

OAKLAND CEMETERY

Timeline

(from City Council minutes unless otherwise noted)

- Oct. 14, 1844 R. T. Cratch was allowed the sum of \$15.00 for interring the body of (?) Triss (?), a pauper (A/93)
- May, 1846 F. R. Roach and E. H. Jordan* be appointed a committee to find a burying ground and report at some future meeting. (A/110)
- Oct. 6, 1846 The committee of the whole authorized to purchase a piece of land for a public burying ground. (A/123)
- March 30, 1847 Whereas the Mayor and Trustees of the town of Shreveport have purchased the ten (10) acre lot known as Number Eighteen for a Burial ground for the said town
1. All persons buried in corporation (town) limits shall be buried in said burial ground.
 2. Fine of \$50 for burying anyone outside of burial ground without permission of mayor and trustees.
 3. Burial ground to be laid off into three divisions: one of three acres for a Potters field or general burial ground, one of one acre to be under the control of the Mayor and trustees, one of two acres to be laid off into small lots and sold to individuals for private burial grounds.
 4. Burial ground to be surveyed, property divided into streets and enclosed, and Mayor authorized to sell lots twenty feet square for private burial grounds as soon as surveyed for \$10 each.
 5. Mayor authorized to sell the balance of said ten acre lot, in lots to said purchasers.
 6. Sexton to be elected by the board whose duty to be to keep burial ground cleared, to indicate the spot where each person shall be buried in the public burial ground and to dig graves for all such as apply.
 7. Sexton to be paid by the corporation \$50.00 per annum, \$5 for each grave dug except for paupers' graves, for which he is to be paid \$2.50, and he is to collect for the use of the corporation \$2.50 for every person buried in the acre reserved by the board.
 8. Until the burial ground is surveyed, persons shall be buried on the Hill in the Southeast corner of the lot.
 9. The Mayor is authorized to draw on the Treasurer in favor of John Frisby(?) for Expenses in burying pauper \$1200, Thomas Rowen(?) for same \$600, Wood & Woodridge for same \$1200.

10. The contract made by L. Crain, Mayor, with Bennett & Cane for the purchase of a lot for a burial ground be approved and that the Mayor be authorized to give a note for the price.

Robert Cook elected Surveyor of the town for the next twelve months. (A/129-130)

May 11, 1847

As follows:

1. Sexton required to keep a suitable hearse and horse which shall at all times be furnished with a driver to persons applying.
2. Sexton subject to a fine of \$20 for every refusal or neglect to dig a grave, furnish hearse and horse for the use of persons applying, bury paupers on the order of the Mayor or to perform any duty required of him by the ordinances.
3. Sexton to give bond to the Mayor and Trustees of \$250 condition for the performance of his duties and the payment of all fines legally imposed. (A/135)

June 7, 1847

Bid of R. A. Cutliff accepted for enclosing the burying ground. Mayor authorized to draw on the Treasury for amount of the contract and in event of there being no funds in the Treasury when such drafts are presented they are to bear eight percent interest from date of presentment. (A/137)

July 23, 1847

An Ordinance relation to burying of the dead and defining duties of the Sexton

1. All persons buried within the Corporation shall be interred in the public burying ground and be it made known that Lot No. 18 of out Lots purchased by Corporation of Samuel Bennett et. al. is declared the public burying ground.
2. Burial ground to be laid off into three divisions: one for a Potters field or general burial ground, one to be under the control of the Mayor and trustees, one to be laid off into small lots and sold to individuals for private burial grounds.
3. Burial ground to be surveyed, property divided into streets and enclosed, and Mayor authorized to sell lots twenty feet square for private burial grounds as soon as surveyed for \$10 each
4. Mayor authorized to sell the balance of said ten acre lot, in lots to said purchasers.
5. Sexton to be elected by the board whose duty to be to keep burial ground in good order, to indicate the spot where each person shall be buried in the Pottersfield, and to dig graves for all such as apply.
6. Sexton required to keep a suitable hearse and horse which shall at all times be furnished with a driver to persons applying.
7. Sexton subject to a fine of \$20 for each and every refusal or neglect to dig a grave, furnish hearse and horse for the use of

persons applying, bury paupers on the order of the Mayor or to perform any duty required of him by the ordinances.

8. No pauper shall be buried at expense of Corporation except on order of the Mayor, which shall only be granted on proper showing on oath of Sexton or other person.
 9. Sexton to give bond to the Mayor and Trustees of \$250 condition for the performance of his duties and the payment of all fines legally imposed and mayor authorized to receive the same.
 10. Sexton to be paid by the corporation \$50.00 per annum, \$5 for each grave dug except for paupers' graves, for which he is to be paid \$2.50, and he is to collect for the use of the corporation \$2.50 for every person buried in the spot reserved by the board.
- All ordinances in contravention of this ordinance are hereby repealed. (A/143-145)

The following accounts were presented to the Committee: ... Jones & Smith account for making coffin for paupers x6 \$11.50. (A/145)

Any person or persons who shall bury or cause to be buried any corpse within the Corporation Limits of this town, other than in the public burying ground, shall for each offence pay a fine of not less than \$50 and such corpse shall be removed by the town constable to the burying ground at the expense of such person or persons thus offending. (A/152)

July 19, 1849

Any person or persons who shall bury or cause to be buried any corpse within the Corporation Limits of this town, other than in the public burying ground, shall for each offence pay a fine of not less than \$50 and such corpse shall be removed by the *Sexton* to the burying ground at the expense of the persons thus offending. (A/258)

An Ordinance Relative to the Burying Ground

1. All persons buried within the Corporation shall be interred in the public Burying Ground, and the Southwestern half of the Ten acre Lot No. 18 of out Lots purchased by the Corporation of Samuel Bennett et. Al. comprising five acres is declared the Public Burying Ground.
2. Burial ground to be laid off into three divisions: one for a Potters Field or general burial ground, one to be under the control of the Mayor and trustees, one to be laid off into small lots and sold to individuals for private burial grounds.
3. Burial ground to be surveyed and a street to be called Main Street constructed 40 feet wide all around said Burial Ground, but within said five acres, and that there be two streets running

parallel with the sides of Main street and two streets running at right angles thereto within said Ground, each at equal distance from the other and 20 feet wide and called respectively Death St., Grave St., Rest St. and Peace St.

4. The aforesaid three divisions of the burying ground to be laid out within the bounds of said Main St. including therefrom the other four streets all of which said streets shall be regarded as public property and not used for other purposes.
5. In the division for private Burial Grounds, the Mayor have lots 80 feet square each surrounded by an alley four feet wide, surveyed and laid off and that he be authorized to sell lots in said divisions 20 feet square at \$10 each for private burial grounds and the town clerk to keep a register of the square sold showing the name of each original entry or entry of a transfer on said register and is entitled to a 25 cent fee from the purchaser.
6. Persons purchasing private Burial Grounds as family squares shall enclose each square in a manner such as plainly to designate it within 30 days from the purchase thereof, under penalty of a fine of \$10 for each week thereafter said square may remain unenclosed.
7. The Mayor shall enclose said 5 acres of burying ground with a good and substantial post and rail fence so constructed as to exclude not only horses and cattle but swine and the like (said fence being the outer boundary of said Main Street—with a double gate 10 feet wide secured by lock and key fronting on the established Main Road to the Burying Grounds and that a post at least two feet high with a sign thereon be erected in each of the aforesaid divisions, the sign in the first division being inscribed on both sides "Potters Field"—in the second "Special Burying Ground" and in the third Private Burial Grounds with the following additional notice on each: "Any person or persons who shall deface disturb or molest any part of the burying ground to wit, Enclosures, Fences, Tombs or Tombstones Graves, Trees, Shrubbery, Flowers or the like shall be fined not less than five nor more than \$100 for each offence recoverable before the Mayor or other Magistrate with costs, and may be imprisoned for 24 hours at the discretion of the Court."
8. No pauper shall be buried at the expense of the Corporation except on order of the Mayor which shall only be granted on proper showing on oath of the Sexton or other person.
9. The Sexton shall keep burial ground in good order, indicate the spot where each person shall be buried in the Pottersfield, and dig graves for all such as apply, keep a suitable hearse and horse which shall at all times be furnished with a driver to

persons applying, and he is further specially required to procure a certificate from a relative, friend or acquaintance of each deceased stating the name, age, nature of disease, date of death and name of physician last in attendance of each person whose corpse may be presented for burial previous to the interment—which said certificate shall be recorded in a book to be kept exclusively for that purpose, from which said record the Sexton shall make a report in form following and file the same with the Town Clerk at each regular meeting of the Board to wit:

Sexton's Report

Death in the Town of Shreveport from the day of to the day of 1849

Date of Death	Deceased	Age	Disease	Physician
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Which said Report shall be published with the regular proceedings of the Board, attested by the Town Clerk.

The Mayor is authorized to sell the remaining five acres of said Lot No. 18, in lots to suit purchasers.

All ordinances or acts in contravention to this Ordinance are hereby repealed. (A/264-265)

Oct. 1, 1849	The Sexton is authorized to purchase one shirt, one pair of drawers, on pair of socks, and one pair of gloves worth \$3.50 for any pauper who may die in the Town of Shreveport without suitable clothes for funeral purposes. (A/290)
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May 10, 1850	Committee of three appointed by the Mayor to have the graveyard surveyed, the lots divided as per Ordinance No. 5 relative to the Burying Ground, and report as early as practicable. Mayor appointed Trustees Morris, Heine and Woldran to the committee.
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Oath and bond of John E. Mangan, Sexton, was presented, approved and filed. (A/330)

July 2, 1850	The report of the Committee to have the Grave Yard surveyed was laid over.
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Sexton required to dig all graves four feet deep with vaults and in the Burial of Paupers to purchase coffins of Mr. Alwine who proposes to furnish head and foot boards for \$5.50 each. (A/344)

- August 6, 1850 Mayor authorized to sell at private sale any lots in the Burying Ground except on the Potters Field and on Blocks Three, Four and Nine—for the price of \$20 each, and that the purchasers be required to put corner posts on the lots in three months after purchase, under penalty of a rescission (sic.) of the sale and forfeiture of the price. (A/353)
- Feb. 4, 1851 Mayor is authorized to sell the Society of Odd Fellows and also the Freemasons and Sons of Temperance a Block in the Burying Ground. And upon their paying \$50 in advance to allow them to pay the balance in six, twelve and eighteen months.
- The ordinance authorizing the Mayor to sell the Grave Yard Lots for \$20 be amended to read “Ten Dollars in Silver or Gold” and that the money so raised be reserved to enclose the Grave Yard. (A/369)
- May 3, 1851 Mayor Robert Cooke reported that he had sold a lot of ground in the Grave Yard to the Odd Fellows for \$180.00 Act of Sale before H. J. G. Battle* \$50 cash and the balance in three drafts at 6 mos. On the Treas. Of the Lodge of the I. O. O. F.
- John E. Mangan, Sexton, was allowed \$70.00 for the Burial of 14 Paupers. (A/372)
- June 17, 1851 Michael Fitzgerald, Sexton, was allowed \$10 for advising and waiting on Ulm Rean(?),** a Pauper, during his last illness and for digging grave and burying his corpse.
- J. S. Allwine was allowed \$5.00 for making coffin for Jn.(?) Westbrook,** a pauper.
- The Committee on Claims, having reported unfavorably in the account of John E. Manigan for \$78 with the exception of the item of \$50 for one year’s salary as Sexton
- Two accounts of J. S. Allwine rejected because of no evidence being produced to them of their justness (\$50 and \$5(?)).
- Ordinance:
1. Persons in Shreveport desiring to bury their friends or relatives on the Shreveport Burying Ground or Grave Yard, who do not own Lots therein, to apply to the Sexton to designate the spot or place of interment and they shall bury the corpse at the spot designated by the Sexton.

2. Sexton's duty to select spot of interment and it shall be in the Potters Field.
3. Sexton shall receive one dollar for each and every time he shall designate the spot of interment, to be paid by the person or persons applying for the same; and he shall be subject to a fine of \$5 for each and every time he fails, refuses, or neglects to designate the Burial Spot when called on.
4. Any person burying a corpse at any other spot or place than that designated by the Sexton shall pay a fine of not less than \$25. This shall not apply to persons owning lots in Said Grave Yard. Provided further that this ordinance shall not apply to the Burial of Paupers.
5. All moneys or funds arising from the sales of Grave Yard Lots and from fines imposed for the violation of any of the ordinances relating to Grave Yard shall be set apart as a separate fund, to be used and expended exclusively for the improvement of the Grave Yard.

This ordinance shall take effect from and after its promulgation and all ordinances or parts or ordinances contrary to this ordinance are hereby repealed. (A/392-393)

Jan. 6, 1853

The Sexton's report of December showing seven deaths during said month.

The Mayor stated that he had been informed by the Sexton that the road to the grave yard as now used was about to be closed up by the owner of the property through which it run and recommended that a road or street be immediately established and opened to the Grave Yard. Whereupon Mr. Morris moved that the Committee of three be appointed by the Mayor to select a route for a suitable road over the nearest and best ground to the Grave Yard and report the same at the next meeting. The Mayor appointed Mes. Morris*, Battle* and Miller* as said Committee. (B/13-14)

Jan. 11, 1853

An ordinance to open a street to the Grave Yard: That a street be opened, laid out, established and made 60 feet wide through ten acre lot No. Four (4) within the corporate limits of the Town of Shreveport to commence at Common Street opposite to the West end of Texas Street and to run along and parallel with the line between ten acre lot Four and ten acre lot Three to intersect Main Street in the Grave Yard Ten Acre Lot No. 18 and that the Surveyor shall measure and lay out said street and that the same be declared a public highway and be called Sprague Street. A jury of six free hold inhabitants of town to be appointed to review said Street and assess the damages under oath that may be sustained by the owner of ten acre lot No. 4, and when damages are ascertained

the Mayor is to draw a warrant on the Town Treasurer in that amount in favor of the owner of the lot.

Doctor Benjamin B. Smith, E. H. Jordan*, John Walters*, R. C. Oglesby, R. A. Cutliff*, and Henry Vanbibber* are appointed as reviewers and required to report at the next meeting of the Board. (B/17)

Dec. 18, 1853 Account of Claflin* & Robinson for coffins for Mr. English**, Mrs. Thomas' child** and an Irishman amounting to \$23.00. Account of Gabriel Rooney*, Sexton, for burying paupers from October 9th to November 9th, inclusive. \$207.50

Ordinance was adopted: It shall be unlawful for any persons doing brick or other species of work within the limits of the Shreveport Grave Yard to leave therein rubbish and refuse material, and all persons offending against this ordinance shall be fined \$5.00. (B/69)

June 3, 1858 Resolved that the following ordinance in regard to graveyards enacted on July 20, 1849, be published and enforced, viz. Any person or persons who shall bury or cause to be buried any corpse within the corporate limits of the town, other than the public burying ground, shall for each offence pay a fine of not less than \$50 and such corpse shall be removed by the Sexton to the burying ground at the expense of the person thus offending. (B/220)

Jan. 15, 1859 Ordinance: That an alteration be made in blocks Nos. 2, 5, and 8 in the grave yard in the town of Shreveport so that the row of lots in said block No. 2 numbering 10 to 18 be a street and be called Adams Street. That Madison Street from Willow to Cedar Street and the row of lots Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 in block No. 5 constitute Block No. 5 in place of the present block No. 5 and the number of lots to correspond with same lots. Said lots to measure 20 by 22½ feet that 20 feet of the row of lots in Block No. 5 number from 10 to 18 be made a street and called Jefferson St. and that the balance of said lots and Fulton Street from Willow to Cedar Street and 15 feet of the row of lots in Block No. 8 from Nos. 1 to 3 constitute block No. 8 and numbers as other blocks 1 to 18. That the balance of said row of lots Nos. 1 to 9 in Block 8 say 15 feet be made a street and called Randolph St. and that the row of lots Nos. 10 to 18 in Block No. 8 constitute Block No. 8½ and numbered 109 that the City Surveyor be required to make out a plot in conformity to the plot hereto annexed, and that the same be filed with the map of the grave yard in the Mayor's office and that the map of the grave yard be recorded in the Recorder's Office.

The portion of the grave yard forming 10-acre lot No. 17 for the space of 30 feet is declared a public street, provided that the owner of said 10 acre lot will make a corresponding dedication—and that the mayor is hereby authorized to join said owner in the dedications aforesaid by notarial act. (B/236-237)

Jan. 6, 1860

Be it resolved that hereafter all money received from the sale of any grave yard lot shall be funded and paid over by the Mayor to the Citizens Bank as shall be determined by a Committee to be appointed to contract with said Bank or B. M. Johnson*. Said monies to be approcated to enclose the grave yard. Whereupon the Mayor appointed as said Committee Dr. A. T. Clark*(?) and W. P. Winans. (B/307)

June 7, 1861

Ordinance:

1. That the laws now existing in relation to the Sexton be amended as follows: Before burying any person he shall have a certificate signed by a regular Physician, or three respectable citizens stating the name, age, disease causing the death, and the date of the death, said certificates to be carefully kept by the Sexton, and handed in at the close of every month to the Clerk of the Board of Health.
2. The Sexton failing to comply with the above ordinance shall be fined \$50 for every offence, and confined in the Parish Jail for 20 days. (B/431)

March 19, 1863

Sexton's Report for February, 1863:

Deaths 11

Feb'y 1	C. Harrison*	Cystitis	Dr. Clark
" 5	A. Hunsucker boy He(?)**	Apoplexy	Dr. Pickham
" 10	F. P. Austin*	Consumption	Dr. Pickham
" 13	Mrs. M. Courtade*	Consumption	Dr. Pickham
" 15	Mr. Hay's boy Punele**	Spinal Meningitis	Clark
" 16	Mr. McCollough's child*	Scarlet Fever	Pickham
" 21	Joel Rice*	Typhus Fever	Dr. Clark
" 21	Mrs. A. L. R. Scohfield*	Pleurisy Pneumonia	Dr. Pickham
" 23	Mrs. Fontanell child*	Premature birth	
" 26	Mrs. E. Egan's child*	Marasmus	Dr. George
" 27	Mr. Pain's Negro child**	Iranition(?)	Dr. Pickham

Sig. W. Hecox*, Sexton

(B/522)

- April 2, 1863 Resolution: That the Sexton of the City of Shreveport be allowed to charge for digging graves from this date in place of fine. (B/523)
- May 12, 1866 Ordinance: That there be appropriated to the building of a fence around the Ten acre lot known as the Shreveport Grave yard, and a lodge for the Sexton. \$2500.00, provided that a sufficient amount can be raised by private subscription to complete said work, and that said work be let to the lowest bidder, by sealed proposals, after 30 days notice in the official journal of the city. The said work to be done according to the plan and specifications now on file in the Mayor's office, and that R. Jones* be appointed as a committee to solicit the subscription from the citizens, and that the Mayor and Trustees have the power of receiving or rejecting the proposals for the building of said work. (C/17)
- July 3, 1866 The Mayor was authorized to accept the lowest proposal of those now offered for the making of coffins for paupers.
- The proposals for the building of the grave yard fence and Sexton's Lodge were opened and the contract for building the fence awarded to Collins & Cole for \$2,500.00, they being the lowest bidders. The proposals for building the Sexton's Lodge were not acted upon but laid over until the next meeting and the parties offering them were allowed to withdraw them if they choose. (C/42)
- July 30, 1866 Ordinance: That the Mayor be authorized to instruct the City Surveyor to classify the graveyard lots according to his estimate of their value, ranging from \$25.00 to \$60.00 per lot and that the City Controller be authorised to sell them accordingly. (C/52)
- August 16, 1866 The mayor was authorised to employ some person to superintend the burial of paupers during the prevalence of epidemics, and further authority was given to the Mayor to have the city thoroughly cleansed, in preference to any other public work. (C/59)
- June 4, 1867 Ordinance: That the Controller be authorized to advertise for 10 days that sealed proposals will be received by him for 10 days for making coffins for paupers of the city and after such times that he be authorized to open the bids and award the contract to the lowest bidder. (C/117)
- Feb. 6, 1868 Ordinance: That sealed proposals will be received by him (the Controller) for 10 days for making coffins for paupers of this city

and after such time that he be authorized to spin the bids and award the contract to the lowest bidder for the balance of this year.
(C/157)

Aug. 3, 1869

Ordinance:

1. It shall be the duty of the City Controller to have printed from time to time, as occasions may require for the use of the City, blank Certificates of Death. Said certificates to be delivered by him to practicing Physicians upon application therefore.
2. It shall be the duty of the City Sexton in all cases of burial, to demand a certificate of the form prescribed in the foregoing section, and to number each certificate in the blank left for that purpose, and to paste the same neatly in a book for reference, and at the end of each month to exhibit the same to the City Physician.
3. It shall be the duty of the City Physician at each regular monthly meeting of the Mayor and Board of Trustees to submit to them in writing, a report in tabular form, consolidated from the certificates of death of the previous month, which report shall set forth the following facts, viz.: First, the number of deaths from each disease and total; second, the number of males and females and total; third, the number of Whites, the number of Blacks, the number of mulattoes and total, and also the ages of the deceased persons. As follows:
 - 1st The number under 1 year of age.
 - 2nd The number from 1 to 2 years of age.
 - 3rd The number from 2 to 5 years of age.
 - 4th The number from 5 to 10 years of age.
 - 5th The number from 10 to 20 years of age.
 - 6th The number from 20 to 30 years of age.
 - 7th The number from 30 to 40 years of age.
 - 8th The number from 40 to 50 years of age.
 - 9th The number from 50 to 60 years of age.
 - 10th The number from 60 to 70 years of age.
 - 11th The number over 70 years of age and grand total.
 He shall also make a similar report at the end of each year, to include the deaths of the proceeding year, which reports shall be published with proceedings of the Board, for the information of the Public.
4. That the City Physician is authorized to procure suitable printed forms at the expense of the City in order to carry out the duties required in Sect. 3 of this ordinance.
(C/316)

Dec. 9, 1869

The Board of Trustees directed the Mayor to appoint a Committee to examine the necessity of locating a new Graveyard for the City,

and to report at next meeting. Committee appointed by the Mayor: Trustees: J. W. Jones*, J. C. Moncure*, and L.(?) Wirddenman(?). (C/358)

- May 5, 1870 That the controller is authorized to advertise for two insertions for sealed proposals for furnishing coffins for the paupers for the current year. (C/403)
- July 5, 1870 That the Mayor is authorized to appoint a committee of three to select and report to this Board suitable grounds for a City Cemetery.
His Honor the Mayor appointed on said Committee G. W. Kendall*, J. H. Reynolds* and W. R. Cox*. (C/429)
- July 25, 1870 That the Mayor shall appoint a Committee to examine the fences and condition of the Cemetery and report at next regular meeting of the Board. (C/434)
- March 21, 1871 That the City Surveyor be instructed to run off the lines of ten acre lot No. 18 known as the Grave Yard lot, and that the fence now standing between ten acre lots 18 and 19 shall be moved so that it shall be thirty feet west of the line between ten acre lots 17 and 18, and the same change to be made between ten acre lots 4 and 18. (C/492)
- April 22, 1871 The report of the Committee to examine lands for a City Cemetery was read and received.
That the City accept Mrs. Alston's* proposition and buy her place containing about 35 acres for a City Cemetery for \$10,000.00 in City ten-year coupon bonds—\$1,000.00 of which she proposes to donate towards paying for the right of way and improvement of the road toward the same.
His Honor the Mayor asked permission to enter his protest against the purchase, which was granted. (C/514)
- Sept. 26, 1871 Mayor to appoint a committee to examine and report on the condition of the fencing around the Grave Yard.

J. Walpole elected Sexton. D/30
- Jan. 21, 1873 The Administrator of Improvements to advertise for 5 days in the official journal of the city for bids for making coffins for paupers for the balance of the year. D/224
- April 1, 1873 Whereas A. G. Beall*, contractor for the furnishing of coffins for city paupers, has virtually nullified the contract by turning work

over to other parties, who have not discharged the obligation of the original contract, therefore be it resolved that the Shreveport Administrator of Improvements be and is hereby authorized to advertise for the space of 6 days in the official Journal of the city for bids to furnish coffins for one year from the date of the opening of the bids.

Accounts: A. G. Beall*, coffins: \$3.50; J. Walpole, paupers: \$7.50. D/247

- July 1, 1873 The City Sexton is allowed \$5.00 for each and every grave dug for city paupers. D/292
- Sept. 3, 1873 The sum of \$500.00 in certified accounts, receivable for taxes, or so much thereof as may be necessary is appropriated as a charitable fund to be subject to the order of the Howard Association, the same to be directed to the employment of nurses for the indigent sick. A committee of three members of the City Council with His Honor the Mayor as chairman is appointed to make arrangements to supply the Howard Association with medicinal and other supplies for the indigent sick. D/312-313
- Sept. 16, 1873 Called meeting. The Mayor is authorized to act in conjunction with the Howard Association in the distribution of funds received by him for the indigent poor of the City. (Only order of business for the day) D/315
- Oct. 15, 1873 Called meeting, first since Sept. 16. The Mayor is instructed to turn over to the Howard Association all funds that he has now on hand for the indigent sick and destitute of the City on condition that the Howard Association assume and pay all accounts incurred by the City for its indigent sick with yellow fever at City Hospital and elsewhere to date.
- Acct. of Dr. J. L. Moore* for Sept. 1873 was referred to Administrator of Assessments for report. (Only 2 orders of business for the day) D/315
- Oct. 22, 1873 Mayor Levy, presiding. Letter of City Attorney read concerning right to order an election for the offices of Mayor, and Administrators of Improvements and Public Accounts for the City of Shreveport. Opinion is that the election cannot be legally held.
- Accounts: G. A. Poland, Coroner: \$30.00; City Jail: \$95.35; Dept. Transports: \$84.10; City Prison: \$83.00. Several accounts

referred to Administrator of Assessments and Improvements for examination and report.

Mr. J. E. Maguire appointed as Sexton Pro Tem. D/316-318

Oct. 28, 1873 Resolved that the City Council go into a regular election for a City Sexton, at its next regular meeting, the said official to serve one year from date of election. D/319

Nov. 4, 1873 Resolution: Whereas, We have received from all parts of the Union contributions amply sufficient to meet all of our wants and having use for no further donations, therefore be it resolved. That the Mayor be and is hereby instructed to tender to all those who have so generously come to the assistance of our afflicted people the heartfelt gratitude of the People of Shreveport for their generous acts. D/319-320

Nov. 11, 1873 Accounts: J. S. Rendall*, paupers: \$42.00. Dr. J. L. Moore, City Hospital: \$973.50. Account of J. E. Maguire, City Sexton, for \$145.50 was referred to Administrator of Improvements and Assessments for examination and report. Account of J. W. Arnold* for furnishing coffins for city paupers for \$78.75 was on motion allowed and ordered paid. D/321

Nov. 18, 1873 Report of the committee on the account of J. E. Maguire, City Sexton, was received, account allowed and ordered paid.

The Administrators of Finance, Improvements and Assessments were appointed as committee to report on the most practicable road to the new cemetery, and to confer with property owners as to right of way of said road and to report at next meeting.

Account: John Cook*, City paupers: \$55.00. (John Cook died Sept. 11, 1873—posthumous acct. or a different person?) D/322-323

Dec. 24, 1873 Mr. Hartwell Swanson elected City Sexton. D/336

March ?, 1874 The Ordinance passed March 3rd regulating the fees of the Sexton for the exhuming of bodies shall be amended to read as follows: For the disinterment of bodies for removal from City \$10 for re-interring \$15.00.

From after the 10th day of March no grave shall be opened for the purpose of Exhumation and this shall apply until the first of November of next.

All Parish pauper sick shall be treated outside city limits.

Account: J. L. Moore, Hospital Roll \$362.10. D/358

- April 21, 1874 Contract with Dr. J. L. Moore* for caring for the indigent sick of the City for 1873 is continued until Charity hospital is prepared to receive patients.
- The City Physician is required to make an Annual Nosological Mortuary report for the municipal year ending May 6, 1874 and present the same to the next regular meeting of the Council. D/372
- Nov. 24, 1874 The communication of J. E. Maguire regarding condition of City Cemetery was referred to Administrator of Improvements with instructions to arrive at the cost of repairing said Cemetery. D/443
- Nov. 28, 1874 Report of Administrator of Improvements in regard to condition of City Cemetery was read and filed with instructions for Administrator of Improvements to temporarily repair Cemetery until such time as the financial condition of the City will admit of a thorough repair. D/444
- June 26 1875 The report of Committee on City Cemetery was received and Sexton authorized to use Eastern portion of Cemetery. Situation--the rear of Block No. 2 for the burial of Paupers.
- Police Officer J. L. Hart** having lost his life on the 13th day of June, 1875 whilst endeavoring to preserve the peace and good order of the City, it is proper that there should not only be a recognition of the sacrifice he made in the discharge of duty but that his family should be exempt from bearing the expenses attendant upon his death and burial. Therefore be it resolved that \$150.00 be allowed as the salary of said J. L. Hart, deceased, for his services for the month of June 1875 and that a warrant be issued for said sum to Mrs. Hart his surviving widow and tutrix of his minor children and let the following accounts be allowed paid: Jn. Caldwell, \$25.00; J. J. Dillon, \$10.00; Stoner Warring, \$30.00; J. E. Maguire, \$7.00. E/73-74
- Nov. 22, 1875 George Compston elected Sexton. E/107
- April 15, 1876 The following reports by the Council convened on the 11th as a committee of the whole to examine charges preferred against George Cumpston, City Sexton, were submitted:

Majority report: We, the committee, appointed to examine into the charges alleged against George Cumpston, would respectfully report that we regard him as incompetent and having to some extent evidenced neglect of duty; therefore recommend his dismissal. Signed, Thomas Kelly*, Administrator of Improvements; Sam Levy*, Administrator of Finance. I concur in the above report regarding incompetency and believe the evidence conclusive as to his neglect of duty and extortion in office. Signed, J. F. Utz, Administrator of Assessments. Minority report: I do not concur in the report made to the majority of the committee in this case as I am not satisfied that the charges against the city Sexton were sustained by sufficient evidence to dismiss him from office. Signed, R. Renfro*, Administrator of Accounts.

The majority report was adopted and George Cumpston discharged from office of City Sexton. James Butler* was elected the new City Sexton; Administrator Utz protested the election as a violation of the City Charter. E/143-144

- May 30, 1876 Ordinance to prevent the bringing of paupers into the City of Shreveport. E/152
- June 6, 1876 The City Sexton to be paid \$4.00 for digging grave for and burying each city pauper. E/154
- July 1, 1878 J. S. Rendall* to furnish coffins for paupers for \$1.50 each for the ensuing year. F/50
- Dec. 7, 1878 Resolved that the repair of the Grave Yard fence under the supervision of the Street Commissioner be made by L. Hoch who agrees to do the work for \$130.00. Carried.
- Account: Rich Hodgins, Grave for Pauper: \$5.00. F/99
- Feb. 1, 1879 H. Deal, Sexton, stated that burying room in Potters Field City Cemetery was about exhausted, whereupon the Board granted him permission to bury in the vacant space in the South East corner of Cemetery.
- Account: H. Deal, paupers: \$42.50 F/129
- Feb. 15, 1879 Resolved that the taxes assessed against the Hebrew Zion Congregation on lots 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 in Weinstock subdivision, and the tax assessed against Caddo Hook and Ladder Co. and Caddo Fire Co. No. 1 on lot 5 Block 58, be and are hereby remitted, the former having been purchased for a cemetery for the

Hebrew Zion Congregation, and the latter being used for the benefit of the Fire Dept. F/131

Pauper and Coroner Accounts: J. S. Rendall for coffins for Paupers, \$21.00; W. J. Bruner(?) paid paupers, \$21.00. F/131

March 24, 1879 Ordinance, Sect. 19: It shall be unlawful to inter, or dis-inter, any body within the corporate limits of the City of Shreveport without a permit from the proper authorities; any violation of this section shall subject the offender or offenders to a fine not exceeding \$50.00 nor less than \$25.00. F/143

March 24, 1879 “Dr. T. G. Ford, City Physician being present, stated that he desired a committee on charities appointed, whose duty it would be to ascertain and decide whether applicants were worthy and dependent on the charity of the city, and to issue a certificate to such applicants as found worthy the services of the city physician, and medicines at the expense of the city.
By M. S. Crain*. Resolved that a Committee on Charities be appointed consisting of two members, whose duty it will be to investigate applications and issue certificates for relief, when in their judgment it is incumbent on the city to grant assistance. Adopted. P. C. Hauser* and J. H. Stoner appointed, on said committee.” F/148

Sept. 4, 1879 Letter from Mayor A. Currie: “I respectfully call the attention of the Council to the burial of paupers and the Grave Yard. I respectfully call the attention of the Council to the fact that the city Sexton has exhausted all the ground in the Grave Yard that could be made available for the burial of Paupers, and that some other grounds must be used The burial of persons by the city authorities under the name of paupers has been greatly abused in the past and the subterfuges now used to get orders for coffins is hard to check, as physicians often endorse the applications. It became very fashionable to be buried as a pauper, the orders obtained being often credited on the price of a stylish coffin, and the dead pauper carried to his grave in the costliest hearse, followed by a string of carriages filled with mourning relatives and friends, and escorted by the benevolent societies of which the person was a member. Paupers are generally defined to be only such indigent persons as are dependent on the parish or town for maintenance. In order to stop the frequent impositions of this kind, I recommend that the Council contract with whomever furnishes the pauper coffins to take charge of the bodies also, and bury them, and that the city Sexton be required to aid the city Undertaker. This is no less the duty of the City than it is to furnish coffins and graves, very often

forsaken, the bodies lying for hours uncared for until the sympathy of some neighbor is aroused, and the authorities appealed to, who can find no body authorized or inclined to take charge unless paid for their trouble; this is particularly the case amongst our colored population. In connection of this matter, I must mention that notice of seizure and sale has been served on the City by the Sheriff, which describes the grounds purchased from Mrs. Alston for s cemetery, pointed out by J. W. Jones* to satisfy a judgment for \$100.00 in his favour. The bonds issued by the City for the purchase of this ground were declared by the Supreme Court to have been illegally issued hence the consideration is void and ought to admit of revision of title. Some ground near the old packery transferred to the City by His Honor in lieu of taxes could be used for the purpose of a potters field. F/170-171

- Sept. 4, 1879 J. S. Rendall* to furnish coffins for paupers at \$1.00 per coffin until January 1, 1880. F/174
- Sept. 2, 1880 Mr. H. Deal*, City Sexton, reported the great scarcity of vacant ground in the cemetery. On motion a committee of those composed of Utz, Howell and Buckelew, were appointed to see where an eligible site for a cemetery could be obtained, the terms, etc.
- Account: H. Deal*, Paupers, \$10.00. F/257
- Feb. 3, 1882 “The City Sexton Report shows an unusual and very heavy mortality during the past year. It furnishes no data to analyze the cause, and in the absence of any report from the Board of Health, or the officers of the Charity Hospital, it is impossible to give you the exact mortality due to the city proper.” F/376
- Feb. 3, 1882 “A new city cemetery is an absolute necessity and a site should be immediately purchased and dedicated. There is hardly any untenanted ground left in our old cemetery, which has been in use ever since our city was founded.” F/377
- Feb. 3, 1882 Sexton’s Report: “To the Hon. Mayor and Trustees of the City of Shreveport. I herewith respectfully submit the following report of burials for the year ending Dec. 31, 1881. Total number of burials, 350; of which 135 were white, and 215 colored; 192 male and 158 female. Under 5 years of age 133; over 5 years of age 217. Out of the 350, there were 84 paupers. This includes all transient who have been interred here. Respectfully, H. Deal*, City Sexton. Shreveport, Dec. 31, 1881. F/387

- April 6, 1882 That a committee of three be appointed to select suitable grounds for a cemetery, ascertain the price thereof and report to the Council at its next regular meeting. McKellar (R. N.*), Utz, and McWilliams (Capt. J.*) appointed on said committee. G/6
- May 4, 1882 R. N. McKellar*, Chairman of Special Committee, reported the examination of various parcels of land suitable for City Cemetery, the location and prices of same respectively. After some discussion as to the convenience accessibility cost etc. of the various grounds reported in comparison with the ground already owned by the city, on motion of Capt. McWilliams* the improvement committee was instructed to have two acres of the Alston Cemetery fenced with wire, the same to be used as pauper burying ground. G/12
- Nov. 2, 1882 Petition of H. Deal*, City Sexton, asking that a shed or shelter be erected in the new cemetery (Alston) read, received and granted. G/55
- Jan. 4, 1883 Proposals for furnishing pauper coffins for the year 1883 read. J. H. Stoner bid \$1.50 each and J. S. Rendall bid \$1.40 each. Same was awarded to J. S. Rendall*. G/64
- Feb. 1, 1883 Sexton's Report for 1882
- | | | | |
|-----------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| January | White 8 | Black 19 | Total 27 |
| February | White 7 | Black 7 | Total 14 |
| March | White 6 | Black 15 | Total 21 |
| April | White 5 | Black 9 | Total 14 |
| May | White 9 | Black 12 | Total 21 |
| June | White 5 | Black 10 | Total 15 |
| July | White 5 | Black 9 | Total 14 |
| August | White 9 | Black 9 | Total 18 |
| September | White 10 | Black 12 | Total 22 |
| October | White 16 | Black 18 | Total 34 |
| November | White 15 | Black 9 | Total 24 |
| December | White <u>8</u> | Black <u>7</u> | Total <u>15</u> |
| Total | 103 | 136 | 239 |
- Of these 47 were paupers. White Males 62, Females, 43
Black Males 59, Females 75
- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Under 5 years of age | 90 |
| From 5 years of age to 21 years | 24 |
| From 21 years of age to 87 years | <u>125</u> |
| | 239 |
- Respectfully, H. Deal*, Sexton G/82

Jan. 2, 1884 J. S. Rendall* to furnish coffins for paupers for year 1884 at \$2.25 apiece. G/152

March 6, 1884 Sexton's Annual Report for 1883
To the Hon. Mayor & City Council
I herewith respectfully submit the following report of burials for the year ending Dec. 31, 1883.

January	Male 15	Female 12	Total 27
February	Male 21	Female 8	Total 29
March	Male 18	Female 7	Total 25
April	Male 6	Female 6	Total 12
May	Male 8	Female 9	Total 17
June	Male 11	Female 11	Total 22
July	Male 13	Female 4	Total 17
August	Male 7	Female 13	Total 20
September	Male 10	Female 5	Total 15
October	Male 12	Female 4	Total 16
November	Male 5	Female 6	Total 11
December	Male 11	Female 4	Total 15

Of above 111 are white, 115 black, 137 males and 89 females; 79 under 5 years old and 147 over 5 years. 50 were paupers.
Respectfully, H. Deal*, Sexton G/183

May 25, 1885 "The following contract with John Murry, City Sexton, read and approved.

Be it remembered that whereas at a regular adjourned meeting of the City Council of the City of Shreveport, held May 21, 1885, the question of proper management and control of the City Cemetery come up, and various propositions were submitted by parties to the Council, and often determined on and the Mayor authorized to contract with Mr. Murry relative to same; now the agreement between the said city through its Mayor Andrew Currie and John Murry :

The said city appoints and designates the said John Murry to be the sexton of the Cemetery, in fully charge thereof under the general supervision of the City Council, and responsible for the proper and decent regulation of said cemetery.

The said Murry obligates himself to devote his whole time and work to the said cemetery, making and attending to all burials, disinterments, fixing the streets and walks, draining cleaning up and improving the grounds in the cemetery, and as an assistant in all such and other work he is to keep with him constantly employed at least one able bodied man and laborer. Further he obligates himself to keep the fences in good order and repair, the city to furnish all material such as lumber, posts, nails etc. and lime to whitewash the premises, and further to do all other work that may

seem necessary, in connection with the cemetery which the Council of the City of Shreveport or its proper officers may direct. The said Murry is further to keep a record of all burials and disinterments, to collect all charges and fees for same for the city account for and pay over the same to the city comptroller, and further he is to inter the city paupers free of charge. The above engagement and appointment is for the term of one year dating from signature hereof at which time the said Murry is to assume his duties as aforesaid.

In consideration of the above, and in full payment thereof the City of Shreveport hereby agrees to pay to said John Murry Five Hundred Dollars per annum payable monthly: said Murry is to execute bond in favour of the City in the sum of Five Hundred Dollars, conditioned for the faithful performance of above.

This done read and signed in the City of Shreveport, Caddo Parish, La. this the 25th day of May, 1885. (signed) A. Currie, Mayor of the City of Shreveport John Murry Witness D. C. Hine

Accompanying the above was the bond of John Murry for the sum of Five Hundred Dollars, with S. J. Ward* and John W. Taber* as securities, which was read and approved and ordered placed on record." G/323-324

- June 11, 1885 Petition of John Murry, Sexton, to have a small building erected in City Cemetery read and on motion same was granted. G/322
- Jan 21, 1886 Sexton's Report of the interments for December, 1885: White 1, Black 8: Total 9. Of these 3 were under 5, and 2 men over 60 years of age. There were two city paupers, and one from the Marine(?) Hospital.
- Petition of Committee from the Benevolent Association of Confederate Veterans for donation of Lot 9 Block 11 in City Cemetery presented read and on motion granted. G/381
- Jan. 8, 1886 Allen F. Moss to furnish all material and transportation for the burial of all paupers for the sum of \$2.75 and will fill all orders on short notice. Meeting held January 21, 1886. G/385
- May 13, 1886 City Sexton John Murray reported fifteen burials for the month of April, viz. seven white and eight black, of these six were under five years and one over 60 years of age. There were three parish and one city pauper buried during the month. Cash collected for burials \$64.00 and City Pauper account \$2.50, total \$66.50, paid over to the City Comptroller. G/417

M. L. Scovell, chairman of the special committee appointed to examine the condition of the city cemetery, reported that they had made a careful examination, found great improvement, and recommended the continuation of the contract with the sexton for another year, suggesting also that one of the salaried officials of the city be appointed to visit the cemetery weekly. G/417

March 10, 1887 An electric light to be placed on the crest of the hill on Sprague Street at the Cemetery.

The Sexton is instructed to remove and close up the step entrance to the cemetery, and keep the gates locked at night. H/44

July 14, 1887 Expenses noted: City of Shreveport: June 1-30, City Cemetery \$65.00; Caddo Parish: June 30, City Cemetery, \$75.00; Pauper and Coroner accounts, \$57.75.

Petition of John Murray, Sexton, for a small gate entrance to City Cemetery on Sprague Street, granted. H/69

Aug. 11, 1887 A committee of three is appointed to consider the best plan (and place) for securing ground for a new cemetery. Mes. Fred Scovell and Mitchell appointed on said Committee. H/83

Feb. 9, 1888 Sexton's Annual Report: "To the Hon. Mayor and Board of Trustees, I herewith submit a condensed annual report of the City Cemetery for the year 1887. Total number of burials for the year were 184: White 66 and Colored 118.

Number of disinterments 9 all white. There were City Paupers 28 Parish Paupers 28 Total 56. There were 4 lots and 3 half lots sold during the year. The total amount of Revenues Collected for burials, disinterments and lots sold amounted to \$805.00, with a balance yet uncollected of \$42.00, which is carried over to the year 1888.

I also report the grounds and streets in much better condition than heretofore. The fence has been kept up without any expense to the city, the underbrush kept cut down, some brick sidewalks made on principle streets with preparation for more; a steady and gradual improvement is being made in every way, as far as the means at my command will justify. I am

Respectfully

John D. Murry

City Sexton H/119

May 3, 1888 City Sexton salary fixed at \$75.00. H/138

- June 14, 1888 Petition of John Murry, Sexton, to have the fence around the City Cemetery renewed or thoroughly repaired was presented and referred to the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds. H/156
- June 28, 1888 “His Honor the Mayor stated to the Council that he had been handed a communication (which he had mislaid) from Capt. McWilliams* on behalf of the Masonic Fraternity in reference to title to lots in City Cemetery claimed by that body as a Masonic burial ground. On motion a committee of two, Mess. Herndon and Winter (Wm.) were appointed to confer with Capt. McWilliams* towards an adjustment of the matter in question.” H/160
- Oct. 11, 1888 “By Mr. Herndon: Resolved that the city receive \$50 from the Odd Fellows in full payment of balance of purchase price of Grave Yard sold them in 1858 and the Mayor be instructed to make Titles to same on payment of said amount. Adopted.” H/199
- Nov. 29, 1889 Col. J. M. Hollingsworth* addressed the Council by permission in behalf of a committee from the Cemetery Association asking the cooperation of the City government in the effort to improve the condition of the City Cemetery. When on motion a Committee of Randall (Chas.J.*), Quigles (Chas.) and McKellar* were appointed to confer with the Cemetery Association to formulate a plan for the permanent improvement of the Cemetery and report at next meeting of the Council. H/315
- May 14, 1890 “From the City Sexton
Shreveport, La. March 10/90
To the Hon. Mayor & Members of City Council
Gentlemen
I would respectfully call your attention to a matter in connection with the City Cemetery. And that is the condition of that part of the cemetery outside of the private lots and used for the burial of paupers strangers and the poorer classes of persons who have no lots, and commonly known as potters field. It is now almost impossible to find room there for a grave, which is very disagreeable and sometimes offensive.
But I present this matter to your honorable body from a business standpoint more than from sanitary or other questions that might be involved, and would recommend that a place be provided at least for the burial of the above named class of cases at your earliest convenience. Said cases will comprise over 50% of all burials in the cemetery.
Respectfully submitted,
(Signed) John D. Murray

City Sexton

On motion a Committee of McKellar* Busbey (T. J.*) Toombs (A. S.*) Quigles & Feigler were appointed to report a measure to relieve the situation. H/349

- May 14, 1890 “A Petition was presented and read largely signed by taxpayers and property owners of the fifth ward residing in the neighborhood of the City Cemetery, requesting the removal of Lewd and Kept Women from the neighborhood which on motion was referred to Police Comte (sic.)” H/368
- Jan. 8, 1891 By Mr. Feigler: Resolved that the Committee on Buildings and Grounds with the Mayor added be and is hereby instructed to report on the condition of the City Cemetery and to ascertain where sufficient grounds can be had suitable for a new cemetery, the price of same, and all other information necessary and report to the Council at next regular meeting. Adopted. H/473
- Jan. 22, 1891 Furnishing Pauper Coffins to J. S. Rendall* for \$3.00 each.
- By Mr. Toombs*: Resolved that the Committee on Buildings and Grounds be instructed to furnish the necessary help to clear up some unoccupied lots in the City Cemetery.
- By Mr. Randall*: Resolved that the Controller be authorized to advertise for offers of grounds for City Cemetery. No offers to be for less than 30 acres and to be located inside of the City limits. Bids to be opened on 13th day of March 1891. The Council reserving the right to reject any and all bids. Adopted. H/475
- Feb. 12, 1891 By Mr. Randall*: Resolved that the City Sexton be authorized to lay off in regulation sized lots, and sell the same as private lots, the plot of ground in the City Cemetery known as Madison Street, leaving a passway of 8 feet. The same to be known and described as Block 1 ½ [now Block 23]. Adopted. H/481
- March 12, 1891 Bids for grounds for City Cemetery were then opened and read as follows:
 From Roland Jones, Offering 34 35/100 acres for \$5,500.
 From L. S. Crain*, Offering Moss Side (?) 27 (?) a for \$10,000.
 From VanHoose & Tomkins, Offering 40 acres for \$11,000.
 From A. Currie Offering 30 acres for \$10,500.
 From A. Currie Offering 30 acres for \$8,500.
 From A. Currie Offering 60 acres for \$17,100.
 When on motion of Mr. Randall the Council as a Committee of the Whole, resolved to visit the different plots of land on next Monday

16th just at 11 o'clock a.m. for the purposes of examining same respecting their adaptability for the purposes intended. H/488-489

April 9, 1891

By Mr. Herndon: Resolved that bids pertaining to the purchase of cemetery grounds and which were opened at the last meeting of the Council be and the same are hereby rejected. Adopted. H/494

By Mr. Winter: Resolved that the City Controller be and is hereby authorized to advertise for bids for a city cemetery to contain not less than 20 acres. The bids to state the location price and terms of payment and the said bids to be opened on May 14th 1891. Adopted. H/495

May 14, 1891

A Petition from the Ladies Cemetery Association was read asking the cooperation of the Council in improving and grading the walks and drives in the City Cemetery. Whereupon Mr. Toombs* offered the following:

Whereas The Ladies Cemetery Association of our city holding in dearest memory the ties which bind hearts in bonds of love and affection, and mindful of the dear ones laid at rest in that sacred ground and whereas they ask the privilege to beautify the city of the dead with flowers shrubbery grading etc. Be it resolved by the City Council in legal assembly convened that the request be granted and that the street Commissioner be instructed to work the proposed drives in the Cemetery under the direction of the above Association and that the Hon. Mayor R. T. Vinson* and Committee on Buildings & Grounds give this their special attention. Adopted. H/513

July 9, 1891

A Petition from the Committee of the Cemetery Association asking that the city have what is known as the Pottersfield in the City Cemetery cleared off and trimmed up was read and on motion the same was referred to the Committee of Buildings and Grounds with power to act. H/523

July 14, 1892***

Sexton's report was read showing amount collected for burials and paid to City Controller of \$54.00 ordered filed. H/621

Mr. Wimbish (John C.), of Committee on Buildings and Grounds, reported that the fence around the City Cemetery was in a dilapidated condition and recommended the adoption of the following ordinance:

That the Committee on Buildings and Grounds be instructed to have a new fence put around the cemetery. Mr. Scofield thought that since the amount of means to be expended on street improvements between now and January 1893, was so small that it

would be better to repair the fences as a temporary expedient, until next year when a better quality of fence could be built. Mr. Toombs* offered as a substitute to Mr. Wimbish's motion—that the question of a new fence around the cemetery be referred to the Committee on Buildings and Grounds with instructions to report at next meeting of the Council the probable cost of same. The substitute was adopted by the following vote: Yeas: Wimbish, Scofield, Randall and Toombs; nays: Youree and Benjamin.

By Mr. Scofield: Resolved that the Committee on Buildings and Grounds be authorized to advertise for sealed bids, for building a new fence around the cemetery. Said bids to be opened at next meeting. Adopted. H/621-622

By Mr. Benjamin: Whereas, the last Council failed to act in purchasing a site for a cemetery and his honor, the Mayor, **having recommended action on the matter in his annual message,** Resolved, that a special committee of three be appointed to select and recommend a suitable site for a cemetery. That said committee report back to the Council their views as to location and amount of ground that should be purchased. Adopted.

The Mayor appointed on that Committee, Benjamin, Toombs* and Youree.

On motion of Mr. Youree the same Committee were authorized to report if a sale or barter of what is known as the City Park cannot be made in this way. H/622-623

July 28, 1892

Mr. Wimbish then called for the opening of bids to put a new fence around the City Cemetery and after the reading of all bids, the contract was awarded to J. F. Lambert for \$295.00 he being the lowest bidder. H/629

Aug. 11, 1892

By Mr. Toombs*: That the tax of 1890 or so much thereof as may be necessary is appropriated to the purpose of building a new fence around the City Cemetery. Adopted.

“Mr. Toombs* submitted following report on City Cemetery grounds in behalf of Special Committee appointed at last meeting.

To the Hon. Mayor & Board of Trustees

City of Shreveport

Gentlemen: Your Special Committee appointed under resolutions adopted at a regular meeting of the Council held on the 14th day of July 1892, instructed to select and recommend a suitable site for a cemetery, give our views as to the location and amount of ground, that should be purchased, and report if a sale or barter of what is

known as City Park cannot be made in this way, have the honor to report as follows:

First, As has been pointed out and impressed on the Council by his honor the Mayor, an imperative necessity exists for the acquisition of new and ample cemetery grounds, the present burial place having been long since exhausted, compelling our Catholic and Hebrew Congregations to obtain private grounds.

Other congregations, we are told, have long been considering similar measures, thus promising in case the Council continues to defer action on this important matter to compel the establishment of a multiplicity of widely scattered private cemeteries, expensive to care for, hard to regulate and become features which are disadvantageous and avoided as much as possible by all cities.

Second, Considering the time when the present cemetery of 10 acres was purchased, and that the population was probably less than a fourth of our present number, it seems prudent, in order that present wants and reasonable future growth may be decently met for a reasonable length of time, that not less than five times the area of the present cemetery should be provided.

Your committee having considered the subject from the foregoing necessary standpoint as well as suitability of location and accessibility, have examined all the sites within the city, and after exhaustive deliberation, have decided to recommend to your honorable body, the acquisition of a tract of land containing sixty acres, situated within the corporate limits north of the Catholic Cemetery and Mrs. Festins(?) west of the Fair Grounds and Belt Railway, within 200 yds. and lying parallel with the latter, accessible by the said Railway and by the Texas plank roadway at all seasons of the year.

The land is thoroughly drained without waste and possesses attractive features of topography, which renders its material beauties susceptible of being greatly enhanced at little cost.

Two thirds of its entire area is covered with a variety of handsome forest trees which will excite a pleasurable pride of ownership in our citizens, redounding to the credit of your honorable body.

The owner is willing to accept the 10 acres owned by the city for 1/3 of the purchase price valuing the the ground owned by the city at \$500 per acre.

For the other 2/3 or 40 acres he will take \$250.00 per acre or \$10,000. payable 1/5 on 1st January 1894 and 1/5 each succeeding year '95, '96, '97, & '98 with 7% interest per annum, which we believe will give the city ample time to sell enough of the land to the religious communities, lodges, and charitable societies now in need of ground to meet the cost.

In conclusion, the majority of your committee beg to say that we have given the duties imposed upon us careful and thorough

consideration, and believe that from a comparative point of view regarding adaptability of land, accessibility by existing highways and street cars, cheapness and beauty of ground, that we can unhesitatingly urge upon your honorable body the wisdom and necessity for prompt action in the provisions(?).

Respectfully Submitted,

Signed Sam Benjamin, A. S. Toombs*

Mr. Youree then submitted the following minority report:

The Committee on selection of a site for a city cemetery has reported recommending the purchase of a certain tract of land from Mr. A. Currie. To this recommendation I desire to dissent and respectfully offer the following minority views on the subject.

In objecting to the recommendation made by the majority, it is but just and correct that I should state that in my opinion the site chosen is one suitable for the purpose but it is not a site so preeminently suitable nor has it so many and patent advantages over all other sites in and around our city as to warrant its purchase without further discussion.

In my investigation of the matter, I have learned that there are several other sites equally available and suitable for the purpose, some of which possess advantages over the tract owned by Mr. Currie, though inferior to it in some requisites, which sites can in my opinion be purchased at a much lower price than the tract recommended by the majority.

Notably among the valuable tracts, I would mention Moss Side, and tracts of land owned by the following named persons, Mrs. Templeman(*?), H. Dreyfuss & Son, P. J. Treserant, which lands are situated on the western side of the corporation, and the lands owned by J. J Horan* (Hamilton Farm), by E. B. Herndon, John Caldwell, VanHoose & Tomkies situated on other portions of the Corporation.

I would therefore recommend that sealed proposals be invited from persons owning lands suitable for the purpose, containing not less than twenty acres, which proposals shall describe the lands offered and the price and terms of the same to be not over \$1,000 per annum.

I would also recommend that any corporate body desiring to establish a cemetery be invited to communicate with the City Council by sealed proposals setting forth the project, which proposals shall be considered by the Council in connection with the other bids.

(Signed) H. H. Youree

Both reports were ordered spread on the minutes and laid over to next meeting under the rules.

Several bids to furnish Cemetery grounds were then read and on motion referred to Special Committee of Benjamin, Toombs* and Youree.

On motion of Mr. Toombs* a Committee of Toombs*, Benjamin and Youree were appointed to draft an ordinance looking to the purchase of new cemetery grounds, to be submitted to the Council at next regular meeting." H/634-637

Oct. 13, 1892

The Majority and Minority reports of the Committee on new cemetery grounds read at the meeting of the Council held on Aug. 11, 1892, and the Minority vote was adopted, with bids to be submitted at Council meeting held on Oct. 27, 1892.

A petition by Mr. S. W. Ford in behalf of Mrs. W. R. Ford asking that she be allowed to purchase a strip of ground in the City Cemetery, adjoining the lot of J. J. Kline at the corner of Jackson and Cypress Street, and extending into Cypress Street 10 x 20 feet. City Sexton, in as much as that portion of Cypress Street from Jackson Street to North East boundary of cemetery grounds could not be used by vehicles anyway, and there would still be left 10 feet for footway. The City Controller was ordered to make the sale to Mrs. Ford as instructed in the petition. I/5

Dec. 12, 1892

Resolved that the salaries of the following City employees be fixed for Year 1893 at following rate: ... City Sexton and Marketmaster to be filled by one man whose salary shall be \$75.00 per month. J. W. White elected Marketmaster and Sexton. I/38

Feb. 9, 1893

W. W. Warring to furnish Pauper coffins at \$2.75 each. The following were adopted for 1893 Budget: Pauper and Coroner \$400. City Cemetery \$600. I/52

March 9, 1893

Mr. Wimbish of Special Committee on City Cemetery reported recommending the purchase of 20 acres from Messrs. Van Hoose and Tomkies at \$150/acre.

1893 Budget: Pauper and Coroner office: \$400.00; City Cemetery: \$600.00.

Bids for cemetery grounds were then opened and read and on motion of Mr. Randall* all propositions rejected and the committee discharged.

By Mr. Randall*: Resolved that the ground known as the City Park be used as the city cemetery and that the matter be referred to the Committee on Buildings and Grounds and with the help of the City Engineer to be laid out in lots and sold for burial purposes according to laws now existing regarding cemetery property. On motion same was laid over until next meeting.

By Mr. Wimbish: Resolved that the City accept the offer of Messrs. Van Hoose & Tomkies of 20 acres of ground for cemetery purposes at \$150.00 per acre. I/58

On motion of Mr. Youree the City Attorney was requested to submit a written opinion on the question of using the City Park for a cemetery. I/59

April 13, 1893 Regarding the question as to whether the City Council could use the City Park as a cemetery, in the opinion of Mr. Jones it can be used for that purpose, or for any public use. I/66

On motion of Mr. Randall the Controller was authorized and instructed to advertise for bids for a new cemetery, for not less than 20 acres, said bids to be opened at next meeting of the City Council and that final action be taken thereon at that time. Adopted. I/67

April 17, 1893 By Mr. Youree: Resolved that the Street Commissioner be and is hereby instructed to put down six inches of gravel on Washington Street in the City Cemetery along its entire length. Adopted. I/69

May 11, 1893 The following bids were read and rejected: From Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Crain*, offering 27 acres at \$8,000 at 10 years 8% interest; from Van Hoose & Tomkies, offering 20 acres at \$150.00 per acre at 4 years 6% interest; from Mrs. M. Donald, Mrs. Fetzer and M. Auer, offering the Dolly Varden tract at \$2,500. A fourth offer, by Messrs. Perrin and Feigler, was rejected by the mayor because it was not in the form required by the advertisement, causing a disagreement between him and Mr. Scofield. I/76

May 15, 1893 On motion of Mr. Benjamin the Controller was authorized to readvertise for a cemetery ground of 15 to 30 acres. Rate of interest to be specified in bids and bids to be opened at next regular meeting.
A petition from citizens and property owners protesting against the purchase by the city of part of TAL 17 (ten-acre lot 17) for cemetery purposes was read and ordered filed. I/77

June 15, 1893 The question of the purchase of cemetery grounds was then brought up and what is known as the Dolly Varden tract was recommended. The Mayor ruled that there being no offer before the council from the owners of that tract its purchase could not be considered at this meeting. Mr. Wimbish moved to accept the property offered by Messrs. Van Hoose & Tomkies of 20 acres at \$125/acre. Mr. Quigles offered as a substitute for Mr. Wimbish's

motion that the property offered by Captain Boisseau be accepted, consisting of fifteen acres at \$150 per acre. I/88

The substitute was lost by the following vote: Yeas: Quigles. Nays: Toombs*, Herold (H.) , Scofield (W. D.*), Wimbish (Jn. C.) and Youree (H. H.).

The vote was then taken on the motion of Mr. Wimbish to accept the offer of Van Hoose & Tomkies for 20 acres at \$125 per acre, payable in five equal annual installments at 6% interest from date. Carried unanimously. I/89

Sept. 14, 1893

The mayor reported having taken titles to the property bought of Mess. Van Hoose & Tomkies for cemetery purposes.

Controller's report for July 1893: Disbursements: For pauper & Coroner a/c: \$42.96; for Cemetery a/c: \$30.00. Report for August, 1893: Requests: From City Cemetery: \$10.50. I/95

Mr. Wimbish on behalf of Committee on Buildings and Grounds said he thought there were lots in the City Cemetery partly occupied, for which the City had never been paid, and introduced the following resolution:

Resolved that if Lot 7 of Block No. 14 of the City Cemetery be vacant and no one is buried therein, and said lot belongs to the City, that the City Controller be instructed to sell and sign a deed to same to Dr. A. R. Booth*. I/96

Mr. Randall said he had been at some trouble to examine the cemetery and when he did so the sexton and controller were with him, having the map of the cemetery in hand, and while he admitted that there were perhaps many lots for which the city had received nothing, he thought, however, in view of the fact that no public record or perfect record of the sale of lots was kept prior to the year 1878, the city Council should endeavor to straighten the matter out by some general legislation and not attempt to pass a special ordinance with regard to such lot as some individual citizen might demand. He therefore offered the following substitute:

Be it ordained by the Council of the City of Shreveport in legal assembly convened, that all owners of lots in the Cemetery be notified by publication in the official journal of the city for 30 days to clean up and put their lots in thorough repair and in default of said work being done, the Sexton be and hereby ordered to have said cleaning done and file his a/c for said work with the City Controller and in default of payment by said owners the City Controller is instructed to advertise and sell such lots the purchase carrying with it the obligation to preserve and not deface the evidence of any interment previously made on said lots.

Mr. Benjamin moved to table the substitute offered by Mr. Randall.

The Controller asked permission to read a deed or document written and signed by the City Sexton acknowledging the receipt of \$20.00 paid him by Dr. Booth for the lot in question before the vote was taken. Which permission was granted and the document read. And the Controller stated that he had refused to put his signature and affix the seal of the city to this instrument without some action were taken by the Council authorizing same.

Mr. Benjamin's motion to lay the substitute on the table was then adopted.

The original motion of Mr. Wimbish was then adopted by the unanimous vote of the Council with the understanding that the City Attorney determine if the lot in question were the property of the city. I/97-98

Nov. 9, 1893

Mr. Wimbish, chairman of Committee on Building & Grounds, reported that in what was known as the Potters Field in the old Cemetery it was literally impossible to dig a grave without exhuming the remains of bodies already buried there and urged the fencing of the new cemetery at once.

On motion of Mr. Benjamin the Committee on Buildings & Grounds were authorized to have a plank and wire fence constructed around the new cemetery and a potters field laid off in accordance with the plan adopted by the city. I/116

March 14, 1895

Resolved that the sum of \$100 be and the same is hereby appropriated to the Ladies' Cemetery Association for improvements to be made in the old city cemetery. Adopted. I/227

April 11, 1895

The following petition was read:

To His Honor, the Mayor, and the City Council. Whereas, the Shreveport cemetery is in a neglected condition, and at a reasonable expense could be adorned and made an ornament to the city by being placed and kept in thorough repair, which would require constant care and a regular source of revenue; and

Whereas many owners of lots are dead or have moved away, and to leave the lots abandoned or uncared for, as well as the Potters Field, which it is the duty of the city to care for, would mar the beauty of the cemetery as a whole; and

Whereas the city has derived all the revenue from the sale of cemetery lots and has expended none of it in beautifying the cemetery, therefore be it

Resolved by the Shreveport Cemetery Association that the City Council be earnest requested to make a regular appropriation in the

budget from year to year of not less than \$50 per month the same to be used and expended for the sole purpose of beautifying and keeping in order the Shreveport City Cemetery under the direction of the president of the Shreveport Cemetery Association upon whose warrant said fund shall be paid out by the Controller.

Be it further resolved that the City Council be requested to instruct the Street Commissioner to render to said association or its president all required assistance with his teams and vagrant labor and do whatever work may be required under the direction of the president of said association in conjunction with the Mayor of the city, and the chairman of the Street Improvement Committee.

C. S. Steere, President; Mrs. S. Q. Hamilton*, Vice President; Mrs. Julia Rule*, Secretary of Shreveport Cemetery Association.

Ordered spread on the minutes and laid over until next meeting.
I/235-236

Nov. 21, 1895 By Mr. Wimbish: Resolved that the Finance Committee be instructed to put \$300 in the budget to be adopted for year 1896, for the Ladies Cemetery Association. Same to be paid monthly. Adopted. I/314

Feb. 13, 1896 Mr. J. W. Chavis being present made a complaint against Sexton J. W. White and the same was referred to Buildings and Grounds Committee. I/329

By Mr. Scofield*: Resolved that \$100 or so much thereof as may be necessary be and is hereby appropriated for the purpose of laying a plank walk from the nearest point on the Belt Railway to the cemetery gate. Adopted. I/330 (Oakland or Greenwood?) (probably Greenwood-it immediately follows a resolution for using funds from the sale of lots in the new cemetery for the purpose of improving streets of same and planting trees, etc.

Feb. 20, 1896 Mr. Wimbish reported on behalf of the Committee on Buildings and Grounds that they had inquired into the charges made against the Sexton and Market Master and recommended his discharge from both places.

The action of the committee was ratified.

An election for Sexton was then gone into and resulted in the election of Mr. P. L. Martin, who agrees to employ a competent assistant, and they to give their time to said duties, to dig all graves and attend to the burial of the dead, and when not so employed to work in the cemeteries, all the time beautifying and improving them, the compensation for said sexton to be \$60 per month until such a time as the city may erect a suitable house in or near one of the cemeteries for their occupancy. When this is done the sexton is

to occupy said house, and the salary is to be reduced to \$50.00 per month. All fees for burials to be paid to the city. I/331

A petition was read from Mrs. S. Q. Hamilton*, Secretary, asking permission to remove rubbish such as tumble down fences and walls from about neglected graves and the Council determined that improvements put on a [grave] by its owners should not be removed by anyone without their consent, but the weeds and grass should be cleaned away. I/332

(Also on I/332: By Mr. Randall: Whereas the City has purchased a profile or grade book for the purpose of perpetuating records of the established grades of the city, and as the records now on hand are getting badly defaced and nearly obliterated so that it is impossible to make out the figures which designate the elevations of grades there; Resolved, that the Council instruct the City engineer to transfer the original records into the new grade book and that a compensation of \$50 be allowed him for said work. Adopted.)

July 7, 1898

City prisoners to be worked in the cemetery grounds for a time to clean up weeds and grass. J/10

August 4, 1898

The Vicksburg, Shreveport and Pacific Railroad Company is authorized to lay and operate a track along the north side of Cotton Street between Commerce and Market Street and to connect with its present tracks at each of said streets in accordance with blueprint attached to ordinance of January 6th, 1898, adopted by this Council on condition that the said railroad company give to the city 25 carloads of gravel for use in the cemeteries of the city. Adopted.

And on motion of Mr. Toombs* the street commissioner was instructed to place this gravel in the following manner: 4 carloads to Catholic cemetery, 3 carloads to Jewish cemetery, 4 carloads to old city cemetery and the balance to be used on the drives of the new or Greenwood cemetery. J/29

June 6, 1901

Shreveport, La., March 27th, 1901

Hon. City Council of Shreveport

Gentlemen, The Cemetery Association in charge of the old Cemetery respectfully call your attention to the fact that the \$25 per month heretofore allowed it by your Honorable body for the purpose [of] keeping in repair, beautifying and maintaining the grounds is not being paid and we ask that same be restored regularly paid to this association for the purpose mentioned. The

Cemetery is now in a condition of neglect discreditable to our City and we know it is only necessary to call the matter to the attention of your Hon. Body to meet with prompt and generous response. This spot of ground was originally given for Cemetery purposes and the money arising from sales of lots should have been sacredly set apart for the maintenance and administration of the premises. The City has made numerous sales of lots and this money should not be appropriated by the City, but restored for the Cemetery. Thus what we ask you is in the nature of a restoration of what is just and due.

We respectfully request your Hon. Body to restore the \$25 per month at once, the need of the association being urgent.

Very sincerely, President Cemetery Association

On motion Mr. Hicks that the city allow the ladies of the Old Cemetery \$50.00 per month and that the payments begin January 1st, 1901. Adopted. J/561

Sept. 6, 1901

That \$100 additional be appropriated to the ladies of the old cemetery for the purpose of putting water in said cemetery. Adopted. J/597

Feb. 27, 1902

By Mr. Wagner: Mr. J. D. Wagner, Chairman,

I have the honor to submit to you hereto attached a profile and plan for improving the old cemetery on Sprague Street as per original estimate provided for in the recent bond issue for the improving of Sprague Street and which included the building of a retaining wall of Brick, a cement sidewalk and doing all grading necessary for the same. The estimate and items are as follows:

For a wall 121704 brick in wall at \$20.00 per 1000:	2,434.08
For a cement sidewalk 3,840 sq. feet at 15 cents	576.00
For Grading, etc. 880 cubic yards at 30 cents	<u>264.00</u>
Total	\$3,274.08

Respectfully, Frank W. Kane, City Engineer

That the Comptroller be instructed to advertise for bids to do the work, bids to be returnable March 13th, 1902, at 6 p.m. Adopted. J-2/37

March 13, 1902

An ordinance forbidding the desecration of graves and the cutting or removing of any flowers or shrubs from graves in any cemetery in the city or from the cemetery itself.

Be it ordained by the City Council in regular session convened that it shall be unlawful for any person to cut or remove from any cemetery in the city or from any grave in any cemetery, any flower, shrubs or other plant or in any way desecrate any grave or part of any cemetery.

Be it further ordained that any one violating this ordinance shall upon conviction be fined for each offence not less than \$5.00 nor more than \$10000 and on failure to pay the fine the offender may be condemned to work same out on streets and alleys of the city at the rate of \$1.00 per day pursuant to the City charter. Adopted.
J-2/43

- Dec. 18, 1902 By Mr. Snyder. That city engineer be granted authority to change size and style of Sprague Street retaining wall alongside of cemetery, provided the cost per cubic yard or foot for the increase does not exceed contract already agreed upon between city and contractor. Adopted. J-2/156
- Feb. 16, 1903 The city engineer was instructed to investigate the report of graves caving in at old cemetery. J-2/177
- June 15, 1903 By Mr. Lowenthal. A petition from Herman Herold, W. Winter and E. Phelps, of Hebrew Zion Congregation asking for services of city engineer in order to secure profile and contour of property in order to erect a retaining wall east side of cemetery on Cane Street. Laid over under the rules. J-2/233
- ? Map showing grade for retaining wall along Cane Street at Sprague Street cemetery was filed by Mr. Wise...showing grades. Laid over under the rules. J-2/234
- July 20, 1903 By Mr. Wise. That the City Engineer prepare plan showing grade for curb in Cane Street near portion of Sprague Street Cemetery, property of Hebrew Zion Congregation. Adopted.
- Following were submitted:
Mr. Woodward, City Engineer. In reply to your request of the 9, we hand you herewith our bid on the surveyors land monuments as follows: Monuments to be 3 ft. long 5 in. square, with 1 end cut smooth and wash of ½ in. all round the edges of this end 500 of the above monuments (of blue Bedford stone) delivered at our yard for the sum of \$385.00. 500 monuments same as above but of Gray Bedford stone \$375.00. Can fill this order in from 6 to 8 weeks. Thanking you for the privilege of bidding on the monuments, we beg to remain. Hilliard Bros., per B. L. Hilliard.
By Mr. Wise: That bid of Hilliard Brothers be accepted. Adopted.
J-2/243
- Nov. 16, 1903 By Mr. Lowenthal. Whereas the public interests as well as civic pride demand that the home of the dead be beautified as much as possible, and kept in such a condition, and whereas there is no

retaining wall on the Cane Street side of the Sprague Street cemetery to protect it as on the Sprague Street side, which is necessary as the land is caving in, being supported only by planks and an old dilapidated fence, therefore

Be it resolved, that this council suggest to the Chairman of the Improvement Committee and City Engineer to make an estimate showing the cost to erect a retaining wall on Cane Street from Sprague Street to Reynolds and on Christian Street for a distance of 150 feet, similar to the one on the Sprague Street side of the old cemetery. Said report of estimate cost to be submitted to this council at the next meeting. Adopted. J-2/282

Jan. 26, 1904

By Mr. Snyder: To Hon. Andrew Querbes and City Council: In view of the public situation of the old cemetery and the repeated depredations of stock and trespassers, we earnestly request tht you will aid us in protecting the cemetery by putting a man in charge, whose duty it shall be to watch as well as work and thus give the needed protection to this sacred ground.

Mrs. M. H. Williams

Mrs. J. D. Ardis

Mrs. M. F. Smith

Committee for Cemetery Association

By Mr. Thoman: Resolved, that building and ground committee be empowered to employ a man to take charge of city cemetery, position to be designated as "assistant sexton." Said assistant sexton to be under control of city, and to receive a salary not exceeding \$50.00 per month. J-2/319

April 18, 1904

By Mr. Rand: That the comptroller be authorized to advertise for bids for the construction of the retaining wall around the old cemetery, on Christian and Cane Streets, as per plans and specifications on file in the office of the city engineer. To be paid for out of the budgets of 1905, 1906, and 1907. J-2/367

May 31, 1904

Chairman Wise, of the Improvement Committee, reported in favor of accepting the bid of Chatwin Bros., as the lowest bidders, for constructing the retaining wall around the old city cemetery. Mr. Wise stated that, reading the bid one way, R. N. McKellar's* bid was \$41.00 cheaper than the bid of Chatwin Bros. but that there were several conditions to McKellar's bid and in order to avoid complications, the committee decided that Chatwin Bros.' bid was the lowest. Mr. Dickson asked that Mr. McKellar be heard.

Mr. McKellar explained that his bid was made in accordance with the specifications, and that the item in his bid simply called for filling if any was to be done, as per "proposed fill" shown on plans.

Mr. Chatwin explained this matter from the point of view of his firm.

By Mr. Conger: That the contract be awarded to R. N. McKellar*. Adopted, by the following vote: Ayes: Conger, Currie, Dickson, Ledbetter, Lowenthal, Quigles, Rand, Tusten and Wise. Nays: Busbey, Foster, Snyder, Thoman.

By Mr. Foster: That Mr. McKellar be requested to address a letter to the Mayor explaining that his bid does not call for extra filling, and that no charge is to be made for same, either behind the walls, in the boxes or in the street. Adopted. J-2/413

Sept. 26, 1904

A communication was presented from Mrs. J. S. Young [Col. John Smith Young*, CSA, and wife Fanny Hodges Young* (d. 1891) are listed], asking that the city purchase a map of the city cemetery, now in the possession of Mrs. J. J. Scott. The communication stated that the map could be purchased for \$25.00. J-2/476

Oct. 27, 1904

The salary of the sexton is fixed at \$75.00 per month; an assistant sexton to be employed at a salary not to exceed \$50.00 per month and stationed at the old [Oakland] cemetery; another assistant sexton to be stationed with the sexton at Greenwood Cemetery. Duties of the sexton to include properly keeping up streets and alleys in the cemetery, cutting grass and weeds on unsold lots, and trimming trees. The sexton is prohibited from accepting private work or compensation in connection with their duties as the city employee. City prisoners are recommended to assist the sexton. Also recommended is the purchase of a cart and a cheap mule or horse for the use of the sexton in moving dirt, hauling off brush and other litter accumulating around the cemetery. J-2/511

April 11, 1905

By Mr. Busbey: That R. N. McKellar*, contractor on Christian Street wall, be permitted to use molded concrete blocks instead of forms, as contract calls for, provided he use the same material and mixture in blocks as is called for in the wall, and deduct the same amount of voids, or hollow spaces as called for in the original contract. Carried. K/24

Ordinance Providing Regulations for City Cemeteries:

1. It shall be unlawful for any person to destroy any flowers or other shrubbery or trees in the cemeteries.
2. No brick work shall be allowed therein except in the construction of foundations to monuments. Each monument shall have constructed under its foundation at least $\frac{1}{4}$ wider in every way than the base of said monument, and said foundation shall be made of brick, with cement mortar, or with solid stone,

cement or marble, and shall extend into the earth as deep as the grave which it marks.

3. No vaults shall be constructed above the ground except they be of stone.
4. No person decorating or cleaning off graves and lots shall leave trash in the cemetery walks, and shall remove all rubbish which they may have caused.
5. No person shall leave open any of the cemetery gates.
6. No person shall drive any vehicle or ride or lead a horse or any other animal across cemetery lots or in any other place in said cemeteries except on the cemetery streets.
7. Any person who shall violate any of the foregoing provisions shall be fined not less than \$1.00 nor more than \$10.00 and in default of payment of said fine shall be ordered to work out same on the streets or alleys or other public works of the City of Shreveport at the rate of \$1.00 per day.
8. It is the duty of the city sexton to make charges against any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this ordinance.

Passed. K/28

May 15, 1905

The Improvement Committee recommends that the comptroller be authorized and instructed to advertise ten days for bids for rebuilding the cemetery retaining wall on Sprague Street, in accordance and specifications to be furnished by the City Engineer. Adopted. K/45

June 23, 1905

The Improvement Committee makes the following recommendation with reference to the proposed Cane Street cemetery wall: The recent accident on Sprague Street has shown the necessity for some different arrangement other than the high walls as has been used heretofore, and we suggest that instead of using the Cane Street wall as per the original contract, that a lower wall be built on Cane Street extending to Reynolds Street, and along Reynolds Street to Christian, four feet high, with an iron fence on top of that, with a gutter on the inside, and a terrace from there to the top of the surface of the ground. The estimated cost of this change would be:

Excavations ----- 1336 at 50	\$ 668.00	
Masonry ----- 463 at 9.50	<u>4,398.50</u>	
	5,066.50	
Iron Fence 1,200 feet at 1.00	<u>1,200.00</u>	
	<u>\$6,265.50</u>	

The wall on Cane Street alone, under the present contract, would cost the city \$4,444.50, and it would soon be necessary for the city

to construct a wall on Reynolds Street. The proposed change would, therefore, be a saving to the city of at least \$1,000.00 and perhaps more. The contractor has agreed to the change, provided the city will give him contract for sidewalks and curbs. This would be necessary however, and the estimated cost would be:

Sidewalks-----	1,200 x 4 feet	\$ 648.00
Curbs -----	1,200 at 45 cents	540.00
Excavations, say,		<u>80.00</u>
		1,268.00
Wall, fence, etc.		<u>6,266.00</u>
		\$7,534.00

We believe the plan outlined above would be to the best interests of the city, and recommend its adoption. J. L. Busbey, S. A. Dickson, W. I. Ingersol, Improvement Committee

Mayor Querbes explained that the Improvement Committee make this recommendation after having gone over the matter thoroughly. That the idea of abandoning the present plans is to do away with the high walls in the future for retaining walls, as they are unsafe. The retaining wall on Commerce Street, and the wall on the Sprague Street side of the cemetery has shown the necessity of adopting some other plan, and the committee, with the approval of the City Engineer have decided the plan proposed herein to be the best.

Mr. Johnson stated that the only legal way to handle the matter would be advertise for bids for this work in the usual way.

Mayor Querbes stated that it would be impossible to do that, as Mr. McKellar has the contract for the retaining wall on Cane Street, and the Committee had tried in every way to get him to release the city, and had even offered him 10 per cent of the estimated contract price, but he had refused it, and if the council rejects the above proposition it would only result in the city having to go ahead with the Cane Street wall, as it is contracted for and would have to let a new contract for the wall on Reynolds Street, and that would cost the city something like \$2,500.00 or \$3,000.00 more. Carried, Mr. Johnson being the only nay vote because he questioned the legality of awarding the contract without advertising for bids. K/66

Nov. 19, 1905

The mayor explained that the terrace in the old city cemetery is at such a slant that it is feared by the ladies of the cemetery association that it cannot be maintained, for the reason that no machine an be used for cutting the grass, and it would be impossible to keep it cut by hand. Stated that the cost of changing this terrace to such a slant that it could be better cared for would be about \$350.00 and recommended that this amount be appropriated for that purpose.

- : By Mr. Johnson: Resolved that the mayor be authorized to expend \$350.00, or as much thereof as may be necessary for the purpose as stated. Carried.
- By Mr. Busbey: Resolved that the plans submitted by R. N. McKellar*, contractor, and hereto attached, be accepted by the Council and that the Improvement Committee have gate put in as shown. Carried. (Gate on Reynolds Street) K/161
- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Two main gates, per plan | \$ 85.00 |
| Two side gates, at \$27.50 | 55.00 |
| Cost of erection | <u>10.50</u> |
| Total | 150.00 |
| Contractors profit, 10 % | <u>15.05</u> |
| | \$165.55 |
- Cost of the wall, included in gate space to be deducted, and cost of posts added. Letter attached from manufacturers quoting prices, also blue print.
- By Mr. Lowenthal, that same be adopted, and the mayor authorized to contract for same. Carried. K/162
- Feb. 13, 1906 Mr. Busbey here presented a drawing showing plan for retaining wall to be erected in place of the fallen wall on Sprague Street side of the old city cemetery.
- By Mr. Dickson, I understand, Captain Busbey, that you will guarantee the wall to stand.
- Mr. Busbey replied that he would certainly guarantee a wall built according to these plans to stand, it being understood that the cement would be one, three and six as used by the city elsewhere.
- By Mr. Busbey, That the city comptroller be authorized to advertise for bids for the construction of this wall, according to this sketch. Carried. K/200
- March 13, 1906 By Mr. Ingersoll***, To the Mayor and City Council: We recommend that \$125.00 additional be appropriated for terracing and sodding the old city cemetery. The council only appropriated \$350.00, and the cost of the work was \$475.00. Carried K/218
- April 17, 1906 Resolved that the mayor be authorized to issue a certificate to R. N. McKellar*, contractor, for the sum of \$5,973.83, bearing 5 per cent interest, in payment of balance on cemetery wall. Certificates to be provided for out of the budget for the year 1907. Carried. K/239
- June 12, 1906 An Ordinance.

Requiring all Curbs and Walls built around cemetery lots or plats in the Oakland and Greenwood cemeteries to be not more than fifteen inches high at any point.

Be it ordained ... that all curbs or walls that shall hereafter be built around or adjacent to any cemetery lot or plat in Oakland or Greenwood Cemeteries, shall not be more than fifteen inches high at any point.

Be it further ordained that any person or persons who violate any of the provisions of this ordinance shall ... be fined not less than \$10.00 nor more than \$50.00, and in default of payment of said fine shall work out the same on the streets or alleys or other public works of the City of Shreveport at the rate of \$1.00 per day for each day of labor performed, and the city shall bring any curb or wall to the proper height at the expense of said guilty party. K/265

June 14, 1906

Resolved that the City Comptroller be authorized to sell lots in the Old City Cemetery, in the portion recently filled, as follows: Nos. 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 146, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 133, 134, 139, 140, 141, 126, 132, 109, 115, 103, 107, 108, 85, 88, 89, 62, 42, 22, 20 15, 83, all the above lots being in what has heretofore been known as "A place for the Friendless." Lot 11, Block 22, Lot 4, Block 22; Lots 6 and 14 Block 17 Lot 22, Block 18; Lot 6, Block 8; The prices on the above lots being \$100.00.

Be it further resolved that the revenue from the sale of these lots is to apply on the cost of reconstructing the Sprague Street retaining wall and all excess above that expense shall be used for the purpose of beautifying the cemetery. Carried. K/268-269

July 16, 1906

Ordinance amended: and it shall be unlawful to construct any fences in any cemetery within the City of Shreveport. K/286

J. L. Busbey, Chairman of the Improvement Committee:

Enclosed find two bills against the City of Shreveport, for work done and material used in constructing Oakland Cemetery Walls, which I trust you will find correct. I desire to lease Batture across alley back of Lots 1,2, 3, 4, to low water, in same block you have lease on lots 5, 6, 7, 8. Would like to meet you and committee and see if I cannot adjust an arrangement and thereby settle these bills with a lease, which I hope we can agree upon satisfactorily to both parties. R. N. McKellar*

Bills accompanied same for \$675.75 and \$529.38 for extra work and material on Christian Street wall, and for extra work and material at gate on Grand Avenue and drains in the sidewalk.

Mayor Querbes explained that the work on the Grand Avenue entrance had been without authority of the council or from the committee, and he did not think the council should pay them. It seems that it was understood that Col. Minge should pay for this gate, and that the balance of this extra work at this entrance had been done by Mr. McKellar without authority. That the balance of the bill should be referred back to the Improvement Committee.
K/283

August 14, 1906

Mr. R. N. McKellar* appeared before the City Council and presented claim against the city for work done on the cemetery wall on Cane and Reynolds streets side, and for interest accruing on the Christian Street wall for the time after same was accepted until the first payment was made and on the unpaid portion. Mr. McKellar stated that he is entitled to be paid for the voids in the Christian Street wall just as if this had been solid, according to the customary rule of the trade for this class of work. Mr. McKellar also stated that the city owes him for the work on Grand Avenue entrance.

Mayor Querbes here asked Mr. Conger to take the chair.

Mayor Querbes stated that he did not think Mr. McKellar was entitled to the amount claimed. That the voids in the wall had been deducted in accordance with the agreements made at the time the contract was made and signed, and that the gate at Grand Avenue was put in without authority of the committee, except that when Mr. McKellar suggested this gate and said the ladies wanted it, he was told that they had no objection to it, but both the members of the Improvement Committee and himself had been under the impression that this was to be paid by Mr. Minge.

Mr. Conger resigned the chair to Mr. Querbes.

Mr. Busbey stated that Mr. McKellar had been paid for all the work done by the authority of the Improvement Committee.

By Mr. Busbey: After careful examination of the work recently constructed by R. N. McKellar in rebuilding the cemetery wall on Sprague Street, I recommend that same be accepted, subject to the guarantee of Mr. McKellar of this wall for one year, as per contract. I further recommend that the mayor and city comptroller be and they are hereby authorized and directed to make payment for same as per contract, \$1,850.00. J. L. Busbey K/295-296

October 11, 1906

Mr. Rand presented a communication from Mr. R. N. McKellar*, asking that the matter of the claim of Mr. McKellar on account of the difference claimed by him on the cemetery wall on the Christian and Reynolds streets sides be submitted to arbitration. The city to choose one arbitrator, McKellar to choose another, and

these two to choose a third, but both sides are to bind themselves to abide by the decision of the arbitrators.

By Mr. Laenger: I move that the proposition be rejected. Carried. K/333

Oct. 9, 1906

An Ordinance

Requiring the owners of cemetery lots in public cemeteries on the City of Shreveport, to keep the weeds cut down on same, and to keep said lots well graded and in good sanitary condition.

Sec. 1: That the owners of burial lots in the public cemeteries in the City of Shreveport are hereby required to keep the grass and weeds cut down on said lots, and to keep same well graded and in good sanitary condition.

Sec. 2: That any person who shall violate the provisions of this ordinance shall be fined not less than \$5.00 nor more than \$50.00 for each offense ... and in default of payment of said fine, shall work out same on the streets and alleys and other public works of the City of Shreveport at the rate of \$1.00 per day for each day of labor performed.

Sec. 3: That each day that any condition as above expressed shall exist on any burial lot shall constitute a separate offense and it is hereby made the special duty of the City Sexton to make affidavits against all persons violating the provisions of this ordinance, and it is made the general duty of the members of the police force to make affidavits against said violators. K/329

Nov. 13, 1906

By Mr. White: Amendment to Section 1 of foregoing Ordinance: Provided if a lot has been once brought to grade of the contiguous cemetery streets and the said street grade be afterwards raised, then and in that event, the low owner shall not be held liable for any such unsanitary condition of his lot, which may result from the change of the said street grade. Carried. K/349

April 9, 1907

An Ordinance:

Compelling all owners of lots in the public cemeteries of the City of Shreveport to keep the grass and weeds cut on their respective lots, and to maintain same in a clean, sightly and sanitary condition at all times.

Sec. 1: That all owners of lots in the public cemeteries of the City Council of the City of Shreveport shall keep the grass and weeds cut close to the ground on their respective lots, and shall maintain same in a clean, sightly and sanitary condition at all times.

That whoever shall violate any of the provisions of this ordinance shall ... be fined not less than \$10.00 nor more than \$25.00 for each offence, and , in default of the payment of said fine, shall work out the same on the streets and alleys and other public works

of the City of Shreveport at the rate of one dollar per day for each day of labor performed.

Sec. 3: That each day that any such unsanitary or unsightly condition, or growth of grass or weeds, shall exist, shall constitute a separate offence. K/435

- May 14, 1907 By Mr. Allen: That the mayor's action in ordering bodies of negroes buried in the old cemetery disinterred and buried in another cemetery in order to have a straight road built in the graveyard be approved. Carried. K/445
- August 13, 1907 By Mr. Conger: That the Mayor be and is hereby authorized and instructed to employ a special police officer to patrol the Oakland Cemetery between dark and daylight and to see also that the gates to this cemetery be locked from 8 o'clock at night until the officer leaves in the morning, from this time until November 15th, or as long thereafter as your Honor may deem necessary. Referred to Police Committee, to act, by unanimous vote. K/496
- Sept. 10, 1907 To the Mayor/Council:
We, your Building & Grounds Committee, recommend that the bid of H. M. Severance, for paving the drive in Oakland Cemetery, from Sprague Street to Reynolds Street, with six-inch concrete and a five-year guarantee, as per his bid, be accepted at \$1.30. Signed, F. A. Tusten, W. F. Thoman*, C. L. Campbell.
On motion of Mr. Conger, report accepted. K/506
- April 14, 1908 Mr. Tusten reported, for information of the Council, that the cemetery property was growing small, and predicted that within a year the City would be without burying ground there.
On motion of Mr. Tusten, the price for lots hereafter in Oakland Cemetery was fixed at \$100.00 each. K/607
- May 11, 1909 Mr. Ford moved that the price of cemetery lots be made \$50.00, instead of \$100.00. Carried. L/94
- Jan. 10, 1911 On motion of Mr. Fullilove, the City Engineer was instructed to make two maps each of the Oakland and Greenwood Cemeteries, sufficiently large, to show where each person is buried. One copy to be kept at the City Hall, and one at the Greenwood Cemetery. L/280
- June 12, 1917 Ordinance No. 38 of 1917. (Shreveport Times, June 14, 1917)
City of Shreveport, La., In regular session convened; That Greenwood Cemetery and Oakland Cemetery in this City are permitted to be used as Wild Bird Sanctuaries, and there may be

erected therein bird houses, feeding trays, drinking fountains, and such other improvements as may be useful for the purposes intended, under the direction and superintendence of the Commissioner of Public Utilities. R. H. Ward, Acting Mayor
N/310

August 26, 1930

That permission is hereby granted for the extension of Mrs. Nathan Penick's lot abutting on the sidewalk, being Lot 4 of the Oakland Cemetery, and all other lots adjacent to this sidewalk, known as lots 1 to 9 inclusive, Block 1 of the Oakland Cemetery, said extension not to exceed 18", according to plat attached hereto and made a part hereof. Adopted. U/357

*Found in Eric Brock's Oakland Record Newest Eric2.doc

**Not found in Eric Brock's Oakland Record Newest Eric2.doc

***Check City Council minutes for full names of men in this entry to see if they are in Oakland.