

WATSONTOWN BOROUGH CEMETERY

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. TITLE TO LOTS

- A. All deeds must be issued by the Watsontown Borough Office and be signed by the President of Borough Council and the Borough Secretary, and include the Borough Seal to be official.
- B. The rights of interment or title to a lot cannot be transferred to another party without surrender of the original deed or proof of ownership by the original parties, at which time a new deed or deeds will be prepared, at the expense of the parties involved.

2. INTERMENT

- A. All grave openings must be completed by Watsontown Borough employees or a contractor hired by the Borough to perform this task.
- B. No grave opening shall be started until proof of ownership or right to interment at the designated location is established to the satisfaction of the Borough Official in charge.
- C. No grave opening shall be started on any lot on which there is an unpaid balance on the purchase price until the amount due has been arranged for or guaranteed to the satisfaction of the Borough Official in charge.
- D. There is a limit of one (1) full burial and one (1) cremation per plot on existing or new plots but the full burial must occur first. There is a limit of four (4) cremations on new plots.
- E. The Watsontown Cemetery is a community owned and operated facility supported by local tax dollars. The requirement for burial fees will be as follows:
 - 1. For residents of Watsontown PA – No grave opening will be started until ordered space location designated and fee guaranteed by a Funeral Director or an individual. Fee is due and payable within 60 days from the date of the burial.
 - 2. For Non-residents of Watsontown PA – whose funeral is being conducted by a Funeral Director from the Borough of Watsontown. No grave opening will be started until ordered space location designated and fee guaranteed by the Funeral Director. Fee for burial is due and payable within 60 days from the date of the burial.

3. For Funeral Directors coming from outside the Borough of Watsontown, for burial, the fee is due and payable on the day of the burial. Exception: if the burial is being conducted for a resident of Watsontown Borough then the conditions of #1 above shall apply.
- F. At the time of burial the proper certificate for burial, the burial fee guarantee or the burial fee as outlined in D. above are due to the Borough of Watsontown.
- G. No grave opening will be started for anyone whose account is delinquent.
- H. A minimum of 48 hours notice before interment will be required. Bonafide extenuating circumstances can be considered by the Borough Official in charge if not of a regularly occurring nature.

3. VAULTS

- A. All burial vaults shall be of the design, type, construction and size approved by the Borough Official in charge. No wooden or fiberglass vaults shall be used.

4. MARKERS

- A. All markers are to be of the design, size, and type approved by the Watsontown Borough Officials and are to be placed in the location on the grave and in the manner prescribed by the Borough Officials or their agent. Only flush type markers will be permitted in the section of the Cemetery referred to as the "New Cemetery".
- B. For newly purchased plots there is a limit of one (1) marker, not to exceed 40" in width. For plots that already have one (1) marker in place, one (1) additional flush mount marker may be added. No plots shall have more than two (2) markers.
- C. Watsontown Cemetery will place all temporary and/or permanent foundations for headstones and grave stones and will bill the responsible parties. Payment is required within thirty (30) days after the date of the invoice. All stones must have a permanent foundation after burial and before lettering is complete. The Borough will bill foundation installation at a rate of .25 cents per square inch.
- D. All costs associated with Veteran's foundations are paid by the Borough of Watsontown
- E. The base for a double headstone installed after one opening shall be a temporary construction on the lot(s) indicated by the Borough agent in charge. Marker companies shall contact the Watsontown Borough office before proceeding with installation of markers.

- F. Watsontown Cemetery will not move headstones to make way for unusual or special requests. When a headstone needs to be moved to perform the digging and burial, in a normal situation, the headstone will be returned to its rightful position/location once the burial is complete. Unusual requests for moving several stones or monuments will not be permitted.
- G. Watsontown Cemetery reserves the right to determine how all bodies are to be buried and how the headstones and markers are to be placed. The basic burial policy shall be that all bodies are buried facing East and all stones shall be head markers facing the same direction as the other stones in that particular section of the cemetery.

5. BURIAL HOURS

- A. There will be no burial scheduled in the Watsontown Cemetery other than during the hours of 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM. Additional costs may be charged if the burial is started before 9:00 AM or after 2:30 PM.
- B. There will be NO burials on the following days: New Years Day, Good Friday, Easter, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

6. FUNERAL PROCESSIONS

- A. All funeral processions, upon entering the cemetery, shall be under the control and subject to the directions of the Borough Officials or their agents in charge.
- B. If police traffic control is required, it is to be made part of the grave opening request. If traffic control is not available as requested, the requester will be notified.

7. DISINTERMENTS

- A. No disinterment shall be made, except by Borough Employees, unless with written consent of the Borough of Watsontown and only upon written request of the present lot owner. The proper certificate as required by law, and the fee, in accordance with the grave opening fee schedule, must be furnished to the Borough of Watsontown before the disinterment is commenced.
- B. The party requesting the disinterment will assume the responsibility for making all arrangements, such as permits, undertaker, etc. and presenting said information to the Borough of Watsontown in a letter of intent.
- C. It will be the responsibility of the undertaker to remove remains from the grave site and be placed in such a manner as to be interred.
- D. The Borough of Watsontown will not be responsible for any part of the removal of, the transferal of, or the lowering of the remains at the new grave site.

8. PLANTINGS AND DECORATIONS

- A. No hedges, bushes, trees, or flowers or any other plant shall be planted or removed without the permission of the Borough of Watsontown or its agent. The Borough, when it deems necessary for the best interests of the cemetery shall have the right to prune, trim, treat, or remove all hedges, shrubs, trees, or other plants on lots.
- B. Because the cutting and trimming of grass is one of the largest and most costly of maintenance activities in the care of the cemetery, the following rules and regulations will be enforced:
 - 1. Plantings around markers are preferred with peat moss to prevent the growth of grass and weeds .The use of decorative stones or gravel is prohibited. Potted growing plants will be permitted. Natural cut flowers in suitable containers will be permitted at any time and will be removed when wilted.
 - 2. No direct plantings of any kind will be permitted in the New Cemetery.
 - 3. The placing of cement boxes, planters, or statuary, metal designs, glass, or plastic blocks, wooden decorations, settle rods, or wire will not be permitted. The placement of flags and banners in the cemetery is limited to flags or banners no larger than 18 inches by 12 inches.
 - 4. No more than three (3) items per marker shall be permitted. No item shall weigh more than thirty (30) pounds. Any items beyond three (3) per marker or in excess of thirty (30) pounds will be removed by the Borough of Watsontown.
 - 5. Artificial flowers, imitation plants, ribbons, styrofoam designs, natural and artificial wreaths and similar decorations will be permitted from November 1st to April 1st only. All of the winter decorations must be removed by April 1st or they will be removed and disposed of by the Watsontown Borough.
 - 6. The Borough of Watsontown shall have the right to remove any and all floral designs, flowers, trees, evergreens, and plants of any kind from the cemetery, if, in the judgment of the Borough Official in charge, they do not conform to the above rules and regulations as adopted by the Watsontown Borough.

9. HOURS OF OPERATION

- A. The Watsontown Borough Cemetery is closed to visitors from Dusk to Dawn

10. FEE SCHEDULE

Burial Lots	\$400 per space
Grave opening fee Monday-Friday	\$700
Grave opening fee Weekends	\$900
Grave opening fee for Baby Graves (less than 41") Monday - Friday	\$150
Grave opening fee for Baby Graves on Weekends	\$300
Grave opening fee for Cremation Monday-Friday	\$300
Grave opening fee for Cremation on Weekends	\$450
Grave opening fee for double Cremation	\$50 additional
Grave opening fee for Cremation with vault Monday-Friday	\$450
Grave opening fee for Cremation with vault Weekends	\$600

- Fees revised by vote of Borough Council on December 12, 2022