

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-24
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS FOR
CALHOUN PARK IMPROVEMENTS

WHEREAS, on March 18th, 2019, City Council adopted Resolution 2019-10 appointing members of a committee to evaluate options for an additional display in John C. Calhoun park; and

WHEREAS, on August 10, 2020 the Calhoun Park Committee presented their recommendations to City Council; and


WHEREAS, the City Council adopted the FY 2021 Annual Municipal Budget which included \$20,000 for Calhoun Park Improvements in the Capital Projects Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Calhoun Park Committee has agreed upon language for educational panels in John C. Calhoun Park;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of North Augusta, South Carolina, in a meeting duly assembled and by the authority thereof, that:


1. Expenditures of \$20,000 of Capital Project funds is approved for the procurement and installation of three interpretive educational panels in John C. Calhoun Park with the approved language listed in Appendix A.
2. Any funds not spent on the panels will be made available for improvements to John C. Calhoun Park.

DONE, RATIFIED AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA, ON THIS 17th DAY OF JULY, 2023.



Briton S. Williams, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jamie Paul, City Clerk

APPENDIX A

Language for three interpretive historical panels

Panel 1:

After the Civil War, the nearby Town of Hamburg, SC became a town where free blacks and freed slaves settled. Important local government positions were held by African-American leaders from the Town of Hamburg. The most notable were Prince Rivers, Samuel Lee, and John Gardner.

The 1868 South Carolina elections produced the first majority black state legislature in U.S. history. A new South Carolina constitution was drafted. Aiken County was formed from parts of Edgefield, Lexington, Barnwell, and Orangeburg counties. It was the only county formed in South Carolina during the Reconstruction Era (1865- 1877). March 10, 1871 is celebrated as Founders Day in Aiken County.

Panel 2:

The Hamburg Massacre occurred nearby on July 8, 1876. A gun battle occurred between about 200 men from local rifle clubs and African-Americans serving in Company A, Ninth Regiment of the South Carolina National Guard and others barricaded in a warehouse. Seven African-Americans were killed, four of whom were executed. The Black casualties were First Lieutenant Allen Attaway, Corporal Nelder John Parker, James Cook, David Phillips, Albert Myniart, Moses Parks, and Hampton Stephens. The sole white casualty was Thomas McKie Meriwether.

The Hamburg Massacre was a historic event in our Nation' s history. It became a key issue in the disputed presidential election of 1876 between Rutherford B. Hayes and Samuel J Tilden. The Electoral College votes from South Carolina, Florida, and Louisiana were contested, and ultimately a special Congressional committee awarded all the contested votes to Hayes, enough to swing the Electoral College to him.

Known as the Compromise of 1877, this agreement led to the removal of Northern soldiers from the South, allowing white Southerners to successfully deny African-Americans their rights. This bargain between Southern Democrats and the Republicans brought Reconstruction to an end by ending The Northern occupation of the South.

Panel 3:

In 1914, the S. C. Legislature passed a bill authorizing \$400 for a headstone on the grave of Thomas McKie Meriwether. A 1915 amendment authorized placing the monument within the town of North Augusta. Local leaders chose this prominent location as the site for the monument. Private funds supplemented the funds authorized by the S.C. Legislature. The monument was dedicated February 16, 1916.

Inscriptions on the monument reflect attitudes of people during that period. Those words do not represent the attitudes of the people of North Augusta today. We are a community of people of different races and ethnic backgrounds, bonded together by unity and common rights of citizenship. We choose to learn from our past and ensure that North Augusta's future reflects a high standard for all of its citizens. The events and legacy of Hamburg do not define us.