



## City Council Meeting

Regular Session Minutes  
Monday, November 23, 2020

### I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Liberty, Missouri was held via Zoom video conference on November 23, 2020 with Mayor Lyndell Brenton presiding. Mayor Brenton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - None

### III. ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Harold Phillips and Paul Jenness, Ward I  
Greg Duncan and Rae Moore, Ward II  
Kevin Graham and Jeff Watt, Ward III  
Michael Hagan and Gene Gentrup, Ward IV

Council Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Curt Wenson, City Administrator  
Dan Estes, Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director  
Shawna Funderburk, Asst. to the City Administrator  
Andy Noll, Utilities Director  
Sherri McIntyre, Public Works Director  
BJ Staab, Parks and Recreation Director  
Katherine Sharp, Planning Director  
Sara Cooke, Assistant City Administrator/Communications  
Claire Rodgers, Marketing and Special Events Supervisor  
Janet Pittman, Deputy City Clerk

Public Present: 1 member of the public

Note: The meeting was held electronically via Zoom in accordance with Mayor Brenton's Health and Safety State of Emergency Proclamation for Liberty, Missouri, declared March 19, 2020 due to the existence and spread of the COVID-19 virus. The meeting Agenda was posted on the City's website in accordance with the Sunshine Law, and included information on how the public could view the meeting and provide public comment.

### IV. APPROVE MINUTES AND SUMMARIES

### V. CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION

A. Proclamation – Mayor Brenton a Proclamation proclaiming January 2021 as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month in the City of Liberty.

### VI. MEETING SCHEDULE

### VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Regular Session Minutes of October 26, 2020

Council Member Hagan moved to approve the minutes as distributed. Council Member Watt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

B. Resolution Granting a Certificate of Appropriateness for Exterior Improvements at 37 Moss Ave, Prospect Heights Historic District (HDRC Case 20-006PH) [AR 141-20]

**Action:** Council Member Hagan moved to approve the resolution. Council Member Watt seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion passed 8-0-0

Yes: Council Members Phillips, Jenness, Moore, Hagan, Graham, Watt, Duncan and Gentrup

No: None

Abstain: None

Inscribed in Resolution No. 3141.

C. Resolution Granting a Certificate of Appropriateness for Exterior Improvements 130 S. Terrace Ave., Prospect Heights Historic District (HDRC Case 20-005PH) [AR 142-20]

**Action:** Council Member Hagan moved to approve the resolution. Council Member Watt seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion passed 8-0-0

Yes: Council Members Phillips, Jenness, Moore, Hagan, Graham, Watt, Duncan and Gentrup

No: None

Abstain: None

Inscribed in Resolution No. 3142

D. Purchase of a 2021 New Holland Power Star 75 Tractor from Ben Fries Ag & Turf, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$47,469.90 [AR 148-20]

**Action:** Council Member Hagan moved to approve the purchase. Council Member Watt seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion passed 8-0-0

Yes: Council Members Phillips, Jenness, Moore, Hagan, Graham, Watt, Duncan and Gentrup

No: None

Abstain: None

E. Boards and Commissions Appointments

1. Board of Zoning Adjustments (BZA)

- i. Appoint Mallory Brown (alternate) to a term expiring 4-1-2026

2. Citizen Sales Tax Oversight Committee

- i. Appoint Mallory Brown to a term expiring 5-15-2023

3. Liberty Housing Authority

- i. Appoint Brooks Casel to a term expiring 7-1-2022

Council Member Hagan moved to approve the appointments. Council Member Watt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

## VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Council Member Jenness left the meeting due to technical difficulties.

- A. Ordinance amending the Official Zoning Map of the City of Liberty, Missouri by Rezoning 339 Acres at the SE Corner of Hughes Road and Campbell Road, South of South Liberty Parkway from R-1A, "Suburban Residential District" to M-1, "Light Industrial District" for Liberty Tradeport, an Industrial Development [P&Z Case 20-17R&PDP]

This is a proposal for an industrial center with approximately 3.6 million square feet of space in 8 buildings, ranging in size from 250,000 sq. ft. to 800,000 sq. ft. The industrial buildings are proposed to be utilized for manufacturing, warehousing and distribution purposes. They will be located 2,000 feet to the south of South Liberty Parkway and east of Hughes Road. The proposed zoning is M-1 "Light Industrial" which allows; non-retail business uses, light manufacturing facilities, distribution and warehousing facilities, restaurants and indoor recreational facilities. *UDO Section 30-68.1*. Access to the site from South Liberty Parkway is proposed from S. Withers Road and Hughes Road.

Mayor Brenton opened the Public Hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak either in favor or in opposition of the ordinance.

Chris Chancellor, Northpoint Development, 4825 NW 41<sup>st</sup> St., Riverside, MO presented the project on behalf of the applicant, Northpoint Development. He stated that the company mostly owns all the properties it develops. This project is proposed for 8 buildings with each building being developed as its own phase. The layout and building sizes are setup to be flexible to combine or split buildings as needed by specific tenants. He explained how the layout of the project moved the buildings away from roads and residential areas. Each lot will come through as a separate development plan and specific details such as landscaping, parking and stormwater control can be looked at for each building/phase.

Marjorie Finley, 35 N. Riley, stated she was concerned about the portion of Hughes Road that is shared with Claycomo, and what the relationship will be for that road.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak, the Mayor closed the Public Hearing.

Document No. 9129 was read.

**Action:** Council Member Gentrup moved to waive the rules and consider the ordinance on first reading. Council Member Moore seconded the motion.

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.

**Action:** Council Member Watt moved to approve the ordinance. Council Member Phillips seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion passed 7-0-0  
Yes: Council Members Phillips, Moore, Hagan, Graham, Watt, Duncan and Gentrup  
No: None  
Abstain: None  
Approved by the Chair and inscribed in Ordinance No. 11321.

IX. ORDINANCES, CONTRACTS AND RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Pro Tem Gentrup took over as Chair of the meeting.

A. Acknowledgement of vendor payments for the period of October 30, 2020 through November 13, 2020

1. Ordinance excluding Westland Landscape payments

Document No. 9130 was read.

**Action:** Council Member Phillips moved to approve the vendor payments. Council Member Moore seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Vote: Motion passed 7-0-0  
Yes: Council Members Phillips, Moore, Hagan, Graham, Watt, Duncan and Gentrup  
No: None  
Abstain: None  
Approved by the Chair and inscribed in Ordinance No. 11322.

2. Ordinance including Westland Landscape payments.

Document No. 9131 was read.

**Action:** Council Member Watt moved to approve the vendor payments. Council Member Phillips seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Vote: Motion passed 7-0-0  
Yes: Council Members Phillips, Moore, Hagan, Graham, Watt, Duncan and Gentrup  
No: None  
Abstain: None  
Approved by the Chair and inscribed in Ordinance No. 11322.

Mayor Brenton resumed as chair of the meeting.

B. Resolution approving a Preliminary Plat for Liberty Tradeport, 339 Acres at the SE Corner of Hughes Road and Campbell Road, South of South Liberty Parkway, a Subdivision of Land in Liberty, Clay County, Missouri [P&Z Case 20-32PP]

**Action:** Council Member Phillips moved to approve the resolution. Council Member Moore seconded the motion.

**Vote:** Motion passed 7-0-0

**Yes:** Council Members Phillips, Moore, Hagan, Graham, Watt, Duncan and Gentrup

**No:** None

**Abstain:** None

Inscribed in Resolution No. 3143

- C. Ordinance approving a Memorandum of Understanding with Clay County Senior Services to provide Grant Funding for Senior Memberships to the Liberty Community Center in the amount of \$57,600.00 [AR 146-20]

For 2021, \$60,000 was requested with \$57,600 granted. The cost for an annual Liberty Community Center senior membership, which includes group exercise classes, will be \$325. Applying the \$100 from CCSS, seniors will have the option to pay the remaining \$225 in full or by monthly bank draft (less than \$20/month).

Document No. 9132 was read.

**Action:** Council Member Phillips moved to waive the rules and consider the ordinance on first reading. Council Member Graham seconded the motion.

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.

**Action:** Council Member Graham moved to approve the ordinance. Council Member Gentrup seconded the motion.

**Vote:** Motion passed 7-0-0

**Yes:** Council Members Phillips, Moore, Hagan, Graham, Watt, Duncan and Gentrup

**No:** None

**Abstain:** None

Approved by the Chair and inscribed in Ordinance No. 11323.

- D. Ordinance approving a Memorandum of Understanding with Clay County Senior Services to provide Grant Funding for Senior Center and Senior Transportation Administration in the amount of \$96,300.00 [AR 147-20]

For 2021, staff applied for \$241,990.83 in grant funding for the Liberty Access bus service (which included \$61,179.84 for the replacement of the 2010 bus) and \$101,721.00 in grant funding for the Liberty Silver Center for a total of \$343,711.83. The City of Liberty has received notification from Clay County Senior Services that the Community Services Division will receive \$96,300 for operational expenses associated with Liberty Access (\$24,300) and the Liberty Silver Center (\$72,000).

Document No. 9133 was read.

**Action:** Council Member Phillips moved to waive the rules and consider the ordinance on first reading. Council Member Moore seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

**Action:** Council Member Watt moved to approve the ordinance. Council Member Gentrup seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion passed 7-0-0

Yes: Council Members Phillips, Moore, Hagan, Graham, Watt, Duncan and Gentrup

No: None

Abstain: None

Approved by the Chair and inscribed in Ordinance No. 11324.

- E. Ordinance approving a Guaranteed Pricing Agreement with Liberty Sports Officials for FY 2021 Youth and Adult Sports Officiating Services in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.00. [AR 149-20]

Services covered by this contract include all Liberty Parks and Recreation Department sports programs (youth recreational and competitive baseball, youth recreational and competitive softball, youth recreational and competitive basketball, youth recreational soccer, youth recreational and competitive flag football, youth recreational volleyball, adult softball, adult volleyball, and adult basketball). The division's operating budget includes funding for this set of officiating services in the amount of \$250,000, which is recouped through participant registrations.

Document No. 9134 was read.

**Action:** Council Member Graham moved to waive the rules and consider the ordinance on first reading. Council Member Watt seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

**Action:** Council Member Hagan moved to approve the ordinance. Council Member Graham seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion passed 6-0-1

Yes: Council Members Phillips, Moore, Hagan, Graham, Watt and Duncan

No: None

Abstain: Council Member Gentrup, due to potential conflict of interest

Approved by the Chair and inscribed in Ordinance No. 11325.

- F. Ordinance approving a Guaranteed Pricing Agreement with Heartland Mechanical for FY 2021 HVAC Preventive Maintenance and On-Call Repair Services in an amount not to exceed \$125,000.00. [AR 144-20]

The City of Liberty utilizes independent contractors to manage preventive maintenance activities and repair services for the HVAC systems serving public facilities. Because the services requested are specialized, services are divided into two separate groups – those for primary facilities and those for secondary facilities. The services requested for each group are of a slightly different scope or scale and are based on the mechanical requirements of the equipment.

Document No. 9135 was read.

**Action:** Council Member Phillips moved to waive the rules and consider the ordinance on first reading. Council Member Hagan seconded the motion.

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.

**Action:** Council Member Hagan moved to approve the ordinance. Council Member Gentrup seconded the motion.

**Vote:** Motion passed 7-0-0

**Yes:** Council Members Phillips, Moore, Hagan, Graham, Watt, Duncan and Gentrup

**No:** None

**Abstain:** None

Approved by the Chair and inscribed in Ordinance No. 11326.

- G. Ordinance approving a Guaranteed Pricing Agreement with Brady Industries for 2021 Citywide Purchase and Delivery of Custodial Supplies in an amount not to exceed \$40,000.00. [AR 143-20]

The City of Liberty utilizes an independent contractor for purchase and delivery of custodial supplies. A “basket of goods” analysis was used to develop the bid document which included all supplies purchased by facility departments over the course of one year where the total annual cost exceeded \$500.

Document No. 9136 was read.

**Action:** Council Member Phillips moved to waive the rules and consider the ordinance on first reading. Council Member Watt seconded the motion.

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.

**Action:** Council Member Phillips moved to approve the ordinance. Council Member Moore seconded the motion.

**Vote:** Motion passed 7-0-0

**Yes:** Council Members Phillips, Moore, Hagan, Graham, Watt, Duncan and Gentrup

**No:** None

**Abstain:** None

Approved by the Chair and inscribed in Ordinance No. 11327.

- H. Ordinance approving an Inter-governmental Agreement with the Mid-America Regional Council Solid Waste Management District for Participation in the 2021 Regional Household Hazardous Waste Program in the amount of \$34,003.53. [AR 139-20]

Included in the 2021 solid waste budget are funds for Liberty’s participation in the regional Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program offered by the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) solid waste management district. Participation in the program allows Liberty residents to use permanent collection facilities located at 4707 Deramus, Kansas City, MO and 2101 S.E. Hamblen Road, Lee’s Summit, MO as well as to participate in mobile collection events throughout the metropolitan area without

additional charge. The cost to participate in this program in 2021 is \$34,003.53 which is the same from the 2019.

Document No. 9137 was read.

**Action:** Council Member Phillips moved to waive the rules and consider the ordinance on first reading. Council Member Watt seconded the motion.

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.

**Action:** Council Member Moore moved to approve the ordinance. Council Member Watt seconded the motion.

**Vote:** Motion passed 7-0-0

**Yes:** Council Members Phillips, Moore, Hagan, Graham, Watt, Duncan and Gentrup

**No:** None

**Abstain:** None

Approved by the Chair and inscribed in Ordinance No. 11328.

I. Ordinance approving an Inter-governmental Agreement between Clay County, Missouri and the City of Liberty for Road Repairs [AR 143-20]

The agreement with Clay County is to share in the cost to make 112<sup>th</sup> Street West of Highway 33 traversable for the remainder of 2020 and into spring of 2021. The city is contributing \$4,200 for the cost of rock materials, and the County is providing equipment and labor

Document No. 9138 was read.

**Action:** Council Member Phillips moved to waive the rules and consider the ordinance on first reading. Council Member Gentrup seconded the motion.

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.

**Action:** Council Member Watt moved to approve the ordinance. Council Member Moore seconded the motion.

**Vote:** Motion passed 7-0-0

**Yes:** Council Members Phillips, Moore, Hagan, Graham, Watt, Duncan and Gentrup

**No:** None

**Abstain:** None

Approved by the Chair and inscribed in Ordinance No. 11329.

J. CARES Act Funding

1. Resolution approving City of Liberty Corona Virus Relief Funds be allocated to cover City of Liberty Public Safety Salary Expenses experienced during mitigation of the COVID-19 Pandemic from March 2020 through December 2020. [AR 140-20]

**Action:** Council Member Phillips moved to approve the resolution. Council Member Moore seconded the motion.

**Vote:** Motion passed 7-0-0

**Yes:** Council Members Phillips, Moore, Hagan, Graham, Watt, Duncan and Gentrup

**No:** None

**Abstain:** None

Inscribed in Resolution No. 3144.

2. Ordinance approving the Distribution of up to \$250,000 in CARES Act Funds through the City of Liberty, MO CARES Act Small Business Grant Program to eligible local businesses/applicants within the City of Liberty, Missouri who have been impacted negatively by the COVID-19 Pandemic for COVID-19 related expenses incurred from March 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020. [AR 138-20]

In May 2020, the City of Liberty received \$2,931,395 in CARES Act funds. The CARES Act allows for cities to distribute CARES Act funds to small businesses through small business grants. On September 24, 2020, the City Council approved the City of Liberty Small Business Grant Program which allocated up to \$250,000 in City CARES Act funds to the SBG Program for distribution of small business grants up to \$10,000 per eligible Liberty small business. The Clay County Economic Development Council (CCEDC) accepted SBG program applications from Liberty businesses from October 1, 2020 through October 30, 2020.

The City will distribute SBG Program grant awards to eligible Liberty small businesses in December 2020. The City Council previously discussed the SBG Program grants be awarded in a ladder approach, e.g. \$1,000 grants awarded first and then grant amounts up to \$10,000 per eligible business. To stay within the SBG Program allocation of \$250,000, staff is proposing a distribution method that would award the fully requested amount to those businesses requesting less than \$10,000 and to those who have not previously received any other Federal COVID-19 related relief funding (e.g. PPP, etc. If the City Council desires to award the requested amounts of each eligible business then the total SBG Program cost would be \$267,950 versus the \$250,000 originally approved.

Document No. 9139 was read.

**Action:** Council Member Watt moved to amend the ordinance by expanding the program to fully accommodate all requested grants. Council Member Hagan seconded the motion.

**Vote:** Motion passed 7-0-0

**Yes:** Council Members Phillips, Moore, Hagan, Graham, Watt, Duncan and Gentrup

**No:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Action:** Council Member Graham moved to waive the rules and consider the ordinance as amended on first reading. Council Member Moore seconded the motion.

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.

**Action:** Council Member Watt moved to approve the ordinance as amended. Council Member Gentrup seconded the motion.

**Vote:** Motion passed 7-0-0

**Yes:** Council Members Phillips, Moore, Hagan, Graham, Watt, Duncan and Gentrup

**No:** None

**Abstain:** None

Approved by the Chair and inscribed in Ordinance No. 11330.

## X. OTHER BUSINESS

Council Member Jenness rejoined the meeting.

### A. Fairview Cemetery Confederate Monument – Update

Mayor Brenton stated that at issue is a monument located in Fairview Cemetery, Liberty, MO on a lot, or lots, within Block 174. This monument is an approximate twenty foot monument consisting of a base, a vertical pillar/spire and statue of a soldier at the top that was erected and unveiled in 1904. The monument was paid for through fundraising contributions by community members and entities of the time. Inscriptions found on the four sides of the vertical monument pillar include:

- “In God We Trust” (south)
- “Erected in Honor of the Confederate Soldiers of Clay County Missouri 1904” below an etched Confederate flag (east)
- “This Monument Erected Through the Liberality of Citizens of Clay County was Conceived and Promoted by Philip W. Reddish Co C 2<sup>nd</sup> MO Gen. Forrest Calvary” (north)
- “In Memory of the Daughters of the Confederacy of Clay County MO.” (west)

Recently, on or about October 31, 2020 a bronze placard with the names of sixteen individuals “...to mark the final burial place...” was attached below the inscription “In God We Trust.”

Fairview Cemetery Block 174 was purchased and conveyed to “the Officers and Members of Camp Thomas McCarty an organization of United Confederate Veterans of the County of Clay, State of Missouri” on January 6, 1900. Camp Thomas McCarty ceased operations in the early 1900’s and the organization of United Confederate Veterans ceased operations in the mid 1900’s. On September 16, 2020 the Missouri Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans filed a Quitclaim Deed asserting their nonprofit corporation is the successor in interest and current owner of Block 174.

For the last five months, beginning in July 2020, the City Council, City staff and City’s legal counsel have received considerable citizen input regarding the disposition of the monument in

Block 174. Before tonight, approximately 27 citizens have made 46 presentations in open meetings requesting the monument be removed; and, 33 citizens have made 36 presentations in open meetings requesting the monument not be disturbed. In addition, there have been petitions and numerous email/written documents provided to the City reflecting both removal and do not disturb positions regarding the monument.

In parallel with this citizen input, the City Council, City staff and City attorney completed considerable due diligence and legal research to gain a better understanding of the controversy and possible solutions. Also, the Council thought it important to provide time for a potential citizen led resolution to this difficult situation.

Mayor Brenton stated he had facilitated unofficial private conversations that included key leaders and influencers that are respected among the groups they represent; five persons with the perspective that the monument should be removed and five persons holding the position that the monument should not be disturbed. These conversations were for the purpose of candid dialogue to fashion a citizen led reasoned solution that we could all coalesce around to resolve this controversy. After three intense meetings a mutually agreeable resolution could not be reached and the two groups reached an impasse.

Throughout these past five months the City Council, City staff and City attorney have been and will continue to be sensitive to the myriad of sentiments, emotions and positions around this issue. Whatever is decided by the Council on this complex issue, it's the Mayor's hope that citizens understand their elected officials are doing what they believe in their mind and heart is the very best for this community. There are no hidden agendas, no intent to harm or cause malice to anyone, no profiteering, just the desire to do the very best for this community. That very best often times includes making difficult decisions not everyone will agree with or like, but hopefully will respect.

The City Council is to determine what action(s) the City of Liberty will take in response to the citizen's divergent requests regarding the monument in Block 174.

1. Do not disturb the monument on Block 174, maintain the status quo or
2. Pursue a potential remedy under Missouri state statutes for reverting back to the City of Liberty the plots within Block 174 upon which the monument is erected.

The Mayor noted for the record that he had Ex Parte communications regarding this issue with the following citizens or groups:

- Jane Boswell
- Theresa Byrd
- Jason Coffman
- Giselle Fest
- Dwayne Hotzclaw
- Marty Jacobs
- Missouri Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans
- Robert Painter
- Shelton Ponder
- David Sallee
- Larry Yeatman

For tonight's meeting, 35 comments requesting removal and 27 comments requesting do not disturb were received. Two unaudited petitions containing electronic signatures were also submitted. The petition requesting removal contained approximately 2,500 signatures and the petition to not disturb contained approximately 1,250 signatures. These numbers are provided to show there is considerable sentiment on both sides of this issue. All comments/petitions received prior to 12:00 p.m. on November 23, 2020 were provided in their entirety to the City Council.

As noticed, the first 15 comments received for both perspectives were read with a one minute time limit per comment:

Fr. Ron Will, C.P.P.S., 2130 Saint Gaspar Way, Liberty

I read your invitation in the newspaper to make a comment about the confederate statue in Fairview-New Hope Cemetery.

I believe that the statue should be removed. The original purpose of erecting the statue and the quotes on the base promote racism, enforcing white superiority and racial subordination. The statue faces east, which was the neighborhood of the blacks at that time. Liberty citizens have grown beyond that belief today. There are laws against hate speech.

Liberty has many Christian churches, all of which promote inclusion of all people as children of God. Anything that promotes racism today is a sin, because it blots out the image of God in some of our brothers and sister.

Gieselle Fest, 1407 Lynette St, Liberty

Sons of Confederate Veterans desire:

1. Leave their PRIVATE property (Block 174) alone
2. Leave the graves and gravestone of LOCAL confederate veterans ALONE. Let them Rest In Peace!

While the REMOVAL GROUP is eager to join the national discussion of all things Confederate on PUBLIC property, the sacred cemetery is not that place.

The REMOVAL GROUP desires to be part of the national stage. They are creating hateful rhetoric and issues that are not appropriate here in this sacred place.

However, someone else's PRIVATE PROPERTY is not that thing. **THE PRIVATE PROPERTY IS A BIG ISSUE!!** To take private citizen property for any reason is wrong! That would be a precedent that endangers every citizen in Liberty. There are many other civil and social conversations that the city could and should have, but they are not Cemetery conversations.

Block 174, the gravestone nor VETERAN graves DO NOT represent the discussion of slavery or in equality. BLOCK 174 was and is only about LOCAL OLD, DEAD VETERANS.

Jason Edwards, Senior Pastor Second Baptist Church, Liberty

I'm writing in response to your current consideration of whether or not to remove the confederate statue currently situated at the gates of Fairview and New Hope cemeteries. As a follower of Jesus, it is of highest importance to me to follow his leadership. When once asked to name the greatest commandment, Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest

commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22: 37-40)

In a June article from the Courier Tribune, Shelton Ponder said as a lifelong Liberty resident, he has noticed the statue since childhood. "I found it offensive then because it represented people who sought to keep my ancestors in the despicable human bondage of enslavement." Another lifelong resident, Theresa Byrd, noted struggling with this statue since she was a child in the 50's. Mr. Ponder and Mrs. Byrd no doubt reflect the experiences of many black citizens in our community.

Robin Lamb, 602 n Morse Ave, Liberty

I believe we should keep this statue as it is apart of our history. We can't change the past we can only change our future. If you can't learn from the past you can't make the future.

Ed Chasteen, 1702 Magnolia, Liberty

Slave owning states from 1861-1865 fought to keep slaves and the right to extend slavery to those states that might in the future join the United States. When their Confederacy surrendered in 1865, legal slavery was outlawed.

With the assassination of President Lincoln by a confederate sympathizer, the accession of VP Andrew Johnson to the presidency, the subsequent presidency of Ulysses S. Grant and the deal made with former confederate states by Rutherford B Hayes to win the contested presidency over Samuel Tilden in 1876, the pieces were in place to bring on Jim Crow, sharecropping, the KKK, poll tax and other features of slavery by another name. Confederate statues and monuments were erected after the Civil War ended to honor the confederacy and keep alive the way of life it sanctioned.

Charles Fray, 1708 Wynbrick Dr, Liberty

Retain the confederate statue in Fairview Cemetery.

It stands for history. We should learn from our history rather than destroy it.

Gaye McCarty Stevick, 1493 Hemlock Court, Liberty

I support the removal of this monument. It glorifies those who enslaved and abused the ancestors of members of our community. It also praises those who betrayed our country through secession and caused a war which cost 620,000+ combat deaths and inestimable others.

The prominent position it holds in the cemetery on a high pedestal gives an impression which contradicts our values of liberty and justice for all. Let's set the record straight and use this statue in a museum explaining its true significance.

Sentimentalizing people who supported slavery directly attacks Liberty citizens.

Fr. Richard W Rudd, 901 Sunset Ave, Liberty

As a third generation Liberty resident, I am intimately familiar with the Confederate grave marker in Fairview Cemetery. It has stood there both respectfully and harmlessly for over a century. The monument, both subtly and overtly, reveals the intentions of those who placed it there. The soldier does not look to the past and wistfully toward the south longing for the glory days of the Confederacy; he looks to the future and with hope toward the east in expectation of Christ's return and the Resurrection of those over whom he symbolically stands guard. In consideration of other statues and all Christian symbols in Fairview

Cemetery and all of Liberty, I urge you to consider carefully the precedent that would be set by an attempt to remove this monument.

Rev. Nikki Cooley, 912 Glendale Rd., Liberty

I am writing to encourage you to remove the confederate statue in Fairview Cemetery. It was erected to intimidate those with brown skin, acts as a constant reminder of the abomination of racism, and perpetuates white body supremacy. The statue does not stand for my values or for the beliefs of the people in Liberty.

I have heard that those who forget history are doomed to repeat it. Removing this statue does not erase history nor does its presence teach history. However, its continued presence in our community perpetuates intolerance, division, hate, and the misguided notion of white body supremacy. I urge you to remove the confederate statue from Fairview Cemetery and to continue seeking out and removing racist and offensive relics from our city.

Mary Cravens, 300 Manor Lane, Liberty, Mo.

I believe we should keep the Confederate Headstone.

It is on private property. It has a cemetery deed.

It was paid for by private citizens. No funds came from City, County, or State.

This headstone is not of anyone in particular. It is just a confederate soldier. Do we dig up any headstones that refer to the confederacy?

If we allow censorship now, who will be next?

This headstone is part of our history. It is part of our culture.

I fail to see the urgency to remove this headstone, from private property, privately owned and paid for when we have a statue of George Washington on public property who was a slaveowner. Is there an outcry to have it torn down?

Mary Jane Houston; 29 Fulkerson Circle, Liberty.

I am in favor of removing the Confederate monument from Fairview Cemetery.

I did not come to this conclusion lightly. While my roots and those of my deceased husband are in the South, loyalty to the teachings of Jesus is in my heart and guides my thoughts and actions.

My husband helped form the Fellowship of the Concerned to fight bigotry and inequality, to prevent racial strife, to end discrimination in housing, and foster harmony among ethnic groups.

Racism and white supremacy in any form is antithetical to the Gospel and the monument is the antithesis of everything my husband and I worked for and believe in. The monument should be removed

Chery Carr Holtman, 891 Reese Street, Liberty, MO

I have ancestors buried in Fairview - representing soldiers in two different wars-the Civil War and WWI. The marker for the Confederate soldiers is on private property, demonstrates actual consideration for soldiers and should be left alone as it has been all these years.

If this memorial is removed, what's next? My ancestor was on the losing side too, so should his memory/name be taken away? You think this is extreme, but giving in to changing history you don't like is a dangerous precedent. There was a civil war-it happened. It is history that hopefully we learned from.

Marcia Duke, 900 Cambridge Circle, Liberty

Remove the Confederate statue and monument.

Confederate symbols are divisive. They recall the dangers, hatred and lack of justice and kindness during the Civil War and beyond.

We claim that we are “one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” Right now we are clearly in the midst of a terrible time of divisiveness, mistrust and lack of justice.

It is time to tell ourselves the truth regarding the overwhelming lack of liberty and justice for all.

Now that we know better we must do better. Confederate symbols have no place in public space. Remove the statue and monument. It is the just and merciful decision.

Susan Wayne, 1916 Carter Court, Liberty  
I believe that the grave marker should stay!  
It is privately owned and on private land.

I reside in Liberty Missouri.  
I own a home and pay taxes here.

Ann Marie Puck, 1104 Pier Street, Liberty

**[Monuments sponsored by the United Daughters of the Confederacy] The WHY the statue/monument must come down**

PART 1.) After the completion of the Confederate Home’s and its Cemetery in Higginsville, MO other activities pursued, such as the erection of Civil War Monuments all over Missouri. At the state meeting in 1900-(United Daughters of the Confederacy, Missouri Association), Founder Elizabeth Robert addressed the Convention, asking her fellow Daughters to multiply their efforts because the “scythe of time is mowing down our ranks,” and she hoped this would “spur greater effort, greater exertion, to accomplish the work we have undertaken.” Founder Clara Wilson expounded on Robert’s words, praising the members of the Missouri Association for planning to “build monuments,” “impress upon the youth...a true and unbiased account of the Civil War,” and “educate them.” 241.

Cindy Rall, 596 White Oak Ln. liberty

This statue should remain where it is and how it is not only is it a monument but a memorial to all those that are buried there that were veterans and their wives and families of that Civil War. Just because of today’s society being what it is and somebody getting their panties in a wad it has been there for all these years and has never ever been a problem before. How do you think these families feel that this monument may be removed just because a few people feel it is racist? What a shame that our history is trying to be destroyed by a few people who think their feelings have been hurt. That is an out rage and it needs to stop because if it doesn’t stop now when will it stop? Even though I was not raised here in Liberty, I so enjoy the history of this wonderful area and it should be preserved. History should not be changed and it cannot be changed but it is there for us to learn and to grow. It is so sad to see these beautiful works of art being torn down all across our great nation just because of something that happened 150 years ago.

Milton P. Horne, 720 W. Mississippi St., Liberty

First, let me offer my support and thanks to the Liberty City Council for convoking our community to exchange ideas justifying Liberty’s Confederate memorial in Fairview Cemetery. Violence is seldom the best approach. Second, let me assert my rejection of white supremacy as a valid principle by which any people can live together; my celebration of

“liberty and justice for all;” and my conviction that there is one creator who made all people of equal value and dignity. Third, I find unconvincing arguments that the removal of such monuments “deletes history,” it does not; or that such memorials are worthy to commemorate “great leaders” (e.g., Stalin, Hitler, Pol Pot, Chiang Kai Shek, Mao Tse Tung, Pinochet, Andrew Jackson, etc.), leaders’ greatness must be measured by the morality of both their cause and their means of effecting it.

But the reason we Liberty residents should remove our statue is because it evokes emotion that is sympathetic to racism and white supremacy. In my thirty-two years of teaching religion at William Jewell College-where for most years, students who entered my classes came from Christian backgrounds-I used (optional) field trips to non-Christian communities as an opportunity for learning.

Joyce Bishop, 1006 Lindenwood, Liberty,  
Mr. Confederate is part of the history of our area and the US. For those that can't stand the thought, just remember all those that died for what they thought was a 'cause'. Just as is happening today. Too few are demanding too much and today's protests have very little to do with whatever color we are at this time, just a part of history.

As I understand it, this statue is not public domain. He needs to stay there as an historical reminder to how far we have come as a nation, and a reminder that we must continually move forward.

Perhaps a plaque (with wonderful words) would be appropriate near this statue.

My name is Sue Wright. I live at 305 Seaport Circle in Liberty. My telephone number is 781-1568. The following is my comment pro removal:

Imagine you were a soldier in a war that goes on dividing your country, and still today, you are forced to stand tribute to that painful era in your nation's history. Would you be proud your duty to celebrate a cause so inhuman, or would you have seen the light by now and begun speaking out against the cruel enslavement of your fellows? Would you want to be remembered marching brother against brother or would you want to be upheld as that Liberty man who grew from his biases to embrace freedom for all? Would you ask your community as I ask for you, let me rest in peace so we can walk together and not stay in one place like the statue I am.

Renee S Westfall, 1429 Woodbury Lane, Liberty

It is with respect of history and our ancestors that I send this note objecting to the removal of the Confederate Monument at Fairview Cemetery. This monument, dedicated to the Confederate Soldiers of Clay County, is part of our heritage and should be preserved. It is our history and one does not tear down history to "vanish" others regardless of their beliefs and their bravery to fight in their own cause. Are we to hide the fact of the Civil War, regardless of the Union and Confederate Armies? (I had two ancestors who were brothers; soldiers on both sides.).

It is our right as citizens to have freedom of speech and religion and learn the knowledge to respect all human beings from the history before us! Not to erase or undermine but to learn the value of life for all who fought in their beliefs and dreams as Americans and make a better life. And respect for all who died in their cause; and sympathy for all families of color who suffered great losses.

Do not throw away our history that has brought us together to make a better life for our Country. In the future years to come, do you want to see the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Wall torn down, Pearl Harbor destroyed, or even the Liberty War Memorial?

Lisa and Jim Shoemaker, 1199 Linden Rd., Liberty

We wish to voice our support of the removal of the Confederate soldier statue that presently looms over Fairview Cemetery. While we are not ostriches burying our heads in the sand about a particularly heinous time in our nation's history, and we do recognize the value of understanding our history in order to become better citizens of this world, the existence of such a statue that publicly places importance on those who embraced slavery and the disenfranchisement of America's people of color is hurtful to those whose ancestors suffered under such an institution, and it presents our city as one that respects this legacy. It is ethically and morally wrong to honor a monument that represents such a dishonorable time in history.

Rosie Shepherd and Stewart Shepherd, 1009 N Morse, Liberty

Leave the statue where it is. The statue is part of our Town & history.

The Reverend Doctor Paul Stephen Smith, 304 Nashua Road, Liberty

I am white guy living in Liberty. I was raised in Tennessee; the last State to leave the Union and the first to return to the Union following the Civil War. Since I am not Black, I cannot completely understand what a monument to those that fought for the continuation of Slavery can mean. If this monument had been erected in the late 1860's I would view it one way, but it was not. For me it is an embarrassment for a very ugly time in our nation's history. The systemic racism that continues through this day is symbolized by this so called 'monument'. I am reminded of what someone famous once said: If you have done it to the least of these, you have done it unto me! Take it down!

Delmar and Jean Warren, 111 N. Main St., Liberty, MO 64068

#1, in 1957, the US Congress passed a law that made all Confederate Veterans of the Civil War full "US Veterans". This law is still on the books; all gravestones provided today to mark the grave of a Confederate soldier are provided by the Dept. of Defense. Removing or defacing the gravestone of a Confederate veterans is defacing or removing that of a US soldier. If you remove the grave marker in Fairview, you might as well remove the Doughboy Statue on the west side of the old Courthouse.

Further confirmation of this is the fact the the "Wreaths across America" project to lay wreaths on all veterans' graves will include the Confederate Cemetery in Higginsville next month.

#2, this is not a publicly funded marker on public grounds - it is a privately paid for marker in a privately owned cemetery plot that was purchased in the early 1900s. Its ownership has been proven to the City of Liberty thru the Quit Claim deed. If you remove this marker, are you going to force the removal of gravestones on the more than 800 graves of Civil War Veterans in Clay County?

Dee W. Rosekrans, 323 Seaport Circle, Liberty

Most Confederate monuments, including the one in Fairview Cemetery (1904), were erected between 1895 and World War I. They were part of a campaign to paint the Southern cause in the Civil War as just and slavery as a benevolent institution, and their installation came against a backdrop of Jim Crow violence and oppression of African Americans. (Based on research by History professor Mark Elliott, University of North Carolina, Greensboro)

These Confederate monuments were and are explicit symbols of white supremacy.

What uniting purpose is accomplished by the Confederate monument in Fairview Cemetery? Is the greater good of this community served by this monument? What legacy is perpetuated?

It is time for the Confederate monument at Fairview Cemetery to be removed.

Harold Lammers, 179 County Road 439, New Franklin

It is my understanding that this marker is on private property and is a grave marker. Please respect those who placed this marker there and have respect for the dead, their loved ones and the history of our country. Those who wish to remove this marker may one day (years from now) suffer the same fate should we allow those who are "offended" to rewrite our history. We (individually and collectively) have parts of our own history which we may not be proud of but it is who we are and most of us have learned from this history.

Please respect the dead and their memory and keep the Confederate Grave Marker in place. If you allow this, where will it stop? Please quit trying to rewrite history.

Elliott Yoakum, 527 Liberty Drive, Liberty

This monument cannot continue to stand. It's very presence is a symbol for racism and division in our community. While proper headstones to the dead can and should be placed, this monument, placed nearly 50 years following the Civil War, at the height of Jim Crow, is no such thing. The "unknown soldier" at the top and the Confederate Flag etching face not the south, as was the usual custom, but the East, where there are thousands of unmarked graves of the black residents of clay county, and further behind, where Pearly park once stood. This is no coincidence and it cannot be regarded as such. The monument was erected by a group of citizens, and with the fund for maintenance in the city's hands since the mid 1990s, it is clearly under the legal and moral jurisdiction of the City; You, the City Council must not allow this ugly and hateful monument to continue standing, you cannot allow it to stand if you wish to think of yourselves and the Council as anything but morally repulsive. I would urge the Council to force the removal of the guerilla plaque placed on the Monument's base. Individuals placed this plaque with no permission. It is tantamount to vandalism, and should be dealt with as such.

Greg Quirin , 9004 North Britt Avenue, Kansas City, MO

Do not push to remove this Confederate grave marker. Show your respect for dead fighting men (whether Union or Confederate, they were Americans who died for their beliefs - as a retired soldier myself, I feel very strongly about this...) and for the rights of private citizens and their private property.

In this most turbulent time in our nation's/state's history, you, as a governing body, have far more important issues to address.

Patrick Campbell, 1005 Aspen Dr., Liberty

The Confederate Monument should be removed from Fairview Cemetery as it is clearly an artifact promoting white supremacy and I would hope that Liberty, as a community, does not want to endorse such a pernicious ideology. The monument has inscriptions of the confederate flag, names of slave owners, and confederate war criminals, and now a large plaque funded by The Sons Of The Confederacy, a notorious purveyor of revisionist, racist narratives.

Those behind the “keep” group have displayed clear racist and white supremacist views in their statements and comments during this debate, they have accused the “remove” group of wanting to tear down Liberty, desecrate graves, forget history, even of being a part of the BLM movement and a “Marxist Revolution”. None of this is true.

We have negotiated in good faith, offered to fund the removal, leaving the stonework as a compromise, only to be met with racist insults and mocking laughter. I would ask our City Council to make the decision to stand against white supremacy and enable the removal of this statue.

Patricia Devine, 3416 Eastham Drive, Columbia, MO  
Please do NOT disturb the grave markers. There are many arguments against removing them.

1. It's a privately owned Grave Marker on Private Property
2. Protecting this monument protects all Grave and Grave Monument Owners.
3. Respect for the Dead
4. Respect for Soldiers
5. Freedom of speech, so we can all have religious emblems etc on grave markers, and not fear someone comes along one day and say's it's offensive
6. This is on Private Property, not on the public square
7. Veterans and their wives are buried in the plots around it
8. Respect for history and preserving it for future generations to study
9. It's more inclusive to be respectful of the 100,000 or so Confederate Descendants living in Clay County.
10. The group that wants to remove it, called (Clay County for Inclusion), wants to exclude history lovers and Confederate Descendants from being "Included"

**Action:** Council Member Hagan moved to pursue a potential remedy under Missouri state statutes for re-vesting back to the City of Liberty the plots within Block 174 upon which the monument is erected. Council Member Graham seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion passed 5-3-0  
 Yes: Council Members Phillips, Hagan, Graham, Duncan and Gentrup  
 No: Council Members Jenness, Moore, and Watt  
 Abstain: None

Mayor Brenton directed staff to research and bring forward to Council for consideration.

- XI. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS FROM CITY ADMINISTRATOR
- XII. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS FROM MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Attest:

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Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy City Clerk