



CLAY STREET CEMETERY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA – JULY 5, 2023, 5:00pm
HELD VIA [ZOOM WEBINAR](#) AND
IN FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA



-
1. CALL TO ORDER
 2. ROLL CALL
 3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
 - a) Regular Meeting Minutes of June 7, 2023
 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 5. CITIZENS COMMENTS
 6. COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION
 7. EVENTS & PUBLIC RELATIONS
 8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - a) Sample Sign Layout
 - b) Update on Quiring Monument Orders
 - c) Report on Air Force Volunteers Work Day 6/8/23
 - d) Dandelions
 - e) Ants
 - f) PVC Crosses
 9. NEW BUSINESS
 - a) Reimbursements
 - i. A. Kilbourn. Total reimbursement of \$125.88 for three purchases:
 1. \$59.96 for two garden edgers (\$39.98/ea). Home Depot 6/8/23.
 2. \$39.96 for two shovels (\$19.98/ea). Home Depot 6/8/23.
 3. \$25.96 for concrete crack sealant. AIH. 6/13/23.
 10. REFERENCE MATERIALS
 - a) June 2023 Room Rental Tax Balance Report
 - b) June 2023 Capital Projects Fund Balance Report
 11. OPEN AGENDA
 12. NEXT MEETING DATE – August 2, 2023
 13. ADJOURNMENT



CLAY STREET CEMETERY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 7, 2023
HELD VIA [ZOOM WEBINAR](#) AND
IN FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA



The **Clay Street Cemetery Commission** convened at 5:05 p.m. on the above date to conduct a Regular Meeting at the City Council Chambers, 800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, Alaska, and via teleconference with **Chair Aldean Kilbourn (Seat C)** and with the following members in attendance:

Members Present: George Dalton, Seat A
 Janet Richardson, Seat D
 Amy Stratman, Seat G

Absent: Michael Gibson, Seat B
 Julie Jones, Seat E (Excused)
 Karen Erickson, Seat F
 Jeff Jacobson, Public Works Director

Also Present: D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk
 Colt Chase, Deputy City Clerk

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting Minutes of May 3, 2023

G. Dalton, seconded by **J. Richardson**, moved to APPROVE the meeting minutes.

Chair Kilbourn provided a correction to the minutes. She stated that the spelling of the name recorded as “Beauchene” should be “Vachon” (2 occurrences).

Chair Kilbourn took a voice vote on the motion to APPROVE the minutes, pending the aforementioned spelling correction, and all members voted in favor.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Kilbourn added new items to the agenda:

- (e) to Unfinished Business – Dandelions.
- Under (c) of New Business – Add to item i. the additional reimbursement for J. Richardson of \$10.48 for marking paint.
- (d) to New Business – GPR Completion and Bill for \$700
- (e) to New Business – Update to Clay Street Cemetery Map and Database
- (f) to New Business – Ants

J. Richardson, seconded by **A. Stratman**, moved to APPROVE the agenda, as Amended.

Chair Kilbourn took a voice vote on the motion to APPROVE the Agenda, as Amended, and all members voted in favor.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS – None

COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION – None

EVENTS & PUBLIC RELATIONS – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Sample Sign Layout

Chair Kilbourn referenced the previous discussion regarding adding more information about Tolovana but stated she does not believe anything more has transpired on this matter as J. Jones has been quite busy. She stated the Commission can revisit the item at the next meeting.

b) Update on Quiring Monument Orders

Chair Kilbourn stated that without J. Jacobson present, she is unsure of the status on the outstanding order(s) and that members only know what has been delivered.

Clerk Snider stated she is also unsure of the status of the order(s). She reported that the Clerk's Office received one invoice for a single marker but is expecting some heavier invoices.

J. Richardson stated there should be one big order and one for just two markers with the last name Johnson.

Chair Kilbourn stated she believes that Quiring Monuments is waiting for engraving materials to arrive. She stated that the orders had already been approved, but she has not heard that they have actually created them. She mentioned that the orders take a while as they come from China.

Clerk Snider reported that the Clerk's Office has not received an invoice for the recent large order that was delivered.

Chair Kilbourn recommended that the Clerk's Office reach out to J. Jones, as she has the best record of the orders.

c) Report on Memorial Day Clean Up

Chair Kilbourn stated that the clean-up day was awesome. She reported that there were a few Pioneers in attendance and some individuals from the Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation (FEDC). She stated she learned some interesting historical information from one of the volunteers, and there was a great turnout.

J. Richardson mentioned that it was very helpful that Public Works had cleared all the leaves prior to the event.

d) Report on Tour of Cemetery 5/23/23

Chair Kilbourn recalled that approximately 17 individuals attended the tour – not many from the Fairbanks Genealogical Society, but several people from the community. She shared that two different people wanted information that they [Commission] were able to help provide. **A. Stratman** stated there were actually more than two people. She stated that several people on Facebook had inquired about a relative in an unknown

plot. She expressed hope that maybe one day the Commission will be able to determine where the individuals are buried. **Chair Kilbourn** stated that, overall, it was a good tour and a great turnout.

e) Dandelions

J. Richardson recapped her conversation with Alex Lexa from Public Works about his efforts and plans. She stated he had applied “weed and feed” product once the previous year, closer to the end of summer. She reported that he had planned to mow earlier in the day. She relayed that Public Works plans to apply the “weed and feed” product to mitigate dandelions soon but needs to do so close to a time when there will be rain for the product to be most effective. **Chair Kilbourn** confirmed the need to wait for rain.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Delivery of Markers

Chair Kilbourn stated that with J. Jacobson and J. Jones not in attendance and Clerk Snider not having received any recent invoices, she believes that the headstone company is still waiting on materials in order to make the markers and fulfil the order.

b) Setting Markers

Chair Kilbourn stated that thanks to the Mayor, eight volunteers from the Air Force will come out the following day to help with setting markers and she hoped that members present would be able to help. She stated that she and J. Richardson went out and marked about 40 holes where they will need to dig and, if they can get all those holes dug and filled with gravel and pads brought out and placed, that would be a huge help as those tasks are some of the hardest. She stated she is crossing her fingers that the project the following day will be a success.

c) Reimbursements

G. Dalton, seconded by **A. Stratman**, moved to APPROVE the reimbursement to J. Richardson in the amount of \$54.42 for the purchase of tarps to cover the headstones (\$43.94) and marking paint to identify locations for holes that needed dug (\$10.48).

Chair Kilbourn took a voice vote on the motion to APPROVE the reimbursement, and all members voted in favor.

J. Richardson, seconded by **G. Dalton**, moved to APPROVE the reimbursement to A. Stratman in the amount of \$15.50 for the purchase of a research document for a headstone (naturalization paper for Charles deGregori). **Chair Kilbourn** noted that A. Stratman had shared that she will have to contact the county which provided the document as what she received was not correct.

Chair Kilbourn took a voice vote on the motion to APPROVE the reimbursement, and all members voted in favor.

Chair Kilbourn noted that both reimbursements and the GPR bill should come from bed tax funds.

d) GPR Completion and Bill for \$700

Chair Kilbourn reported that she provided Deputy Clerk Chase a bill for \$700 for the GPR service recently performed to identify four markers in the “Oddfellows,” which allowed them to assign 4 people into 4 graves (previously had 4 names in 1 grave). She indicated that was a big improvement. She stated that most of the Pioneers were there and, although there are still nine unknowns, they were able to at least identify that someone was buried there. She stated that the expenditure had been previously approved for up to three hours of GPR service but only two hours were needed.

e) Update to Clay Street Cemetery Map and Database

J. Richardson reported that the previous day they completed all the GPR and she was able to number all the Pioneer plots. She reported that she emailed City Surveyor Henry Irving who will now come out and GPS mark each plot. She stated that he did that the last couple years, minus the Pioneer section, which he will now be able to complete so he can make new maps. She stated that she anticipates the project will be completed by the end of July, at which time the Commission will laminate and place the updated maps.

f) Ants

Chair Kilbourn reported how bad the ant problem has become at the cemetery. She expressed hope that J. Jacobson could be made aware. **J. Richardson** stated that for many years there was hardly any issue with ants. She stated that the last year or two has been bad, but this year is far worse than ever. She reported that there are black carpenter ants all over the trees, on every grave, and all over the ground, and she expressed concern about the ants killing the trees. She stated that the ants are likely eating away at wood coffins in the ground. **G. Dalton** offered a humorous solution of investing in an aardvark; Clerk Snider asked for clarification that G. Dalton was volunteering to care for the aardvark in the interim.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

a) May 2023 Room Rental Tax Balance Report

Chair Kilbourn noted for everyone’s understanding that the difference between the donation for Peter Conley (\$300) and the expense for his marker (\$250) is to account for the additional expense of concrete slab, pea gravel, and other supplies needed for installation. Additionally, regarding the PVC crosses being made by Public Works to be used to mark unknown graves, **Chair Kilbourn** expressed preference to get any of the crosses they can, whenever they are available, to begin installation. She stated that the Commission does not need to wait for the entire batch to be finished to begin installation. She asked if anyone had comments on the balance report.

Clerk Snider stated that she and Deputy Clerk Chase could follow up with J. Jacobson to share what had been discussed about the crosses and the concern with the ants.

b) May 2023 Capital Projects Fund Balance Report

Chair Kilbourn reported that the current capital projects account balance is \$9,314.27. She stated she was unsure about the accuracy of the balance as she believed that some of the marker orders were still unaccounted for as far as fund reporting. Clerk Snider stated that she will check to determine the status on any orders so that any encumbered funds from the Capital Projects account could be notated at the next meeting.

OPEN AGENDA

J. Richardson asked when the Commission would like to ask J. Jones to place the next marker order. **Chair Kilbourn** responded that they should wait until they know for sure about the fund balances so they can order accordingly. Members discussed past success in following their budget with bed tax funds and agreed to hold off on another order until they have more information about the fund balance. **A. Stratman** shared that she has quite a bit of research done and a list of names that is nearly ready.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Chair Kilbourn asked if there were any issues with the next scheduled meeting of July 5, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. Deputy Clerk Chase confirmed there are no issues from the City's end with that date.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kilbourn declared the meeting ADJOURNED at 5:26 p.m.

Aldean Kilbourn, Chair

Colt Chase, Deputy City Clerk

Transcribed by: CC

FOR CLAY STREET CEMETERY COMMISSION 7/5/23 MEETING
COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION

From Tom Martellone, Great Nephew of Liberta Saivetto Murphy who we placed a stone for a few weeks ago:

Janet,

I cannot thank you enough on behalf of my family for putting a memorial in place for my great great grand aunt. I have reached out to her granddaughter to let her know about the tombstone. Your work in putting stones in place not only helps memorialize our family member's existence, but it also provides information for generations to come and future genealogists. For that, we are extremely grateful. Please pass our thanks along to all parties involved that helped make this happen!

From Donna Fraser, descendent of the Vachon Family who we placed stones for a few weeks ago, I sent her pictures of the markers, 5 family members. Family members

You all need to give yourselves a big pat on the back, everyone who has had a part in all of this have done a fabulous job! Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart!



City of Fairbanks

June 26 at 11:09 AM · 🌐



Check out the recent activity at the Clay Street Cemetery! The following report was provided by Aldean Kilbourn, Chair of the Clay Street Cemetery Commission.

"On May 23rd, three members of the Clay Street Cemetery Commission (CSCC), who also serve as officers in the Fairbanks Genealogical Society, gave another historical grave tour. Amy Stratman, Janet Richardson, and Aldean Kilbourn led a large group of attendees, many of whom had never visited the Clay Street Cemetery.

The exact location of the burial plots for the circles in the Catholic section around the cross have been lost for many years. Ground Penetrating Radar confirmed the burial plots of some 40 people in the summer of 2021. That same year, the city surveyor plotted the GPS of each plot, and the plots were temporarily marked with cinder blocks. After much research on each individual by the CSCC, new headstones were ordered. Fast forward to spring 2023 and these new headstones arrived, ready to be placed.

On Thursday, June 8, 2023, with the help of volunteers from the 168th Fabrication Element, Alaska Air National Guard - Eielson Air Force, the Clay Street Cemetery Commission placed the 47 new headstones in and around the flagpole and large cross.

The men and women volunteers helping at the cemetery displayed the Air National Guard's core values. An excellent job was done, swiftly, with pride, and with quality work. Each and every person volunteering showed interest in the cemetery and those who are buried beneath. The history of the cemetery was exemplified by these volunteers' work; skillfully digging the holes, strengthening the bases, setting and gluing the 47 headstones of our pioneers.

Five of these markers belonged to the Vachon family. In the early 1900s, Peter Vachon operated trading posts here in Fairbanks, while his brother John and family ran the trading post in Tolovana and another brother Andrew, ran the trading post in Tanana.

The Clay Street Cemetery Commission performs research on individuals noted to be buried in the cemetery, including how they lived, how they died and how they contributed to the history of Fairbanks. Their names are remembered along with their death dates and maybe even the cause of death. Their headstones may have been lost to time or the big flood in '67. They may never have even had a headstone. But they are a part of this city and the history of Interior Alaska, whether they were born here or not. Those buried in this special cemetery represent a wide variety of occupations. They might have come from many corners of the Earth or have deep roots in Alaska. Each person has a story that is unique, and they are all part of our Fairbanks history."





+4

159

13 comments 30 shares

Love

Comment

Share



All comments



Write a comment...



You're commenting as Colt Chase. To interact as City of Fairbanks, go to Meta Business Suite .



Amy Stratman

I'd love to see the photo the Mayor took of the entire crew!

Like Reply 2d



Colt Chase

David Pruhs Do you have that saved somewhere? Would love to share!

Like Reply 1d



Emily Braniff

Way to go Aldean Kilbourn and crew! Thank you for your dedication to our community

Like Reply 2d



Dusty Spencer
David Pruhs





 You're commenting as Coit Chase. To interact as City of Fairbanks, go to Meta Business Suite .



Robyn Russell

Great work! Many thanks to all involved.

Like Reply 2d



Sharon Pauley

A great labor of love of history and respect for those who came before. Remarkable accomplishment!

Like Reply 1d



Ronda Benish Shepard

Awesome 🍷

Like Reply 2d



Aprilmae Schwartzwald Schumacher

One of my favorite places.

Like Reply 2d




Mike Brase

Great work **Aldean!** I remember you telling us about this project - nice to see such progress 🤙

Like Reply 2d



Libby Dalton Slane

Thank you!!! 

Like Reply 1d



Pat McGraw

Way cool!!

Like Reply 2d



Nicholas Fountain

Ray Allen

Like Reply 22h



Dusty Spencer

168th Wing, Alaska Air National Guard

Like Reply 1d

Write a comment...



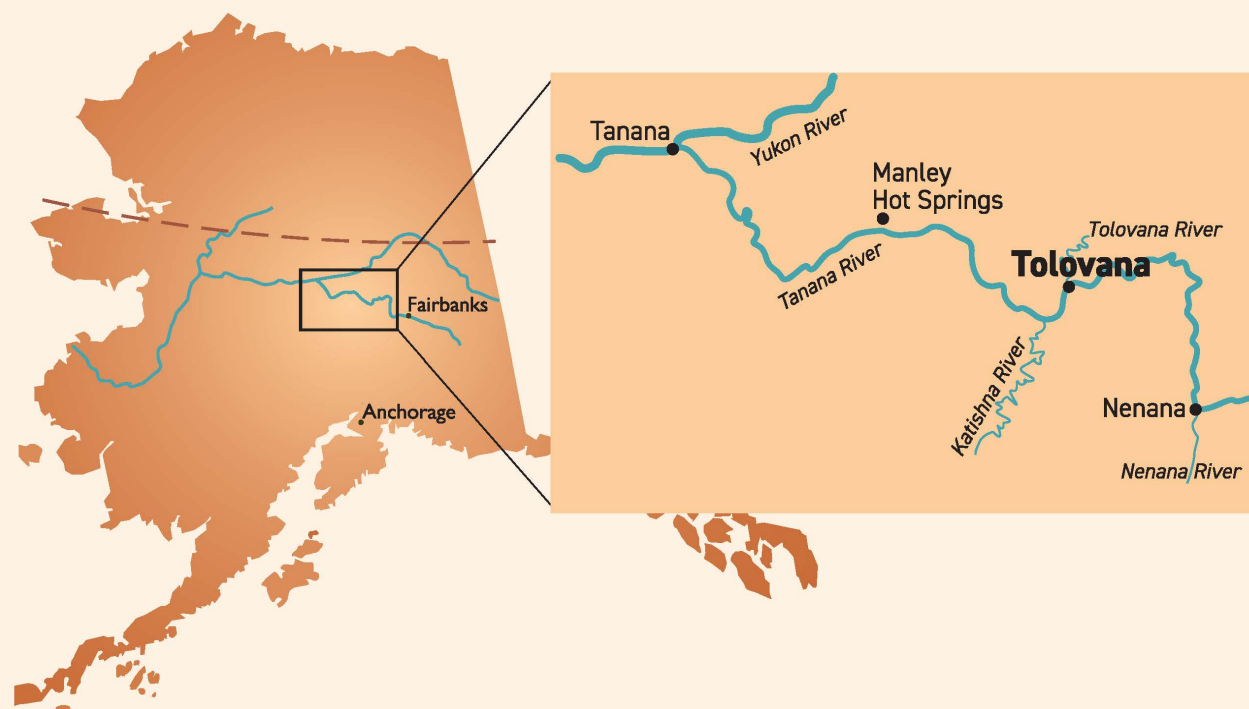


Photo Credit: Susan Cottnair Swan Collection



Photo Credit: Sister Mary Louise Vachon

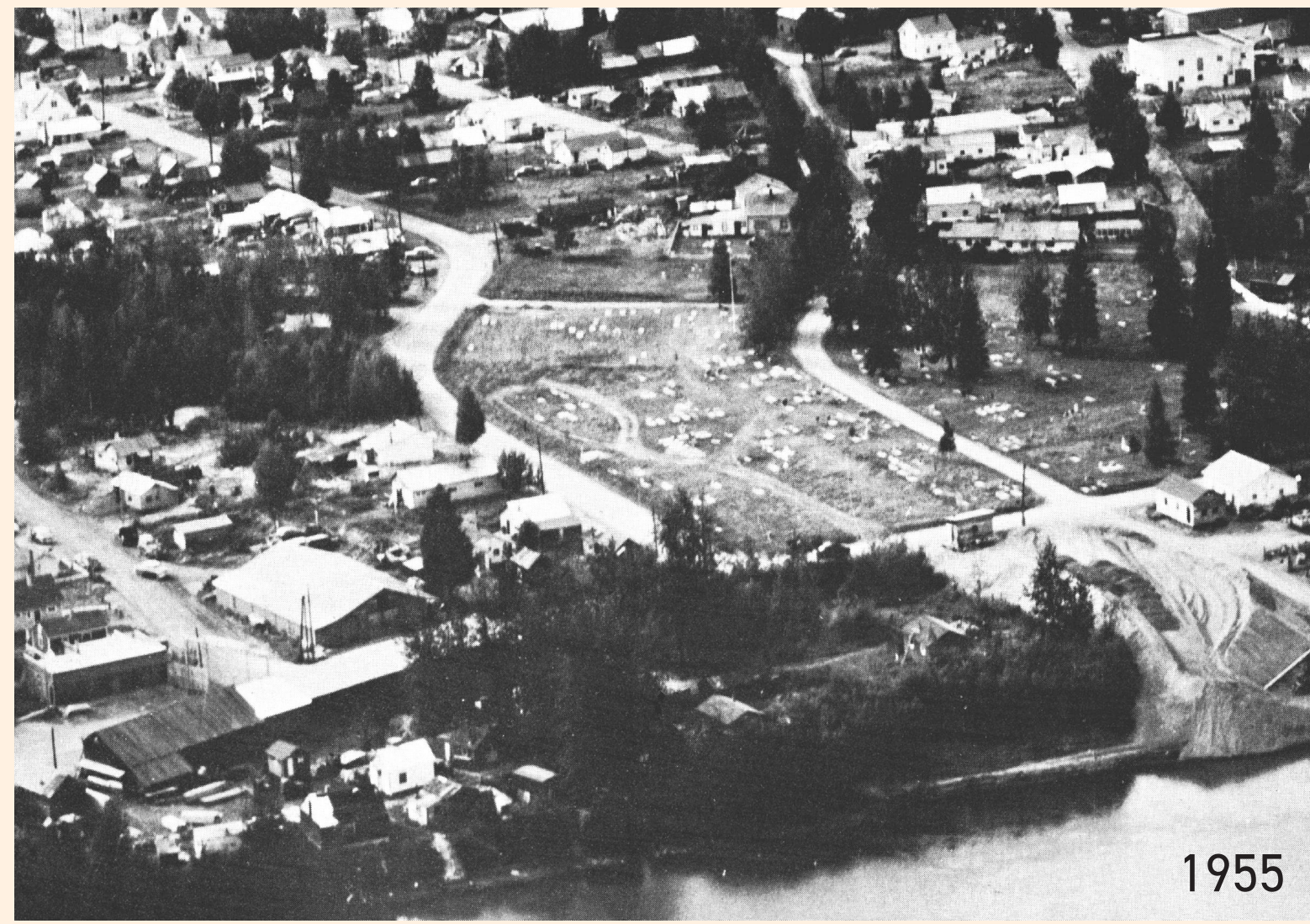
The photos depicted here (circa 1920) are of the single grave of the 3 children prior to the numerous Chena River floods that destroyed much of the cemetery.



William "John" and Louise Vachon, with their children, Hayden, James, Mary and Margaret, leave Dawson City, Yukon Territory in July 1910 and travel to Tolovana in the territory of Alaska where John joins his brothers, Peter and Andrew, as a partner in the Tanana Commercial Company, running the Tolovana Roadhouse.

On November 15, 1910, the two story store and living quarters catches fire; while Louise escapes and John manages to rescue Hayden, the other 3 children parish.





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CLAY STREET CEMETERY

EFF DATE	VENDOR NAME	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
02/01/22	CITY OF FAIRBANKS BED TAX	CLAY ST CEMETERY BED TAX	\$ 8,710.00	\$ 11,289.04
06/06/22	JANET RICHARDSON	REIMBURSE FOR CLAY ST CEMETERY	\$ (56.91)	\$ 11,232.13
06/06/22	JANET RICHARDSON	REIMBURSE FOR CLAY ST CEMETERY	\$ (33.58)	\$ 11,198.55
07/21/22	ALDEAN KILBOURN	REIMBURSE FOR CLAY ST CEMETERY	\$ (11.98)	\$ 11,186.57
07/21/22	ALDEAN KILBOURN	REIMBURSE FOR CLAY ST CEMETERY	\$ (17.16)	\$ 11,169.41
07/21/22	ALDEAN KILBOURN	REIMBURSE FOR CLAY ST CEMETERY	\$ (34.24)	\$ 11,135.17
07/21/22	LAHONTAN GEOLOGICAL	CLAY ST GPR SERVICES	\$ (2,100.00)	\$ 9,035.17
08/18/22	ALDEAN KILBOURN	REIMBURSE FOR CLAY ST CEMETERY	\$ (27.98)	\$ 9,007.19
08/18/22	FAIRBANKS PAINT & GLASS	PLEXIGLASS FOR CLAY ST CEMETERY	\$ (519.52)	\$ 8,487.67
08/18/22	FAIRBANKS PAINT & GLASS	PLEXIGLASS FOR CLAY ST CEMETERY	\$ (522.00)	\$ 7,965.67
08/18/22	NORTHLAND WOOD PRODUCTS	BUILDING SUPPLY FOR KIOSK	\$ (1,003.31)	\$ 6,962.36
09/15/22	FAIRBANKS PAINT & GLASS	PLEXIGLASS FOR CLAY ST CEMETERY	\$ (594.00)	\$ 6,368.36
09/15/22	HOME DEPOT CREDIT SERVICES	BUILDING SUPPLY FOR KIOSK	\$ (156.47)	\$ 6,211.89
09/15/22	HOME DEPOT CREDIT SERVICES	BUILDING SUPPLY FOR KIOSK	\$ (100.50)	\$ 6,111.39
09/15/22	HOME DEPOT CREDIT SERVICES	BUILDING SUPPLY FOR KIOSK	\$ (24.87)	\$ 6,086.52
09/15/22	HOME DEPOT CREDIT SERVICES	BUILDING SUPPLY FOR KIOSK	\$ (76.66)	\$ 6,009.86
09/15/22	FAIRBANKS PAINT & GLASS	PLEXIGLASS FOR CLAY ST CEMETERY	\$ (72.00)	\$ 5,937.86
09/30/22	PIONEER OF ALASKA MENS IGLOO	CLAY ST CEMETERY DONATION	\$ 200.00	\$ 6,137.86
10/07/22	DOMENICO DONATION	PETER CONLEY HEADSTONE	\$ 300.00	\$ 6,437.86
10/10/22	FAIRBANKS PAINT & GLASS	PLEXIGLASS FOR CLAY ST CEMETERY	\$ (72.00)	\$ 6,365.86
10/13/22	QUIRING MONUMENTS INC	MONUMENT PILLOWS	\$ (3,800.00)	\$ 2,565.86
10/24/22	JASON GOULD	JOHNSTONE MARKERS	\$ 600.00	\$ 3,165.86
02/01/23	CITY OF FAIRBANKS BED TAX	CLAY ST CEMETERY BED TAX	\$ 8,305.00	\$ 11,470.86
05/11/23	HOME DEPOT CREDIT SERVICES	MATERIALS FOR CROSSES	\$ (2,799.44)	\$ 8,671.42
05/25/23	QUIRING MONUMENTS INC	PETER CONLEY HEADSTONE	\$ (250.00)	\$ 8,421.42
06/20/23	JANET RICHARDSON	REIMBURSE FOR CLAY ST CEMETERY	\$ (43.94)	\$ 8,377.48
06/20/23	JANET RICHARDSON	REIMBURSE FOR CLAY ST CEMETERY	\$ (10.48)	\$ 8,367.00
06/20/23	LAHONTAN GEOLOGICAL	CLAY ST GPR SERVICES	\$ (700.00)	\$ 7,667.00

Clay Street Capital Projects - Account
11035011-9003

Date	Purchase Order	Description	Amount	Balance
2/27/2023		Budget - Reappropriation		\$9,314.27