

Town of Bon Accord
AGENDA
Special Meeting of Council
July 22, 2026, at 2 p.m. in Council Chambers
Live Streamed on Bon Accord YouTube Channel

- 1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**
- 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
- 3. DELGATION**
 - 3.1.** Cindy Briggs – Cemetery Marker Request
- 4. NEW BUSINESS**
 - 4.1.** Cemetery Marker Request (enclosure)
- 5. ADJOURNMENT**

TOWN OF BON ACCORD
REQUEST FOR DECISION

Meeting:	Special Meeting of Council
Meeting Date:	July 22, 2026
Presented by:	Falon Fayant, Corporate Services Manager
Title:	Cemetery – Marker Request
Agenda Item No.	4.1

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL

Earlier in the meeting, Council heard from the delegation regarding a request to allow an upright marker in the old section (initial phase) of the cemetery. Bylaw 2025-07 was passed on September 16th, 2025, and Section 8.d. states that “All Markers must be flat (not exceeding the ground surface) or pillow markers; if a family is replacing a marker in-kind, they would be able to replace with the same type of marker previously there.

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

The previous Cemetery Bylaw permitted only flat or pillow markers in the original (initial phase) section of the cemetery, with a provision allowing upright markers upon written permission. Bylaw 2025-07 removed this discretionary provision to require only flat or pillow markers in that section.

The change was made to support more efficient grounds maintenance. Flat markers allow Public Works to mow more efficiently using standard equipment, whereas upright monuments require additional trimming and hand maintenance. As the Town operates a small municipal cemetery, rather than a larger private cemetery with specialized maintenance equipment, upright monuments can increase maintenance time and the potential for accidental damage. Although the Cemetery Bylaw states that the Town is not liable for damage to markers, reducing obstacles within the cemetery helps minimize this risk.

Council may wish to consider the following in determining whether to permit an upright marker or maintain the current bylaw requirements:

- The original section of the cemetery already contains a combination of flat, pillow, and upright markers installed under previous bylaws, contributing to the historical character of that section.
- Families may prefer upright monuments for personal, cultural, or traditional reasons, and permitting them may better accommodate those preferences.

- Maintaining the current bylaw ensures fair and consistent application of the regulations for all future interments and replacement markers.
- Granting an exception may create an expectation that similar requests will be approved in the future, making it more difficult to administer the bylaw consistently.
- While requiring flat markers supports the Town's long-term maintenance objectives, existing upright markers and seasonal decorations already require Public Works staff to perform manual trimming and maintenance in portions of the cemetery.
- Allowing additional upright markers could incrementally increase future maintenance requirements and the potential for accidental damage during grounds maintenance.
- If Council wishes to provide greater flexibility for future requests, it may wish to direct Administration to prepare an amendment to the Cemetery Bylaw establishing clear criteria for when upright markers may be permitted, rather than considering exceptions on a case-by-case basis.

Bylaw History

- Bylaw 2010-04 (passed March 2, 2010 – repealed): All markers were required to be flat, except in the original (initial phase) section of the cemetery.
- Bylaw 2011-08 (passed October 18, 2011 – repealed): Continued the same provisions as Bylaw 2010-04.
- Bylaw 2014-08 (passed December 16, 2014 – repealed): Required flat markers, permitted pillow markers in the original section, and allowed upright markers with written permission.
- Bylaw 2020-04 (passed March 17, 2020 – repealed): Continued the provisions of Bylaw 2014-08, including the discretionary approval for upright markers.
- Bylaw 2025-07 (passed September 16, 2025 – current bylaw): All markers must be flat (not exceeding ground surface) or pillow markers.

Administration reviewed publicly available cemetery regulations from municipal cemetery operators in the Edmonton region. Practices vary considerably. Some municipalities, such as the City of St. Albert, require flat markers only, while others, including the City of Edmonton, permit upright monuments in designated sections. Smaller municipalities often do not publish detailed cemetery regulations online, making direct comparisons difficult. As a result, marker requirements are generally established based on each municipality's operational needs, maintenance practices, and long-term cemetery planning.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Values Statement of **Stewardship**

- Administration and Council embody the responsible planning and management of our resources.

COSTS/SOURCES OF FUNDING

Operating budget for grounds maintenance.

RECOMMENDED ACTION (by originator)

Option 1:

THAT ... Council approve the delegation's request to permit the installation of an upright marker in the original (initial phase) of the Town Cemetery for this specific interment, and FURTHER direct administration to bring forward the Cemetery Bylaw to a future Committee of the Whole meeting for discussion regarding upright markers in the cemetery.

Option 2:

THAT...Council deny the delegation's request to permit the installation of an upright marker in the original (initial phase) section of the Town Cemetery and maintain the requirements of Cemetery Bylaw 2025-07.