From: Jonathan Wainscott <jonwainscott@gmail.com>
Sent: 6/5/2021 10:15:57 PM
To: councilgroup <AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov>
Cc:
Subject: August 1897
Attachments: ACT August 9 1897.docx, white men will rule.jpg

The cornerstone of the Vance monument was laid on December 22, 1897. Four months prior to that, Robert (Bob) Brachett was lynched for the alleged rape of Kittie Henderson. The Word doc attached are the articles published in the Asheville Citizen detailing the accusation, arrest, storming of the jail and a train to abscond with Mr. Brachett, his lynching, and the final investigation into the matter. All of that happened in one week. I think it's worth printing out and reading and if you use both sides of the paper it'll feel kind of like a newspaper.Â I must confess, I didn't tune into the Zoom Vance Task Force meetings much but from what I gathered it was a thorough process. The due process given to the careful removal that tower of white power far exceeded that of Bob Brachett et al. There's no real legal argument in there, I'm sure the current legal appeal has more to do with some sort of breach of contract or violation of state statute protecting monuments, but I think more needs to be said about the history of our community specifically regarding the end of the 1800's in the ensuing conversations during the appeal.

The photo attached is the headline after the 1898 election. Perhaps this historic detail can be showcased to illustrate the vibe of the times. I presume Council will be meeting on the second Tuesday in August. That's the 10th, and the 124th anniversary of Robert Brachett's death. Perhaps a proclamationÂ of some sort to raise awareness in the community is in order:

WHEREASÂ Mr. Robert Branchett died by way of a CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY, was denied DUE PROCESS, failed to be protected by the ASHEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT, BUNCOMBE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, ASHEVILLE LIGHT INFANTRY, was LYNCHED at the HEMPHILL SCHOOL in WEAVERVILLE, the Ashville City Council does hereby declare August 10 to be a day of PROFOUND SADNESS AND REGRET for the DEATH OF ROBERT BRANCHETT.Â Â Or some such thing.

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