

Confederate Heritage Month proclamation nixed by Board

By Katherine R. Dougan

A proclamation proclaiming April 2020 as Confederate Heritage Month and to honor past Clintonians and members of the Mississippi College Rifles was rejected by the Board of Alderman at the Board's April 21 meeting.

Ward 6 Alderman Mike Cashion made a motion that the Board accept the proclamation, and Ward 5 Alderwoman Jan Cossitt seconded Cashion's motion.

"I thought that because the Mississippi College Rifles were such an important part of our city's history, it would be worthy of at least recognizing their vote," Cashion said.

The Mississippi College Rifles Camp 1636, Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) was organized in 1863 by a large group of MC students, three faculty members, a trustee and townspeople in Clinton. The Mississippi Division, SCV has its headquarters at the War Memorial Building on the "Capitol Green" in downtown Jackson. The Mississippi division is part of the International Confederation of the Sons of Confederate Veterans with headquarters in Columbia, Tennessee. The UCB membership was established by surviving Confederate soldiers.

"Although I am entirely supportive of history, learning about our city and our state, and highly support those who have served in various conflicts and wars, I have some concerns ... if we are going to spend all of our time recognizing various groups for whatever reason, it might be we're going to end up spending too much time on resolutions and not enough time on City business," Alderwoman-at-Large Ricki Garrett said.

The motion to accept the proclamation was defeated by a vote of 4 to 3. Cashion, Cossitt and Ward 3 Alderman William O. Barnett voted in favor of adopting the Confederate Heritage month proclamation; Ward 1 Alderman Dave Ellis, Ward 4 Alderman Keith Perritt, Ward 2 Alderman Jim Martin and Alderwoman Garrett voted against adopting the proclamation.

Garrett asked Mayor Phil Fisher what the process is for presenting proposed resolutions and proclama-

tions to the Board.

"I have in the past not sent some on," Fisher said. However, at an earlier the meeting, the Board opted for all resolutions and proclamations be brought forward. "So I'm bringing them all," he said.

The City frequently receives proposals for resolutions and proclamations from a variety of sources. Sometimes proclamations and resolutions are granted, and sometimes they are not.

"Unless a resolution is directly related to what we as City officials have governing authority over, then I have concerns about it," Garrett said.

In other business, the Board approved a resolution to provide one additional payment (13th check) to retirees of the City of Clinton Fire and Police Disability Relief Fund for 2020.

The Board also approved the execution of contracts for entertainment at the Family Fireworks Extravaganza on July 4. Contracts for the entertainment include Clinton natives Jerekus Singleton, \$2,500, and Eddie Cotton, \$5,000; \$6,567.50 to Vault Entertainment for sound stage and lights; and \$11,000 for the production of Fireworks by PyroShows. If COVID-19 regulations by July 4 do not permit large gatherings, the Family Fireworks Extravaganza will be presented at a later date.

"This way, the City will be guaranteed that we get what we paid for," Fisher said.

The Board also approved and accepted the Final Plat for Windsor Plantation subdivision, Phase V. Windsor Plantation subdivision is located off Pinehaven Drive.

The Board went into executive session to discuss a legal matter, following the executive session by approving the filing of a formal complaint with the Public Service Commission. The complaint requests that the PSA investigate Entergy billing practices and rates specific to street lighting in the city to determine if Entergy is billing the City correctly.

The next meeting of the Board of Aldermen and mayor will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 4, at the Municipal Courtroom, 305 Monroe Street.

Local family shares hope with community



Special to The Clinton Courier

Recently, Main Street Clinton launched their "Hope For Better Days" project. Rainbows have decorated downtown Clinton and yards in many neighborhoods. With the Main Street Clinton office being closed, The Clinton Courier sold the signs for Main Street Clinton. When the Krason family learned The Courier had sold out of signs, they made their own. Pictured (l to r) are Issac, Tanner and Lydia Krason.

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