

LAI-ON-THE-TABLE

Submitted by: Assembly Chair LaFrance
Assembly Member Cross
Prepared by: Assembly Counsel's Office
For reading: April 25, 2023

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AO No. 2023-__

1 AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY AMENDING
2 ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 27.40.010 TO ESTABLISH THE
3 PROVISION OF MUNICIPAL CEMETERIES AS A POWER EXERCISED ON AN
4 AREAWIDE BASIS.
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6
7 **WHEREAS**, the Anchorage Memorial Park Cemetery is currently the only municipal
8 cemetery in the Municipality of Anchorage, located in the City Service Area (the
9 boundaries of what was formerly the City of Anchorage) created during the municipal
10 unification process in 1975-1977; and

11
12 **WHEREAS**, cemetery services are currently expressly provided for in the Girdwood
13 Valley Service Area (GVSA), codified in Anchorage Municipal Code section
14 27.30.020; and

15
16 **WHEREAS**, Anchorage area cemeteries are running out of room: the Anchorage
17 Memorial Park Cemetery is anticipated to be at maximum capacity within five years;
18 and

19
20 **WHEREAS**, the Comprehensive Plan update of December 2006 identifies the
21 development of community cemeteries as a public facilities priority; and

22
23 **WHEREAS**, the Girdwood Board of Supervisors and its Girdwood Cemetery
24 Committee have invested significant time and effort to plan and advocate for the
25 establishment of a cemetery in the Girdwood Valley area, including selection of land
26 from Heritage Land Bank offerings, conducting an environmental study, and
27 development of a multi-phase development plan with design and construction cost
28 estimates; and

29
30 **WHEREAS**, the Chugiak Community Council, Eagle River Community Council,
31 Eklutna Valley Community Council, and many residents of the Eagle River-Chugiak
32 Park and Recreational Service Area (ERCPRSA) have expressed support for
33 development of a municipal cemetery in the area; and

34
35 **WHEREAS**, the Chugiak-Eagle River Advisory Board, pursuant to AMC section
36 21.10.030, reviewed a site selection study and acknowledged the importance and
37 need for a local cemetery at its May 19, 2021 meeting; and

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39 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article X, section 11 of the Alaska Constitution and AS 29.35
40 the Municipality may exercise any power on an areawide basis not otherwise
41 prohibited by law; and
42

1 **WHEREAS**, this ordinance would permit the municipality to submit to voters the
2 question of whether to bond for the expense of constructing any new municipal
3 cemetery; and
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5 **WHEREAS**, this ordinance would permit the municipality to levy an areawide tax to
6 fund the operations and maintenance of existing and future municipal cemeteries; and
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8 **WHEREAS**, the Assembly desires to support the construction and maintenance of
9 municipal cemeteries in the Girdwood and Eagle River areas in the near future, and
10 provide for future cemetery needs in the Anchorage Bowl, by establishing cemetery
11 services as an areawide power; now, therefore,
12

13 **THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:**

14
15 **Section 1.** The following powers may be exercised on an areawide basis:
16

17 **27.40.010 Areawide powers, generally.**
18

19 The following powers may be exercised on an areawide basis:
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21 * * * * *
22

23 **R. Municipal cemeteries.**

24 (AO No. 78-148; AO No. 78-158(S); AO No. 81-96; AO No. 2013-64, § 2, 5-7-
25 13; AO No. 2018-16 , § 1, 2-27-18; AO No. 2019-136 , § 1, 11-19-19)
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27

28 **Section 2.** This ordinance shall be effective immediately upon passage and
29 approval by the Assembly.
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31
32 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this _____ day of
33 _____, 2023.
34

35
36
37 _____
38 Chair

39 ATTEST:
40

41
42 _____
43 Municipal Clerk