



Surveying Company to Map City Cemetery

By Megan Crawford

mcrawford@maryvilledailyforum.com

Maryville will soon be adding to their growing list of geographically mapped information throughout the city after council members opted to execute a contract with **Midland Surveying** during Monday night's meeting.

Midland Surveying will be executing a contract with the city to map the only city cemetery – Oak Hill Cemetery. Examples of other mapped city items include hydrants, zoning and land parcel information as well as aerial photography.

City Manager Matt LeCerf said the importance of mapping out the cemetery comes with more up-to-date, accurate information he believes residents will find useful when looking for a specific burial plot, who purchased it and when.

This is a process the city has been looking at for approximately two years, LeCerf added.

The services will cost the city \$40,870 – nearly \$10,000 less than originally estimated. The reduction comes from the city's willingness to perform a significant amount of their own data entry, which City Clerk Sheila Smail has already started.

LeCerf said the city already has many other areas mapped through GIS services and that everything will eventually come together in the city's long-term goal of implementing a web-based GIS that would incorporate all city GIS layered information.

Oak Hill Cemetery has the space for approximately 6,000 lots, LeCerf estimated, but currently only has 4,000 purchased or in use.

"What it's going to do is enable us to accurately show where people are, where people own pieces of land at the cemetery, so that they can easily find relatives and their loved ones when they come to visit," LeCerf said. "It's also going to enable us to be more efficient in terms of providing that information to the general public which is critical to our overall operations."

Councilman Mike Thompson added that the mapped information would be a great tool for the Nodaway County Historical Society to use – especially with the records and genealogy research information located in the basement of the museum.

“I’m excited,” Thompson said. “I think we’ve been waiting a long time for this to happen – I think it’s great.”

LeCerf said they would certainly give the Historical Society a copy of the map when it is completed.

The contract gives Midland seven months to complete their surveying work. The mapping will be saved electronically, with the possibility of printing out copies of the map, LeCerf said.

For more information pertaining to surveying services contact **Midland Surveying** at (660) 582-8633.