



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM

No. AM 31-2024

Meeting Date: January 9, 2024

1 FROM: MAYOR

2
3 SUBJECT: AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE
4 QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE,
5 ALASKA, THE QUESTION OF THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO
6 EXCEED EIGHT MILLION ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS
7 (\$8,100,000) OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE
8 MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE TO PAY THE COSTS OF
9 AREAWIDE CEMETERY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS,
10 AND THE QUESTION OF AN INCREASE IN THE MUNICIPAL TAX
11 CAP LIMITATION TO PAY ASSOCIATED OPERATIONS AND
12 MAINTENANCE COSTS AREAWIDE, AT THE ELECTION TO BE
13 HELD IN THE MUNICIPALITY ON APRIL 2, 2024 AND APPROVING
14 AND ADDING PROJECTS TO THE AREAWIDE 2024 CAPITAL
15 IMPROVEMENT BUDGET TO INCLUDE THE CEMETERY
16 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.

17
18 The attached ordinance will place a general obligation bond proposition for
19 Areawide Cemetery Capital Improvements on the ballot for the regular Municipal
20 election to be held on April 2, 2024.

21
22 The 2024 General Government Capital Improvement Budget (CIB), approved by
23 passage of AO 2023-96 as Amended, will be amended as follows with the passage
24 of the attached ordinance by the addition of the following three new projects:

25
26 **Anchorage Memorial Park - \$1 million dollars**

27
28 The Anchorage Memorial Park represents the heritage of the Municipality of
29 Anchorage. The improvements, renovations, and accommodations for disabled
30 visitors have been requested by the Park's Advisory Board. These things will extend
31 the usefulness of the downtown cemetery by a few years and will help in the graceful
32 transition to the cemetery as a park-like setting.

33
34 The cost for these necessary improvements, renovations, and accommodations has
35 been estimated at \$1 million dollars.
36

1 **Girdwood Cemetery - \$3.5 million dollars**

2
3 Planning for a Girdwood Cemetery has been ongoing for more than two decades
4 and after extensive public process and with investment by local taxpayers, there
5 exists a schematic plan for the design and construction in four phases. The first
6 phase will establish a new cemetery in the Municipality ready for service. \$3.5
7 million dollars from the Bonds will put in place the cemetery's infrastructure: clearing
8 land, making a parking lot, and establishing a trail system, building a committal
9 shelter and columbarium for cremains, and overlaying a Global Positioning System,
10 (GPS), for locating burial plots. Work could begin as early as the summer of 2024.
11

12 **Eagle River Cemetery - \$3.5 million dollars**

13
14 A committee with members from Eagle River to Birchwood has been working for
15 more than a dozen years toward the establishment of a cemetery in their part of
16 town. Through a lengthy public process and with help from their Assembly
17 members, they have chosen a site and have developed a conceptual four-phase
18 plan for establishing a new cemetery in Eagle River. \$3.5 million dollars from the
19 Bonds will complete the first phase of the Eagle River Cemetery plan and create a
20 new Municipal cemetery ready for service. As with the Girdwood Cemetery,
21 because both cemeteries are to be established on undeveloped land, the first phase
22 will basically include designing and building the same infrastructure that can later
23 be used to accommodate the further phases as more burial space is needed.
24

25 Since the sites of both of the new cemeteries are on land owned by the Municipality
26 and are designated as public-use lands, there will be no cost for the land. Rather,
27 there will be a lateral transfer of management of the land within the Municipality from
28 the Heritage Land Bank to the Cemetery Department.
29

30 The Administration recommends scheduling a public hearing for this bond ordinance
31 on January 23, 2024.
32

33 The Areawide Cemetery Improvements bond proposal will implement the priorities
34 established in the recently approved 2024-2029 Capital Improvement Program, as
35 amended. Please see the attached Project List, attached as Exhibit A.
36

37 **THE ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF THE ORDINANCE.**

38
39 Prepared by: Ross Risvold, Public Finance & Investments Manager
40 Approved: Alden Thern, CFO
41 Concur: Anne Helzer, Municipal Attorney
42 Concur: Sharon Lechner, Acting OMB Director
43 Concur: Kent E. Kohlhase, P.E., Municipal Manager
44 Respectfully submitted: Dave Bronson, Mayor

EXHIBIT A

**Areawide Cemetery Capital Improvements
2024 Bond Project List
(000)'s**

Project	Amount	O&M
Anchorage Memorial Cemetery Equipment	\$ 100	\$5
Girdwood Cemetery	3,500	-
Anchorage Memorial Cemetery	1,000	-
Eagle River Cemetery	3,500	-
Total	\$8,100	\$5