

# North Augusta



*South Carolina's Riverfront*

## MINUTES OF JULY 14, 2020

*Robert A. Pettit, Mayor*

*Charles Allen, Committee member*

*Pat C. Carpenter, Committee member*

*Tony Carr, Committee member*

*John Felak, Committee member*

*Trina Mackie, Committee member*

*David W. McGhee, Committee member*

*Milledge Murray, Committee member*

*Mandy Nelson, Committee ex officio member, non-voting*

*Mark Newell, Committee member*

## **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The Calhoun Park Committee meeting of the City of North Augusta of July 14, 2020, having been duly publicized, was called to order by Mayor Pettit at 6:35 p.m. in the Palmetto Terrace on the fourth floor of the Municipal Center and adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Per Section 30-4-80(e) notice of the meeting was posted on the outside doors of the Municipal Center, the main bulletin board of the Municipal Center located on the first floor, and the City of North Augusta website.

Present were Mayor Pettit, John Felak, Trina Mackie, Councilmember David McGhee, Milledge Murray, and Mark Newell. Charles Allen, Councilmember Carpenter, Tony Carr, and Mandy Nelson were absent. Also in attendance were Rachelle Moody, Interim City Administrator, and Sharon Lamar, City Clerk. Members of the public and the media was also present.

The minutes of the January 7, 2020 and February 10, 2020 meetings were accepted and approved by general consent.

### **ITEM 4. Review and Approve Committee Report to Council**

Mayor Pettit reminded the Committee of the task they were assigned by City Council on March 18, 2019 with the adoption of Resolution No. 2019-10. (See ATTACHMENT #4) The Committee agreed to recommend to Council a two-phased approach to enhance Calhoun Park by adding an

educational display concerning the Hamburg Massacre of 1876. Phase 1 would provide for Interpretive Panels near the base of the Meriwether Monument to provide historical facts of the events of July 1876 and other background information. Trina Mackie commented that she was pleased that the panels would tell the “whole story.” Mark Newell stated that with enhanced Wi-Fi access QR Codes could be added to the panels with links to webpages with more information. While the Committee was not tasked with any focus other than Calhoun Park, it recognized the potential for the Carrsville community to develop as a showcase for African-American achievements. Milledge Murray noted that eight panels of historical photographs have been placed in the Society Building on Barton Road. Councilmember McGhee asked about the plan to present the Committee’s report to Council.

On motion of Mayor Pettit, second of Mark Newell, the Committee determined unanimously the report should be submitted to Council by way of a presentation at a Special Called City Council Study Session on August 10, 2020. Trina Mackie will prepare and present the presentation.

On motion of Mayor Pettit, second of Milledge Murray, the Committee unanimously agreed to accept the “Meriwether Monument Committee Report to Council” as final unless additional comments from Committee members are received by July 22, 2020.

**ITEM 5, Committee Comments**

Trina Mackie stated, “We are walking down the right path. We are shining light on a dark and ugly past.”

In closing, Mayor Pettit told the Committee he has worked with two different groups of citizens on this issue, one group while writing “Report to the City Council of North Augusta: Recommendations Regarding the Meriwether Monument in J.C. Calhoun Park” and this group directed to evaluate options for an additional display in Calhoun Park. Along the way conversations have been cordial, but sometimes very painful while learning to understand what could never be experienced. All participants were open to listening and respectful consideration was garnered from all sides.

Public comments were made by Brandy Mitchell.

There being no further business, the committee adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

APPROVED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF  
\_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert A. Pettit, Mayor

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Lamar  
City Clerk

## ATTACHMENT #4

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 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, and

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