

The Cemetery Commission met at the Mount Vernon City Hall Conference Room on Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. Commissioners present were: Mary Evans, Ruth Horton and Machele Pelkey.

Minutes of the June 10, 20205 meeting were approved.

The following topics were discussed:

Maintenance of cemetery records and documents - Mary reported that she believes Joe Jennison has completed the documents project he's been working on for the cemetery.

Mary also shared that the City has purchased a laptop for cemetery commission use. This will be helpful for future recordkeeping and documents projects.

Restoration and preservation of cemetery monuments - Plans for John Heider's visit on July 12-17, 2025, were discussed. Assistance will be needed to set up council chambers and assure all is in order for the morning educational session on July 12. The hands-on sessions in the Cemetery will require the presence of at least one cemetery commissioner each day. Additional assistance is also needed with transporting buckets of gravel, hoses and extra water buckets.

Maintenance of cemetery grounds - All concurred that the mowing/trimming of the cemetery is going well and that the grounds look good.

Ruth suggested that the commission consider metal arches over the 2 driveway entrances to the cemetery. It was agreed that an estimate from Liberty Iron Works could be obtained for future consideration.

Promoting and publicizing the cemetery - Mary reported that John Heider's workshop(s) have been advertised in The Sun, on Visit Mount Vernon-Lisbon, on the City's webpage for the cemetery commission, on Facebook and in 2 church bulletins.

Mary shared information about a collaboration opportunity between the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC) and the State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI) as our nation prepares to celebrate its 250th birthday on July 4, 2026. Each county is being asked to designate at least one cemetery for an "open house" event between now and July 4, 2026. The "open house" would also include an organized cemetery walk featuring historical re-enactors who would portray notable individuals buried in the cemetery. It was agreed to revisit this opportunity for future planning.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Machele Pelkey