

Business Impact Estimate

This form should be included in the agenda packet for the item under which the proposed ordinance is to be considered and must be posted on the City's website by the time notice of the proposed ordinance is published.

Proposed ordinance's title/reference: **Ordinance No. 2024-510**

An ordinance of the City of Gainesville, Florida, amending Chapter 7 – Cemeteries Sections 7-1, 7-2, 7-5, 7-6, 7-7, 7-11, 7-12, 7-13, 7-16, 7-17, 7-18 and 7-20 to make certain revisions and additions, including to the definitions, provide for natural burials and a pet cemetery, revise rules for disposition and use of cemetery revenues, revise rules for burials, installations, vaults, monuments, memorials, mausoleums, and conduct, and to make other revisions; and providing directions to the codifier; providing a severability clause; providing a repealing clause; and providing an immediate effective date.

This Business Impact Estimate is provided in accordance with Section 166.041(4), Florida Statutes. If one or more boxes are checked below, this means the City is of the view that a business impact estimate is not required by state law¹ for the proposed ordinance, but the City is, nevertheless, providing this Business Impact Estimate as a courtesy and to avoid any procedural issues that could impact the enactment of the proposed ordinance. This Business Impact Estimate may be revised following its initial posting.

- The proposed ordinance is required for compliance with Federal or State law or regulation;
- The proposed ordinance relates to the issuance or refinancing of debt;
- The proposed ordinance relates to the adoption of budgets or budget amendments, including revenue sources necessary to fund the budget;
- The proposed ordinance is required to implement a contract or an agreement, including, but not limited to, any Federal, State, local, or private grant or other financial assistance accepted by the municipal government;
- The proposed ordinance is an emergency ordinance;
- The ordinance relates to procurement; or
- The proposed ordinance is enacted to implement the following:
 - a. Part II of Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, relating to growth policy, county and municipal planning, and land development regulation, including zoning, development orders, development agreements and development permits;
 - b. Sections 190.005 and 190.046, Florida Statutes, regarding community development districts;

¹ See Section 166.041(4)(c), Florida Statutes.

- c. Section 553.73, Florida Statutes, relating to the Florida Building Code; or
- d. Section 633.202, Florida Statutes, relating to the Florida Fire Prevention Code.

In accordance with the provisions of controlling law, even notwithstanding the fact that an exemption noted above may apply, the City hereby publishes the following information:

1. Summary of the proposed ordinance (must include a statement of the public purpose, such as serving the public health, safety, morals, and welfare):

The proposed ordinance will allow for both natural burials and pet burials at Evergreen Cemetery, while also permitting larger headstones and statuary that are in keeping with the historic character of the cemetery. This change aligns with the existing monuments and will help preserve the cemetery's aesthetic and cultural significance.

These updates are expected to have a positive impact on the local community. Monument companies will have the opportunity to sell taller headstones and statuary, potentially boosting their business. Local funeral homes may see an increase in sales by offering a wider range of burial options to families. Additionally, veterinarians and pet funeral homes will be able to refer clients to Evergreen for pet burials, expanding their services beyond cremation.

Overall, the proposed ordinance supports both historical preservation and modern burial practices, benefiting families, businesses, and the broader community.

2. An estimate of the direct economic impact of the proposed ordinance on private, for-profit businesses in the City, if any:

(a) An estimate of direct compliance costs that businesses may reasonably incur;

No compliance costs will be incurred.

(b) Any new charge or fee imposed by the proposed ordinance or for which businesses will be financially responsible; and

None

(c) An estimate of the City's regulatory costs, including estimated revenues from any new charges or fees to cover such costs.

The proposed ordinance change will not affect regulatory costs or fees.

3. Good faith estimate of the number of businesses likely to be impacted by the proposed ordinance:

Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery (a non-profit) is the only cemetery offering green burials in our community. The Green Council sets the standards for this level of land conservation and burials. Although offering natural burials at Evergreen may have some effect on Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery, since Evergreen Cemetery is a hybrid cemetery it cannot provide green burials (only natural burials), so the anticipated impact will be minimal, if any.

Traditional lots at Evergreen Cemetery (4' x 8') cost \$1,873 plus opening/closing of \$564 or \$753. Recommended price for Green Burial lots (5' x 10') is \$2,700 plus opening/closing fee \$564 or \$753.

Recommended price for pet cemetery lots (3' x 3') is \$250 and includes the opening/closing for pet cremains. Opening/closing for natural burial of pets is \$189.

4. Additional information the governing body deems useful (if any):

[You may wish to include in this section the methodology or data used to prepare the Business Impact Estimate. For example: [City/Town/Village] staff solicited comments from businesses in the [City/Town/Village] as to the potential impact of the proposed ordinance by contacting the chamber of commerce, social media posting, direct mail or direct email, posting on [City/Town/Village] website, public workshop, etc. You may also wish to include efforts made to reduce the potential fiscal impact on businesses. You may also wish to state here that the proposed ordinance is a generally applicable ordinance that applies to all persons similarly situated (individuals as well as businesses) and, therefore, the proposed ordinance does not affect only businesses].

Currently, Evergreen Cemetery has lots owned by both businesses—such as funeral homes and churches—as well as private individuals, many of whom have deep family histories associated with the cemetery. Under the existing regulations, lot owners who wish to have a natural burial must either choose a different cemetery or change their burial plans to comply with municipal requirements.

The proposed ordinance would address this issue by giving lot owners the flexibility to select their preferred burial method, whether traditional, cremation, or natural burial, while remaining at Evergreen alongside their family members who are already interred there.

Additionally, the ordinance would allow for the installation of taller headstones and statuary, creating an opportunity for families to personalize memorials while enhancing the beauty and historical significance of the cemetery.

The ordinance would also introduce provisions for pet memorialization, which aligns with national cemetery trends and increasing public demand for these services.

This change is designed to apply equally to both individuals and businesses, ensuring equitable access and modernizing our cemetery in line with current needs and preferences, while maintaining the integrity of its historic landscape.