs.]

If government-provided veteran marker is the only marker it must be placed at the head of a grave. If a government provided veteran marker is a secondary marker (in addition to a personal marker) it will have to be the bronze niche-plate type marker and it will be installed at the head of the grave.

All setting of monuments and markers and the transportation of all tools, materials, etc., within the cemetery grounds shall be subject to the supervision and control of the cemetery contractor or the Public Works director.

The City of Tipton reserves the right to refuse permission to erect any memorial not in keeping with the good appearance of the cemetery grounds.

**FEES FOR SERVICE:**

Lot costs \$350, Perpetual Care \$150 for a total of \$500. Grave opening \$800; \$850 Saturdays; \$850 Sunday and Holidays: Cremation opening \$300; \$350 Saturdays; \$450 Sunday and Holidays.

In the event that an interment space, memorial, or memorialization is damaged or defaced by acts of vandalism, the City of Tipton shall not be liable.

**Established: 04/08/2015**  
**Revised: 05/15/2023**  
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