



REPORT

CITY OF HARTSVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNCIL AFRICAN-AMERICAN CEMETERY COMMITTEE
JUNE 26, 2017 AT 3:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL – 100 EAST CAROLINA AVENUE

Committee Members Present: Adlena Graham, Chair; Johnny Andrews, Teresa Mack
Staff Present: Mary Catherine Farrell
Guests Present: Willie Williams, Pecolia Grove

PURSUANT TO FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT SC CODE 30-4-80: WRITTEN NOTICE WAS DELIVERED TO THE PRESS BY EMAIL ON FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2017 AND DULY POSTED AT CITY HALL LOCATED AT 100 E. CAROLINA AVE.

Councilman Graham called the meeting to order at 3:10 pm, opening with a prayer.

The following matters were discussed:

Staff reported that donations raised to date totaled \$4,260.06. NOTE: After meeting, this number was corrected to \$4,390 (staff error in reading report).

Mr. Williams shared that he had spoken with pastors to solicit support but to no avail because the community perception is that the City is obligated to maintain/restore the Cemetery and has the financial resources to do so. He said that this likely stems from a commitment made by City Council in 1976 to clean up the site. Councilman Andrews pointed out that this good will was possibly negated by the existence of a law that prohibited City funds from being used to clean up private abandoned cemeteries, and that it was possible that Council was unaware of this statutory prohibition at the time the commitment was made. He committed to further research on the matter, but this theory is supported by the instance of City staff member Wilmont Barry bringing the matter up to the 1982 Council, who replied that the City could not touch the Cemetery because it was private property.

Staff provided copies of the updated solicited letter to all in attendance, as requested at the May committee meeting. Councilwoman Mack excused herself to seek approval via phone from Dr. Heatley for the committee to send a representative to solicit funds at the upcoming Butler Heritage week festivities. She secured the necessary support for a representative to attend the banquet, and it was decided that Councilwoman Graham would represent the group at the event. Staff committed to providing her with copies of an updated solicitation letter to provide to attendees, as well as intern support on site and a table for display.

Mr. Williams shared that he had received an additional donation commitment from a "bowling buddy" who has a relative buried in the Cemetery.

The next meeting was set for Monday, July 31 at 3:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers.

Councilwoman Graham closed the meeting at 4:03.

This is our report and recommendations to the full Council.

Adlena Graham, Committee Chair