

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-44

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE “BATTLE OF FRANKLIN” MARKER TEXT AS RELATIVE TO THE FULLER STORY INITIATIVE.

WHEREAS, in August 2018, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen (“Board”) was asked to support the Fuller Story initiative; and

WHEREAS, on September 25, 2018, the Board approved Resolution 2018-69 to support the City of Franklin’s history to a fuller extent through the addition of historic markers and memorials that commemorate the African American experience in Franklin; and

WHEREAS, on February 26, 2019, the Board approved Resolution 2019-15, which provided specific text and placement for the markers and the United States Colored Troop statue within the Public Square, with the exception of the text for the “Battle of Franklin” marker, which is to be prepared by the community leaders and presented to the Board for approval at a later date; and

WHEREAS, the Civil War Historical Commission considered the community leaders’ draft “Battle of Franklin” marker text (Option 1) at its March 14, 2019, meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Civil War Historical Commission provided a favorable recommendation for the draft text, with the proposal that additional wording identifying who the Confederate monument was erected by, and when, be included was part of the text (Option 2); and

WHEREAS, the BOMA is presented with two options for consideration, as follows:

- Option 1 – Community Leaders’ “Battle of Franklin” marker text, and
- Option 2 – Community Leaders’ “Battle of Franklin” marker text with additional language addressing the Confederate monument, as recommended by the Civil War Historical Commission.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE:

That the Board of Mayor and Aldermen select Option ____ as the approved text for the “Battle of Franklin” marker approved to be installed at the Public Square.

IT IS SO RESOLVED AND DONE on this ____ day of _____ 2019.

ATTEST:

CITY OF FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE:

By: _____
ERIC S. STUCKEY
City Administrator

By: _____
DR. KEN MOORE
Mayor

Approved as to Form:

By: _____
Shauna R. Billingsley
City Attorney

Option 1

The Battle of Franklin

On November 30, 1864, one of the last major battles of the American Civil War exploded across the rolling farmland just south of Franklin. Approximately 20,000 United States soldiers led by Gen. John M. Schofield barely held off a massive attack by some 20,000 Confederate troops commanded by Gen. John Bell Hood. The battle, which began at 4 pm and was mostly over by 9 pm, was an exceptionally violent and close-quarters struggle, and it resulted in nearly 10,000 casualties. Almost 7,500 of the total number were Confederate losses and, as a result, the Southern army was nearly wrecked.

For much of the day, this area was the scene of much action and congestion. The U.S. Army's supply train, which totaled 800 wagons, moved through the square and began crossing the Harpeth River late in the morning. During and after the battle, wounded Federal soldiers were moved through the square to temporary hospitals north of the river. From there most were loaded onto railcars and evacuated to Nashville.

Once the combat south of town ended, the U.S. Army began preparations for a withdrawal. Around midnight it began, and Federal troops poured through the downtown area. Within several hours the victorious U.S. soldiers were across the Harpeth River and headed toward Nashville. Before leaving, they burned the bridges that spanned the river so the Confederates could not easily pursue. Over the next two days the battered Southern army moved through this square and limped toward Nashville, where its final destruction awaited.

Thirty-five years after the Battle of Franklin, the Confederate monument that stands here was unveiled.

Option 2

The Battle of Franklin

On November 30, 1864, one of the last major battles of the American Civil War exploded across the rolling farmland just south of Franklin. Approximately 20,000 United States soldiers led by Gen. John M. Schofield barely held off a massive attack by some 20,000 Confederate troops commanded by Gen. John Bell Hood. The battle, which began at 4 pm and was mostly over by 9 pm, was an exceptionally violent and close-quarters struggle, and it resulted in nearly 10,000 casualties. Almost 7,500 of the total number were Confederate losses and, as a result, the Southern army was nearly wrecked.

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Thirty-five years after the Battle of Franklin, the Confederate monument that stands here was unveiled. It was estimated that a crowd of some 10,000 gathered for the ceremony. The primary address was given by former Southern general George W. Gordon, who had fought in the battle. The local newspaper said the monument was dedicated “to the Confederate Soldiers who fell in the battle of Franklin and to their surviving comrades”