

The Cemetery Commission met at the Mount Vernon City Hall Conference Room on Tuesday, October 13, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. Commission members present were Mike Woods, Tim Legore, Ruth Horton and Mary Evans.

Minutes from September 8, 2026 were approved earlier by all members.

Maintenance of cemetery records and documents

6 gravesites were mapped using the new ArcGIS Field Maps program. Teresa & Mary walked Block 4, Lot 1, Section 1, Spaces 1-6 in the cemetery identifying the Burk's headstones. Using tablets in the cemetery was difficult due to glare. We filled in the GIS required information seated at a desk using Judy Lass' photo identification sheets and Joe Jennison's burial data.

We were having some success but had the following questions. WHKS answered quickly.

- The date is registered as 11/8/39. We are dealing with 1800s, 1900s and 2000s.
 - WHKS is not seeing where the data is registering as that date. WHKS is seeing the full date when entering data. We agree the full date is shown when entering data but what about saving?
- The app calculates the age which is only accurate if all 3 dates are available: birth, death, and interment.
 - The age column has been hidden.
- What is the definition of grave marker versus headstone?
 - Headstone is an upright stone that is vertical. Grave marker is the flat/low-profile memorial that sits flush with ground.
- How do we save the individual data we enter?
 - Using the manager, create a burial record and select **Create** at the bottom and the data has been entered.
- Explain the difference between Signing In pages 1-2 and Mount Vernon Manager pages 3-4?
 - The signing in pages are for use in ArcGIS Field Maps with your tablets. The login information is the same login you would use for the Mount Vernon Manager. The Mount Vernon Manager can be used through the web browser on your computer or tablet (computer preferred.)

Restoration and preservation of cemetery monuments

Teresa Cox organized 3 Friday afternoons for gravestone preservation.

Friday, October 16: Mike & Kevin Woods, Eric Siggins, Bob Meeker, Teresa Cox

Friday, October 23: Duane Eash, Ruth Horton, Bob Meeker, Mary Evans, Teresa Cox

Friday, October 30: Duane Eash, Mike & Kevin Woods, Ruth Horton, Bob Meeker, Mary Evans

Maintenance of cemetery grounds

Grass seed is still needed on all the new burials. For example: Mrs. Kurth was buried in March of this year and the city hasn't spread grass seed after several requests from the cemetery commission.

An inventory of dead trees and dead branches needing removal will be submitted in a ticket for city staff to do in the winter months.

Patricia Tuberty talked to Meridith with her questions about the Tuberty's grave marker. Meridith transferred Patricia to Eldon who told her to call Mary Evans. Patricia's 3 questions were about the quality of the concrete slab, was the grave marker tipping and the quality of the grass. Evans visited the Tuberty grave and determined the slab was sufficient, the marker was vertical and the quality of the grass was determined by the city deciding not to use weed and feed.

Discussion of burial services offered in Iowa

No discussion

Promoting and publicizing the cemetery

- Cemetery Walk on Sunday, September 20 was successful with 62 people in attendance. The mayor suggested having the walk be an annual event.
- Commission members chose their segments to narrate during the hour program for the LBC Speaker Series on October 29, 2026 titled Etched in Stone: Mount Vernon Cemetery, 1851-present

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E Evans