

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-10
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FINDINGS ABOUT THE HAMBURG INCIDENT OF
1876 AND APPOINTING MEMBERS OF A COMMITTEE TO EVALUATE OPTIONS
FOR AN ADDITIONAL DISPLAY IN JOHN C. CALHOUN PARK

WHEREAS, Thomas McKie Meriwether died during a confrontation between an armed African-American militia positioned in the second story of the Sibley Building and a large group of armed white citizens in and around the Town of Hamburg, South Carolina on July 8th, 1876 and

WHEREAS, seven African-American men died in the confrontation, five of whom were murdered, and

WHEREAS, the Monument to Thomas McKie Meriwether was unveiled on February 16, 1916 and located prominently in John C. Calhoun Park, and

WHEREAS, the monument was paid for with an authorization of \$400 from the South Carolina Legislature and local contributions, and

WHEREAS, there is no recognition in John C. Calhoun Park of the seven African-American men who died during the Hamburg incident, and

WHEREAS, both John C. Calhoun Park and the now abandoned Town of Hamburg are within the City of North Augusta, and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council of the City of North Augusta, in meeting duly assembled and by the authority thereof, reach these conclusions:

The Thomas McKie Meriwether Monument should remain in its present location, its text and structure should not be altered, and

The Monument to Thomas McKie Meriwether contains text offensive to, and inconsistent with the beliefs of, current day North Augusta citizens, and

A defined, distinct area surrounding the monument should be created providing educational opportunities for visitors as a counterpoint to the viewpoint expressed by the text on the monument, and

The educational display having permanently installed features (e.g., sculptures, kiosks, plaques, etc.) should present the information and should include, as a minimum,

A summary of the events which transpired at Hamburg on July 8th and 9th, and

The names of the African-American men killed during the events of July 8th and 9th, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a committee comprised of the following individuals is hereby established for the purpose of developing a plan for the additions at John C. Calhoun Park necessary to fulfill the items listed above in this section:

Mayor Bob Pettit, Chair

Mr. John Felak

Council member Pat Carpenter

Dr. Mark Newell

Council member David McGhee

Mr. Tony Carr

Mr. Charles Allen

Ms. Mandy Nelson, ex-officio,
non-voting

Mr. Milledge Murray

Ms. Trina Mackie

The Committee, at its discretion, is authorized and encouraged to utilize local, county, and state resources and experts to insure information is factual or is consistent with current historical understanding or interpretation.

A design competition for the overall layout and specific elements should be considered by the Committee. Should this be the recommended approach, the Committee is authorized to develop the overall guidelines for such competition, including a recommended selection procedure and the criteria.

Committee recommendations shall be presented to Council for approval and implementation.

The City Administrator is authorized to approve funds to cover travel and other expenses from General Fund City Council Contingency Account totaling not more than \$500.

DONE, RATIFIED AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA, ON THIS 18th DAY OF March 2019.



Robert A. Pettit, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sharon Lamar, City Clerk