

## **ORDINANCE NO. 1222-04-20**

### **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 10.03 “CEMETERIES” IN THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES TO INCLUDE A DEFINITION FOR GREEN BURIALS ON BURIAL LOTS AND AMENDING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CEMETERY SUPERINTENDENT; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Hondo Cemetery Advisory Committee and City Council desires to maintain environmentally friendly practices within Hondo Cemeteries to further protect the health and safety of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds that the acceptance of green burials is environmentally safer than traditional burials; aids in the conservation of natural resources; reduces carbon emissions; protects cemetery workers health; and restores and/or preserves the natural habitat; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds that Green Burials are less expensive than traditional burials and would allow the city cemetery to better accommodate the religious beliefs and traditions of local residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the City now wishes to establish policies and procedures rules for Green Burials on burial lots located in the city cemeteries.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HONDO, THAT:**

#### **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.**

##### **A. Section 10.03.001 Definitions** is appended to include the following:

(c) “Green Burials” means caring for the dead with minimal environmental impact that aids in the conservation of natural resources, reduction of carbon emissions, protection of worker health, and the restoration and/or preservation of habitat. Green burials use non-toxic and biodegradable materials, such as caskets, shrouds and urns.

##### **B. Section 10.03.008 Superintendent** is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

- (a) The city manager shall designate a superintendent to supervise the daily operations of the Cemetery. The city manager shall establish policies and procedures prescribed by this article.
- (b) The policies and procedures for the Cemetery will ensure that all burials in the Cemetery are made in compliance with applicable Texas law. Such policies and procedures will also allow for Green Burials as well as other traditional burial practices.

**SECTION 2. INCORPORATION OF RECITALS.** The City Council finds the recitals in the preamble of this Ordinance are true and correct and incorporates them as findings of fact.

**SECTION 3. REPEALER.** All ordinances, parts of ordinances, or resolutions in conflict herewith are expressly repealed.

**SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY.** If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or illegal, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections of this Ordinance.

**SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This ordinance shall become effective upon the adoption of this ordinance.

**PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HONDO,  
TEXAS, THIS 13<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF April 2020.**



James W. Danner  
JAMES W. DANNER, SR., MAYOR

ATTEST:



MIGUEL CANTU  
CITY SECRETARY

