

# Regarding Chapter 22 - Cemeteries (Section 22-6) of the City of Bryan Code of Ordinances as it Relates to Benches

**City Council Workshop**  
**Tuesday, June 9, 2026**



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## Current Ordinance

Section 22-6 (c) states:

“No benches shall be permitted in cemeteries without the written permission of the city manager or his or her delegate. Benches may only be placed on a space that has been purchased from the city. Benches must be entirely constructed of natural stone or metal and supplied by a monument company or otherwise approved installer.”



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# Metal Benches

## ○ Maintenance Issues:

- Increased landscape maintenance requirements
- Grave digging and funeral services affected
- Associated long-term contractual maintenance costs

## ○ Safety/Care of Resources:

- Unlevel grades/pavers leading to stability issues
- Sharp/jagged edges, rusting components, light-weight material
- Visitors utilizing benches belonging to adjacent property owners
- Damage to City infrastructure (light poles/water valves/trash receptacles)

## ○ Additional Administrative Concerns:

- Encroachment on adjacent properties (private and City-owned)
- Exposure to liability claims (damage caused by City contractors)
- Permit review/approvals (requires staff to make subjective decisions)
- Future operational issues once full capacity is reached



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# Increased Landscape Maintenance Requirements



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# Safety Concerns



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# Inadequate Bench Foundations



# Wind-Blown Benches



# Adjacent Property Encroachment Issues



# Concerns Once At Full Capacity



# **Bryan Cemetery Advisory Board Recommendation**

**April 22, 2026 Meeting**

**Amend ordinance to immediately not allow benches to be installed beginning in Block 27 and beyond unless constructed of natural stone**

**PLUS**

**Amend ordinance to establish a “sunset” date on all existing benches not constructed of natural stone to be removed throughout cemetery effective six (6) months after approval by City Council**



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# Examples of Existing Stone Benches



# City Council Direction

- 1. Amend the ordinance as proposed**
  - a) Immediately: do not allow metal benches beginning in Block 27
  - b) 6 Months: remove all benches not constructed of natural stone
  - c) Note: requires City Council approval
  
- 2. Do not amend the ordinance**
  - a) Allow natural stone or metal benches
  - b) Note: no further direction or action needed
  
- 3. Provide other direction**
  - a) Example: strictly enforce current ordinance as specifically written



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