

ORDINANCE NO. 2648
CITY OF BOGALUSA
MAY 4, 2021
DATE

The following Ordinance was offered for by Councilwoman Graham and seconded by
Councilwoman Kates.

ORDINANCE

AN AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE 2631 AND EXCEPTION TO ORDINANCE NO. 2511 AND PERTAINING TO UNDERGROUND BURIALS; DEPTH IN THE BOGALUSA CEMETERY AND THE PONEMAH CEMETERY (OPTION OF BURIAL ON PERSONAL PROPERTY OF FUNERAL PLOTS PURCHASED PRIOR TO 2017).

WHEREAS, according to the Bogalusa Charter Section 2:13 will adopt an ordinance pertaining to Ordinances No. 2511, 2563, 2631 pertaining to underground burials; depth in the Bogalusa Cemetery and the Ponemah Cemetery and burial work; and

Whereas, due to the flooding issues in 2016, Ordinance No. 2511 entitled "An Ordinance pertaining to underground burials: depth in the Bogalusa Cemetery and the Ponemah Cemetery dated February 21, 2017 was adopted in order to deter increase the risk of vaults at or above ground level to float off or flip over during floods, also to implement gravestone and cemetery preservation; and

Whereas, The families or responsible parties has a need and right to proceed in the burial of their love ones in peace. Therefore, it has been determined families or responsible parties who has purchased personal property of funeral/cemetery plots prior to February 2017, are to decide upon and has the sole choice or option to bury their love one (s) in the Bogalusa or Ponemah Cemeteries, to be effective immediately. This option of burial will not hold the City of Bogalusa liable; and

Whereas, In such status, they are "Grandfathered in" to construct single or multiple above ground burial vaults, or cement, concrete or granite slabs, or tombs holding more than one family member on top or below ground, or mausoleums as the many examples if the family or responsible party choices such option; and.

WHEREAS, as advised by the Attorney General's Office, suspicion requiring families to break cement or concrete or granite slabs that they have already poured in Bogalusa Cemetery or Ponemah Cemetery prior to the passage of the law requiring in-ground burials would be prohibited ;and.

BURIAL WORK

WHEREAS, In all burials rather underground or on top, the sexton or digger provided by the Funeral Home or the Family or Private contractor shall be responsible to leave the Bogalusa Cemetery and Ponemah Cemetery in a neat, tidy, and responsible appearance; and

WHEREAS, The sexton or digger provided by the Funeral Home or family or private contractor will remove all excessive dirt ; and

WHEREAS, Those persons opening and closing graves are to exercise caution not to damage adjoining by nearby graves or monuments of others; and

WHEREAS, All burial work must be done in compliance with applicable local and state governmental laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, Violations of burial work will be \$500.00 to the sexton or digger which may be provided by the Funeral Home or the family or Private contractor; and

WHEREAS, The City of Bogalusa Public Works Department has the authority to enforce this proposed Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, The City of Bogalusa recognizes that the Bogalusa Cemetery and the Ponemah Cemetery are sacred grounds reserved as a final resting place for the deceased. It is the desire of the City that these cemeteries are maintained beautifully and dignified as a final resting place for departed loved ones; and


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, families or responsible party are to decide upon the option of burial on their personal property of funeral/cemetery plots purchased prior to February 2017. These cemetery plot (s) are "Grandfathered in" and such option of burial will not hold the City of Bogalusa Liable. Burial Work should adhere to the provisions of this article.

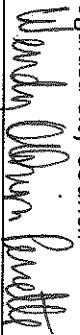
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any and all ordinances, and/or parts of ordinances to conflict herewith are hereby repealed. This ordinance is effective when passed by the Council and signed by the Mayor. If not signed by the Mayor, then it is effective as provided for in the Bogalusa City Charter.

WHEREUPON, The above and foregoing having been submitted to a vote, on this, the 4th day of May, 2021, the vote thereupon resulted as follows:

Member	AYE	NAY	Absent	Abstain
Teddy Drummond, At Large	X			
Penny Douglas, At Large	X			
Gloria Kates, District A	X			
Danielle Keys, District B	X			
Oneida Graham, District C	X			
Kenny Kellis, District D	X			
Mark Irvine, District E	X			

And the Ordinance was declared adopted at a public meeting held on this the 4th day of May, 2021


Danielle Keys, President
Bogalusa City Council


Wendy O'Quin Perrette, Mayor
City of Bogalusa, Louisiana

ATTEST:


Brenda Ford, City Council Secretary