

The Cemetery Commission met at the Mount Vernon City Hall Conference Room on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. Commission members present were Ruth Horton, Teresa Cox and Mary Evans and guest Tim Legore.

Minutes were approved from February 10, 2026.

Maintenance of cemetery records and documents

The commission is looking forward to more updates from the WHKS Engineering GIS project. It's essential to accurately identify the location of all burials in the cemetery.

Restoration and preservation of cemetery monuments

- Discussion continued on the 30 gravestones to be leveled, repaired and reset this year by the cemetery commission. Commission and volunteers have agreed to donate their time and equipment to restore the 30 gravestones.
- Tim Legore will assume leadership of the cemetery conservation work in 2026. Tim will set dates for each team to review the appropriate preservation procedures for conserving the cemetery's gravestones. Each team will work alongside Tim until comfortable to work independently.
- The commission is frustrated by being denied the funds of \$2,700 to hire Pam Kraus to restore ten large gravestones weighing more than 3,000 pounds.

Maintenance of cemetery grounds

Ted Seiter reported that all the identified trees and shrubs have been removed. He will raise Maple limbs when appropriate. This summer he will begin removing the Yucca plants which are harmful to gravestones.

Discussion of burial services offered in Iowa

Teresa Cox recommended that 115.12 titled Burial Vaults be changed from "An approved burial vault shall be required for all burials." to "burial vaults are not required for all burials." Mary Evans will work with Leigh Bradbury to update the wording to accommodate religious beliefs for green burials and family cremains.

Promoting and publicizing the cemetery

- Discussion continued on creating a Cemetery Walk for the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.
- The Memorial Day celebration is scheduled for Monday, May 25, 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E Evans