

LAI-ON-THE-TABLE

Submitted by: Assembly Chair LaFrance
Assembly Member Cross
Prepared by: Assembly Counsel's Office
For reading: April 25, 2023

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AO No. 2023-___**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 27.40.010 TO ESTABLISH THE PROVISION OF MUNICIPAL CEMETERIES AS A POWER EXERCISED ON AN AREAWIDE BASIS.

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Memorial Park Cemetery is currently the only municipal cemetery in the Municipality of Anchorage, located in the City Service Area (the boundaries of what was formerly the City of Anchorage) created during the municipal unification process in 1975-1977; and

WHEREAS, cemetery services are currently expressly provided for in the Girdwood Valley Service Area (GVSA), codified in Anchorage Municipal Code section 27.30.020; and

WHEREAS, Anchorage area cemeteries are running out of room: the Anchorage Memorial Park Cemetery is anticipated to be at maximum capacity within five years; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan update of December 2006 identifies the development of community cemeteries as a public facilities priority; and

WHEREAS, the Girdwood Board of Supervisors and its Girdwood Cemetery Committee have invested significant time and effort to plan and advocate for the establishment of a cemetery in the Girdwood Valley area, including selection of land from Heritage Land Bank offerings, conducting an environmental study, and development of a multi-phase development plan with design and construction cost estimates; and

WHEREAS, the Chugiak Community Council, Eagle River Community Council, Eklutna Valley Community Council, and many residents of the Eagle River-Chugiak Park and Recreational Service Area (ERCPRSA) have expressed support for development of a municipal cemetery in the area; and

WHEREAS, the Chugiak-Eagle River Advisory Board, pursuant to AMC section 21.10.030, reviewed a site selection study and acknowledged the importance and need for a local cemetery at its May 19, 2021 meeting; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article X, section 11 of the Alaska Constitution and AS 29.35 the Municipality may exercise any power on an areawide basis not otherwise prohibited by law; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance would permit the municipality to submit to voters the question of whether to bond for the expense of constructing any new municipal cemetery; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance would permit the municipality to levy an areawide tax to fund the operations and maintenance of existing and future municipal cemeteries; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly desires to support the construction and maintenance of municipal cemeteries in the Girdwood and Eagle River areas in the near future, and provide for future cemetery needs in the Anchorage Bowl, by establishing cemetery services as an areawide power; now, therefore,

THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:

Section 1. The following powers may be exercised on an areawide basis:

27.40.010 Areawide powers, generally.

The following powers may be exercised on an areawide basis:

* * * * *

R. Municipal cemeteries.

(AO No. 78-148; AO No. 78-158(S); AO No. 81-96; AO No. 2013-64, § 2, 5-7-13; AO No. 2018-16 , § 1, 2-27-18; AO No. 2019-136 , § 1, 11-19-19)

Section 2. This ordinance shall be effective immediately upon passage and approval by the Assembly.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Chair

ATTEST:

Municipal Clerk

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