

**ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF
OLIVE BRANCH, MISSISSIPPI AMENDING RULES AND REGULATIONS
FOR BLOCKER CEMETERY AND COLUMBARIUM**

An Ordinance to amend the Rules and Regulations for Blocker Cemetery.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Olive Branch, Mississippi:

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen adopted a Resolution Adopting Rules and Regulations for Blocker Cemetery on the 3rd day of October, 1995, and

WHEREAS, the Resolution has been amended on previous occasions and adopted in Ordinance form, and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen have determined that various amendments are in the best interests of the citizens of the City of Olive Branch and should be adopted, as set forth below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Olive Branch, Mississippi as follows, to wit:

Section 1. The Rules and Regulations for Blocker Cemetery be, and the same are hereby Amended as stated hereinabove. Henceforth, until further amended, the Rules and Regulations shall read as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

Section 2. A summary of this Ordinance and the amended Rules and Regulations, attached hereto as Exhibit "A," shall be published as prescribed by law.

Section 3. All prior versions are hereby repealed and the City Clerk is authorized to coordinate with Municode for the codification of this ordinance as Chapter 15 of the City of Olive Branch Code of Ordinances.

Passage of this Ordinance is now official and the same shall take effect and be enforced as provided by law.

ADOPTED, ORDAINED AND APPROVED this the 17th day of June, 2025.

/s/ KENNETH R. ADAMS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

/s/ TENA STEWART, CITY CLERK

The foregoing Ordinance was read, discussed and voted upon in a public meeting, section by section, and as a whole, and whereas a motion was duly made by Alderman Wallace, and seconded by Alderwoman Aldridge, with the following results:

Alderwoman Jan Aldridge	AYE
Alderman George Collins	AYE
Alderman Dale Dickerson	AYE
Alderman Gil Earhart	AYE
Alderwoman Pat Hamilton	AYE
Alderwoman Joy Henderson	AYE
Alderman David Wallace	AYE

The foregoing Ordinance was passed, adopted and approved on this the 17th day of June, 2025.

/s/ KENNETH R. ADAMS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

/s/ TENA STEWART, CITY CLERK

EXHIBIT A

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR BLOCKER CEMETERY AND COLUMBARIUM

SECTION 1: That the name of the public Cemetery owned and maintained by the City of Olive Branch, Mississippi shall be Blocker Cemetery, hereinafter referred to as “the Cemetery,” and for the mutual protection of every lot purchaser, these rules and regulations are hereby adopted for the governance of the Cemetery and all lots heretofore or hereafter sold are subject to these and such other additional rules and regulations, amendments, or alterations as may be adopted by the governing authorities of the City of Olive Branch for the governance of the Cemetery. The word “City,” as used hereafter, shall mean the City of Olive Branch, Mississippi, and its duly authorized representatives and officials.

SECTION 2: All funerals, interments, inurnments, and related activities as far as use of the Cemetery is concerned shall be under the charge of the designated appointee of the City. Once a casket or urn containing a body, or the remains thereof, is within the confines of the Cemetery, no funeral director, or his embalmer, assistant, employee, or agent shall be permitted to open the casket, or urn, or to touch the body without the consent of the legal representatives of the deceased, or without a court order.

SECTION 3: The City reserves the right to refuse interment in any plot and to refuse to open any burial space for any purpose, except on written application by the plot owner of record made out on blanks provided by the City and duly filed in the office of the designated appointee of the City. When instructions regarding the location of an interment space in a lot cannot be obtained, or are indefinite, or when for any reason the interment space cannot be opened where specified, the designated appointee of the City may, at his discretion, open it in such location in the lot as he deems best and proper, so as not to delay the funeral; and the City shall not be liable in damages for any error so made. The City shall not be held responsible for any order given by telephone, or for any mistake occurring from the want of precise and proper instructions as to the particular space, size and location in plot where interment is desired. “Interment,” as used in these rules, shall include inurnment unless context demands otherwise.

SECTION 4: The City reserves, and shall have, the right to correct any errors that may be made by it either in making interments, dis-interments, or removals, or in the description, transfer, or conveyance of any interment property, either by canceling such conveyance and substituting and conveying in lieu thereof other interment property of equal value and similar location as far as possible, or as may be selected by the City, or in the sole discretion of the City, by refunding the amount of money paid on account of said purchase. In the event such error shall involve the interment of the remains of any person in such property the City reserves, and shall have the right to remove and/or transfer such remains so interred to such other property of equal value and similar location as may be substituted and conveyed in lieu thereof.

SECTION 5: The City reserves the right, at the discretion of the Board of Aldermen and in the best interest of the City of Olive Branch, to re-purchase and/or refuse to re-purchase any plots or

portions thereof which might be made available for re-sale by the current owner at a price not to exceed the original purchase price.

SECTION 6: The City shall in no way be liable for any delay in the interment of a body where a protest to the interment has been made, or when the Rules and Regulations have not been followed. The City shall be under no duty to recognize any protest of interment unless it be in writing and filed in the office of the designated appointee of the City.

SECTION 7: No interment shall be permitted, or memorial placed in or on any property not fully paid for except by special consent of the governing authorities of the City, and in the event such consent is given, any and all interments or memorials placed in or on such property shall be considered as temporary, and a promissory note shall not be considered as payment and no right shall be acquired by the plot purchaser of said interment or interments until such property is fully paid for in cash, including principal and interest; and in case the purchaser of said property shall fail to meet any payment within 30 days after the same is demanded by the City, then the City may re-enter said property and hold the same as of its former estate. The City thereupon shall be relieved from all obligations thereunder, and it may retain such payments as may have been made toward the purchase of said property, as liquidated damages. The City reserves the right and shall have the right immediately or at any time thereafter, without notice, at its discretion, to remove to single graves to be chosen by the City, each of the remains thus interred in said property. The City, further, shall have the right to remove any memorials that may have been placed on said property.

SECTION 8: Not more than one body, or the remains of one body, shall be interred in one grave, vault, or crypt, except by special consent of the City. Niches may contain two (2) urns. No excavations of any kind may be made in the cemetery unless made by the City or by an authorized party with consent of the City Clerk's office.

SECTION 9: Unless other circumstances warrant an exception, the grave for any body shall be within a vault and must be at least four (4) feet six (6) inches minimum depth and have at least twenty-four (24) inches of tamped earth from ground level at its lowest point to the top of the grave box, vault or burial chamber.

SECTION 10: Removal by the heirs of a body or cremated remains so that the plot may be sold for profit to themselves, or removal contrary to the expressed or implied wish of the original plot owner, is repugnant to the ordinary sense of decency and is absolutely prohibited.

SECTION 11: No transfer or assignment of any plot or niche, or interest therein, shall be valid without same being made in the office of the designated appointee of the City. On each Certificate of Ownership, there is a blank provided for transfer, and this must be filled in and signed by the lot owner, before the City can make such transfer. Only lot owners of record are recognized by the City. For sections of the cemetery where records are incomplete or unavailable, the City Clerk's office is authorized to exercise its reasonable discretion in determining the availability of plots and the proper interment of remains.

SECTION 12: No person while employed by the City shall receive any fee, gratuity or commission, except from the City, either directly or indirectly, under penalty of immediate dismissal.

SECTION 13: The City shall take reasonable precaution to protect plot or niche owners, and the property rights of plot owners, within the Cemetery, from loss or damage; but the City distinctly disclaims all responsibility for loss or damage from causes beyond its reasonable control, and especially from damage caused by the elements, an act of God, common enemy, thieves, vandals, strikers, malicious mischief makers, explosions, unavoidable accidents, invasions, insurrections, riots, or order of any military or civil authority, whether the damage be direct or collateral, other than as herein provided.

SECTION 14: All monuments permitted in the Cemetery and the markings of all graves shall be of permanent material or granite construction securely mounted on granite or other permanent stone base. To preserve uniformity, style, quality, and workmanship, the City reserves the right to inspect and approve all markers and monuments in the Cemetery. The markers and monuments shall be set under direction of the City so that they are safe and permanently fastened. Any marker or monument placed in the Cemetery which is not considered by the City to be of the quality and workmanship required or in every way safe or in accordance with these rules may be removed by the City without liability.

SECTION 15: No firearms shall be permitted within the Cemetery except on special permit from the designated appointee for the City, or as allowed by State Law.

SECTION 16: No signs or notices or advertisements of any kind shall be allowed in the Cemetery, unless placed by the City.

SECTION 17: Pets shall not be allowed on the Cemetery grounds, or in any of the buildings.

SECTION 18: The Cemetery grounds and buildings shall be open from 7 a.m. until sunset. No one except an employee of the City shall be allowed on the grounds after closing hours.

SECTION 19: It is of the utmost importance that there should be strict observance of all the proprieties in the Cemetery, whether embraced in these rules or not. No improprieties shall be allowed and the Chief of Police or other City official shall have the power to prevent improper assemblages and boisterous and unseemly conduct. The designated appointee of the City is hereby empowered to enforce all rules and regulations, and to exclude from the property of the Cemetery any person violating same. He shall have charge of the grounds and buildings, and at all times shall have supervision and control of all persons in the Cemetery, including the conduct of funerals, traffic, employees, plot owners and visitors.

SECTION 20: All grading, landscape work and improvements of any kind, and all care of plots shall be done, and all trees and shrubs and herbage of any kind shall be planted, trimmed, cut or removed, only by or under the supervision of the City.

SECTION 21: All improvements or alterations of individual property in the Cemetery shall be under the direction of and subject to the consent, satisfaction and approval of the designated appointee of the City; and should they be made without his consent, he shall have the right to remove, alter, or change such improvements or alterations at the expense of the plot owner, or in any event, at any time, in his judgment they become unsightly or unsafe.

SECTION 22: No gravesites or lots within the Cemetery shall contain any coping, curbing or permanent borders of any material whatsoever. Any violation of this section shall result in the removal of such coping, curbing or permanent borders by the City with costs assessed to the proper persons responsible for such prohibited actions.

SECTION 23: Children under fifteen years of age shall not be permitted in the Cemetery, or its buildings, unless accompanied by proper persons to take care of them.

SECTION 24: All persons are prohibited from gathering flowers, either wild or cultivated, or breaking trees, shrubbery or plants, or feeding or disturbing the wildlife in the Cemetery.

SECTION 25: No person shall be permitted to have refreshments within the Cemetery grounds, and the bringing of intoxicating beverages into the grounds is strictly forbidden.

SECTION 26: Loitering shall not be permitted on or around any of the grounds or graves.

SECTION 27: The throwing of rubbish on the drives, paths, or any part of the grounds is prohibited.

SECTION 28: It shall be unlawful for any vehicle to travel through any part of the Cemetery other than on paved roadways therein unless authorized by person or persons designated by the City. Automobiles traveling on the paved roadways shall travel at a speed no greater than fifteen (15) miles per hour, and must always be kept on the right hand side of the Cemetery roadway. Automobiles are not allowed to park or to come to a full stop in front of an open grave unless such automobiles are in the attendance of the funeral. Vehicles must not be turned around in the avenues. Funeral Directors will be held responsible for the action of all vehicle drivers or others employed by them while within the grounds of the Cemetery. Heavy trucks or vehicles with heavy loads shall not enter the grounds without first procuring the permission of the designated appointee of the City. No bicycles or motorcycles shall be admitted to the Cemetery except such as may be in attendance at funerals or on business.

SECTION 29: Peddling of flowers or plants, or soliciting the sale of any commodity, is positively prohibited within the Cemetery.

SECTION 30: Persons within the Cemetery grounds shall use only the avenues, walks, alleys, or roads and any person injured, while on any portion of the Cemetery, shall in no way hold the City liable for any injuries sustained. Only the plot owner and his relatives shall be permitted on the Cemetery plot. Any other person thereon shall be considered a trespasser, and the City shall owe no duty to the trespasser to keep the property, or the memorial thereon, in a reasonably safe condition.

SECTION 31: No loud talking shall be permitted on the Cemetery grounds within hearing distance of a funeral service.

DECORATION OF PLOTS

SECTION 32: Flower containers are to be permanently placed on the headstone and there shall be no free standing containers. Flowers placed on gravesites within the Cemetery that are not permanently placed on the headstone as noted above, shall be removed therefrom within five (5) calendar days after the date of the burial service for which they were placed with the following exceptions, to-wit:

- A. Christmas wreaths placed on graves may be permitted to remain until January 15, following after which time the City reserves the right to have same removed.
- B. Potted plants such as Easter lilies, azaleas, tulips, etc., will be allowed only at Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day and Father's Day. These will be allowed to remain for one week or until in the judgment of the designated appointee of the City, they have become unsightly. Families desiring to save same should remove them within that time as those remaining longer will be removed and destroyed by the City.

SECTION 33: The placing of boxes, cans, shells, toys, metal designs, ornaments, signs, cards, concrete urns, concrete benches, pictures, artificial flowers, and similar articles, or any article other than the approved monument or marker upon plots is prohibited, and if so placed, the City reserves the right to remove same without notice to the lot owner. No gravel, brick, stone, cement or other kind of artificial walks will be permitted on any lot.

SECTION 34: The City authorities shall have full right to fill and level graves and plant grass thereon. No grave mound whatsoever shall be permitted. All graves shall be filled, tamped and finished to the same level as the surrounding ground, and be covered completely with sod. This regulation must be enforced in order to preserve the beautiful, park-like appearance of the lawns as a whole, and to assure the perpetual maintenance of the property.

SECTION 35: Tents or other coverings used in connection with funerals or burials shall be removed from the Cemetery within forty-eight (48) hours after the burial service is complete.

SECTION 36: Upon the effective date of this Ordinance, Lot prices shall be as follows, to-wit:

- A. For purchase by a citizen of the City of Olive Branch - \$300.00
- B. For purchase by a citizen of Desoto County - \$500.00
- C. For purchase by someone who is a non-resident of City or County - \$1,000.00
- D. Deed Transfer Fee - \$100.00

SECTION 37: Upon the effective date of this Ordinance, Niche prices shall be as follows, to-wit:

- A. For purchase by a citizen of the City of Olive Branch - \$1,000.00
- B. For purchase by a citizen of Desoto County - \$1,500.00
- C. For purchase by someone who is a non-resident of City or County - \$2,000.00
- D. Opening & Closing fee: \$400.00 (by City staff only)
- E. Deed Transfer Fee - \$100.00

SECTION 38:

The City of Olive Branch will assign each niche location.

There shall be no flowers, mementos, sentiments, etc. placed on, or near, any columbarium.

Inurnments must be scheduled between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Niche owners have one (1) year to place a bronze plaque on their niche after inurnment. Plaques must be installed by a monument company according to the specifications provided by the City. The City Clerk's office shall prepare forms outlining the requirements of the Ordinance for signature by owners. Engraving of the plaque shall be limited to the following:

- A. Deceased name;
- B. Date of birth;
- C. Date of passing;
- D. Additional inscription or terms of endearment are allowed, but available space may vary depending on monument company.

SECTION 39:

Title to all real property and fixtures shall remain vested in the City of Olive Branch notwithstanding references to "deed" and "owner" and like terms in this Ordinance. Conveyances to purchasers of lots or niches is in the nature of a revocable license, not a transfer of title or lease of property.