

City of Fayetteville Staff Review Form

2022-1131

Legistar File ID

12/20/2022

City Council Meeting Date - Agenda Item Only
N/A for Non-Agenda Item

Britin Bostick

12/2/2022

LONG RANGE PLANNING (634)

Submitted By

Submitted Date

Division / Department

Action Recommendation:

Approval of a budget adjustment in the amount of \$2,457. The request is for acceptance of a Curtis H. Sykes Memorial Grant Program award in the amount of \$2,457 from the Arkansas State Archives and the Black History Commission of Arkansas.

Budget Impact:

1010.090.6600-4309.01	Federal Grants - Operational
Account Number	Fund
32208-2022	Nelson Hackett Marker
Project Number	Project Title
Budgeted Item? <u>No</u>	Current Budget \$ -
	Funds Obligated \$ -
	Current Balance \$ -
Does item have a cost? <u>No</u>	Item Cost
Budget Adjustment Attached? <u>Yes</u>	Budget Adjustment \$ 2,457.00
	Remaining Budget \$ 2,457.00

V20210527

Purchase Order Number: _____

Previous Ordinance or Resolution # 208-22

Change Order Number: _____

Approval Date: 9/6/2022

Original Contract Number: _____

Comments:



MEETING OF DECEMBER 20, 2022

TO: Mayor and City Council

THRU: Susan Norton, Chief of Staff
Jonathan Curth, Development Services Director

FROM: Britin Bostick, Long Range Planning/Special Projects Manager

DATE: December 2, 2022

SUBJECT: **Approval of a budget adjustment in the amount of \$2,457:** Submitted by CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE STAFF. The request is for acceptance of a Curtis H. Sykes Memorial Grant Program award in the amount of \$2,457 from the Arkansas State Archives and the Black History Commission of Arkansas.

RECOMMENDATION:

City staff recommends approval of a budget adjustment and acceptance of a grant award in the amount of \$2,457 from the Arkansas State Archives and the Black History Commission of Arkansas.

BACKGROUND:

On September 6, 2022 the Fayetteville City Council approved a recommendation from the Black Heritage Preservation Commission to install a historical marker honoring Nelson Hackett, which is to be located in a flower bed on the northwest corner of the Downtown Square. The approved resolution included an application for grant funding from the Curtis H. Sykes Memorial Grant Program to cover the cost of the marker. The marker text was developed as a collaborative effort of the Black Heritage Preservation Commission, faculty at the University of Arkansas, local historians, and city staff. It includes a required acknowledgement of funding by the Black History Commission of Arkansas:

“Nelson Hackett was an enslaved man whose escape to Canada and subsequent extradition set off an international dispute that ensured Canada remained a safe refuge for those escaping bondage from the United States. He labored near this spot as a personal servant to Alfred Wallace. Hackett fled Fayetteville in July 1841, leaving with a horse, saddle, beaver coat, and gold watch with chain. He traveled 360 miles across Missouri and another 600 miles through the free states before crossing into Canada in late August. Wallace tracked Hackett to the town of Chatham, Ontario, Canada (near Detroit) and had him arrested for stealing the horse and other goods. The Canadian colonial governor’s decision to extradite Hackett back to Arkansas made Hackett the first fugitive Canada returned to slavery. In early summer 1842, a shackled Hackett arrived back in Fayetteville. He was publicly whipped on several occasions, serving an example to other enslaved people, before being sold to Texas slavers. He then escaped again, and his fate remains unknown. Black and white abolitionists throughout the Atlantic world fought to

prevent Hackett's extradition from setting a precedent. They secured a commitment from the British government, which still had many territories under colonial rule, to make extradition of those fleeing slavery nearly impossible. - This project was funded in part by a grant from the Black History Commission of Arkansas."

Following approval of the resolution by City Council in September, the City's Long Range Planning staff submitted the grant application prior to the October 2 deadline and were subsequently notified that the application would be considered in a public meeting on November 17, 2022.

DISCUSSION:

In their meeting on November 17, 2022 the Black History Commission of Arkansas met to consider grant applications that were submitted for consideration in the fourth quarter of 2022. JL Jennings, Chair of the Fayetteville Black Heritage Preservation Commission and Britin Bostick, Long Range Planning and Special Projects Manager attended the meeting virtually. The Commissioners unanimously approved the grant requested by the City of Fayetteville and commended the recognition of Nelson Hackett, whose experience as an enslaved man had lasting impacts on international policy regarding the extradition of enslaved persons from Canada to the United States. The Commissioners asked how Fayetteville could "make this larger", expressed interest in attending the marker unveiling, and anticipated a celebration of both the marker installation and naming of Nelson Hackett Blvd. Long Range Planning staff were notified in writing of the award on November 22, 2022 and expect to receive the grant payments in two parts consistent with the grant's disbursement policy. The grant money will be spent to purchase the 18" wide and 22" tall metal marker, and the City of Fayetteville Parks Maintenance staff will install the marker in the approved location when ready.

BUDGET/STAFF IMPACT:

\$2,457 grant award

Attachments:

Nelson Hackett Historical Marker Text and Layout

Nelson Hackett

Nelson Hackett was an enslaved man whose escape to Canada and subsequent extradition set off an international dispute that ensured Canada remained a safe refuge for those escaping bondage from the United States. He labored near this spot as a personal servant to Alfred Wallace. Hackett fled Fayetteville in July 1841, leaving with a horse, saddle, beaver coat, and gold watch with chain. He traveled 360 miles across Missouri and another 600 miles through the free states before crossing into Canada in late August. Wallace tracked Hackett to the town of Chatham, Ontario, Canada (near Detroit) and had him arrested for stealing the horse and other goods. The Canadian colonial governor's decision to extradite Hackett back to Arkansas made Hackett the first fugitive Canada returned to slavery. In early summer 1842, a shackled Hackett arrived back in Fayetteville. He was publicly whipped on several occasions, serving an example to other enslaved people, before being sold to Texas slavers. He then escaped again, and his fate remains unknown. Black and white abolitionists throughout the Atlantic world fought to prevent Hackett's extradition from setting a precedent. They secured a commitment from the British government, which still had many territories under colonial rule, to make extradition of those fleeing slavery nearly impossible.

This project was funded in part by a grant from the Black History Commission of Arkansas.