



**Department of Public Works**  
**CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS**  
Code of Ordinances- Article I, Chapter 2, Section 1

**SECTION 1**

- A. **FUNERALS AND INTERMENTS:** All funerals and interments within the cemetery grounds are under the direction of the Director of Public Works & Engineering.
- B. **NOTICE OF FUNERALS – LEAD TIME:** The Township shall be given a minimum of twenty-four (24) working hours advance notice from the time the exact location of the grave is given to prepare for the funeral. Working hours are defined as 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, not including holidays celebrated by the Township. Saturday funerals may be held with notice given 48 hours before the scheduled funeral with the payment of Saturday premium charges. Notice for Monday funerals must be given the previous Friday. Township personnel have the right to deny times and dates requested due to multiple funerals, weather, frost-in-ground conditions, burial lead-time requirements, outside contractor considerations, or other conditions which preclude compliance with requested funeral time.
- C. The Township will not assume responsibility for errors in opening graves when orders are given by telephone. Orders by undertakers for the opening of a grave will be construed as orders from the lot owner.
- D. **OUTSIDE CONTRACTORS:** If outside contractors are used in the course of funeral preparations or set-up, the cost incurred shall be paid for by the lot owner, his designee, or funeral home, in addition to normal cemetery charges.
- E. Ordinarily funerals will not be permitted on Sunday. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis by the Public Works Superintendent or his designee.
- F. Interment shall not be permitted until the lot is fully paid for or until satisfactory arrangements are made with the Township Clerk. A lot will be regarded as sold when it is fully paid for.
- G. All burials shall be in vaults or concrete rough boxes, except for cremations and infant burials in casket sizes 2 feet 6 inches or less.

**SECTION 2**

- A. **LANDSCAPE TREES AND SHRUBS:** The Township shall establish the grade of all lots and lawn, and shall direct all improvements with the grounds and upon all lots before as well as after interments. The Township reserves the right to approve plantings, plants, or remove any trees, plants or shrubs, etc.

- B. On monument lots; flowers may be planted only after the upright monument has been placed. Planting is permitted up to 10-inches in front of the monument.
- C. Shrubs shall have approval of the Township before being planted. Trees are prohibited.
- D. Grave blankets, wreaths and artificial flowers including easels may be maintained in the Cemetery between November 1 and March 31. If such decorations are not removed by April 1st, they will be disposed of by the Township personnel.
- E. Plantings may not encroach on adjacent lots owned by others or interfere with cemetery maintenance.
- F. Plantings with thorns are not permitted.
- G. The maintenance of the planted area is the responsibility of the plot owners. If the Township determines the flowerbed or plantings become unsightly, or interferes with cemetery maintenance, Township staff may mow, cut or remove said flowers or plantings.
- H. Cut flowers are permitted in a container approved by the Township from June 1 to August 30, and must be removed when they become unsightly.
- I. Each grave is allowed one flower container, which must be of a type approved by the Township. Flower cans/vases that are integrated as part of the monument/marker design are permitted and may have more than one.
- J. Flowers may not be planted (placed in dirt) in a flower container. Flowers planted in a flower container will be removed.
- K. Containers such as, but not limited to, glass jars, tin cans, buckets, etc. are not acceptable and will be removed by cemetery personnel without notice.
- L. One hanging plant holder (Shepherd's hook), is permitted per lot, and must not hold more than one hanging plant. The hanging plant holder (Shepherd's hook) must be made of metal, iron or steel and be of sufficient size to hold the hanging plant upright. The hanging plant holder must be placed in a manner that does not interfere with cemetery maintenance.

Cemetery personnel may move/remove holders that interfere with maintenance, or become damaged or unsightly. When possible the lot owner will be notified of the need for removal.

- M. Potted flowers and/or plants other than those on a hanging plant holder (Shepherd's hook) are allowed only on the following special holidays: Easter and Memorial Day. Potted flowers and/or plants may be placed on graves the Friday prior to the holiday and are allowed to remain for ten (10) days after the holiday. Cemetery personnel will discard potted flowers and plants that are not removed after ten (10) days.
- N. Absolutely no memorials including, but not limited to, candles, decorative flags, stuffed animals, balloons, vases, etc. are allowed. These will be removed and discarded by cemetery personnel without notice.
- O. Meridian Township reserves the right to maintain all grave sites including, but not limited to, filling and reseeding of settled areas.
- P. Veteran's and other service flags are allowed only during the Memorial Day period and only for ten days. (five days before and five days after Memorial Day). All other times flags must be in an approved flag holder.
- Q. No roping, curbing, fencing, hedging, borders or enclosures of any kind are allowed on any lot. No edging, brick walks, aluminum stripping, marble chips, cinders, tile, terracotta, sand, cement, gravel, wood or wood chips, etc. are allowed on any lot. The Township reserves the right to remove any of the above if erected or installed.
- R. Urns/planters are permitted and must be placed in line with the monuments as to not interfere with cemetery maintenance. The placement of urns/planters on any grave is subject to approval by the Township to assure there is adequate room for placement and that the urn/planter is made of concrete, clay or stone. No plastic urns/planters will be allowed.
- S. Any urn that has been damaged, not used or is deemed unsightly by the Township, may be removed by cemetery personnel. When possible, the owner will be notified of the removal.
- T. Urns that are retractable or that are part of the monument construction may be used.
- U. Planting of dwarf type bushes approved by the Township is permitted. Bushes may not encroach on adjacent plots owned by others or interfere with the maintenance of the cemetery. The diameter of the fully-grown bush should not be larger than the area of the monument/marker and the 10-inch planting area.

- V. The cemetery reserves the right to remove shrubbery or plantings that have been planted incorrectly, have overgrown, or are unsightly. When possible the lot owner will be notified of the need for removal. Otherwise, notification will consist of tagging the item and removal by cemetery personnel after ninety (90) days if not removed by owner.
- W. Any lot owner requesting removal of shrubs and/or trees shall contact the Public Works Superintendent and sign a Request/Release from Liability form before removal by cemetery personnel.

### SECTION 3

- A. **MARKERS AND MONUMENTS:** The maximum size of markers and monuments shall be limited as follows:

Markers for one grave – 24” long x 8” wide x 16” high with 32” x 14” base

Markers for two graves – 36” long x 12” wide x 16” high with 48” x 14” base.

**MONUMENTS:** Less than 5 adjacent graves owned, maximum size 36” long x 12” wide x 26” high. Five or more adjacent graves owned, maximum size 42” long x 12” wide x 26” high.

- B. The lot owner or designee shall incur the costs of moving a monument in order to permit a full burial on the grave in which the monument is located.
- C. The Township will assume no responsibility for damages in case of any stone being unintentionally chipped or marked in the regular course of lot care.
- D. All markers and monuments shall be installed under supervision of Township personnel.

### SECTION 4

- A. **GENERAL RULES:** Visitors will not be admitted after sunset.
- B. Dogs, cats, or other animals are not allowed in the cemetery.
- C. All persons shall abide by the 15 miles per hour speed limit while driving on any cemetery road. Vehicles shall not be driven off the established roads unless permission is given by Township personnel. Every person driving in the cemetery shall be responsible for any damage done by the vehicle.

## **SECTION 5**

- A. The Director of Public Works & Engineering and/or the Public Works Superintendent shall welcome information requests and suggestions for ground improvements.

## **SECTION 6**

- A. Contact the Department of Public Works at 853.4440 to discuss the purchase of burial sites. An appointment can be scheduled to select a site with the aid of cemetery personnel.

Prospective owners are urged to purchase burial spaces before the immediate need arises, when clear, unhurried judgement will insure a good choice. If possible, avoid the necessity of choosing burial spaces in the wintertime when the ground is covered with snow.