

The Cemetery Commission met at the Mount Vernon City Hall Conference Room on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. Commission members present were Eric Siggins, Mike Woods, Teresa Cox and Mary Evans. Guest was Joleen Woods.

No minutes were approved from December 9, 2025 as an informal meeting was held due to lack of quorum.

The following topics were discussed:

Maintenance of cemetery records and documents – Mary read an email from Lori Boren on her meeting with WHKS on January 7. “After visiting the cemetery, it was determined that additional survey work is required to ensure the accuracy of the GIS files. When relying on aerial photography and existing paper maps, data discrepancies are common. Once WHKS completes the additional survey work and updates the CAD files accordingly, we can schedule a meeting to review the results and discuss next steps. WHKS is hoping to start the survey work next week. I need to ask them when the anticipated completion of that work will be, but I would assume in the next month.” It appears from the email that the anticipated work is going forward as scheduled.

Restoration and preservation of cemetery monuments – Three teams are preparing for leveling, resetting and repairing gravestones this spring when the ground has settled. Teams: #1 Tim and Diane Legore, #2 Mike & Kevin Woods, #3 Eric Siggins, Duane Eash, Mary Evans, Teresa Cox. All teams have been trained and continue to learn via YouTube videos and discussions.

Ruth Horton and Mary Evans will submit names for listing in a Public Notice for the intent of leveling, resetting and repairing gravestones in 2026.

Maintenance of cemetery grounds – Eldon Downs has requested removal of the Burr Oak in block 4.

Discussion of burial services offered in Iowa – Discussion continued on changing the cemetery ordinance to allow green burials and cremation burials without a cement vault.

Promoting and publicizing the cemetery – Discussion continued on creating a Cemetery Walk for the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary E Evans