From: Jonathan Wainscott <jonwainscott@gmail.com>
Sent: 5/13/2021 9:08:18 PM
To: S. Antanette Mosley <antanettemosley@avlcouncil.com>
Cc:
Subject:
Attachments: Screenshot_2021-04-28 22 Feb 1931, Page 1 - Asheville Citizen-Times at Newspapers com(2).png

---

Hi Ms. Mosley,

I just wanted to take a second to thank you for voting along with Ms. Wisler in dissent of the closed-session meeting this past Tuesday. I won't get into any of my thoughts on the session topics, but I will say that there is much discussion to be had and it was poor form on the part of Council to begin engaging this pursuit without real engagement with the community and not giving the community any notice about this at all is particularly concerning.

I also want to thank you for not saying anything at all during the astro-turf striping/non-striping conversation. That was 25 minutes that required 7 Council members (6 speaking on the issue), City Attorney, Manager, and Clerk, plus I believe 3 staff members speaking, and the IT person to keep it all going. That's 14 people for almost a half an hour on a Consent Agenda item that no one from the public chose to speak about during the meeting. That's the equivalent to one person spending 7 hours telling a contractor to go ahead, the check is in the mail, and requiring one last meeting to finalize the striping detail. Thank you for not adding to that.

I'm also attaching this article that was printed on the front page of the Asheville Citizen-Times February 25, 1931. It doesn't pertain to City Council in any way. In fact it has little to do with Asheville at all, though this criminal gang was alleged to have committed crimes in Asheville. I've been studying the evolution of our governmental system and in that process I have been simply reading the local paper from the months leading up to our first City Council under our current form of government. While following that story line I also catch up on other events and conversations of the time. On the first day of 1931 it was reported that lynchings had increased (nationally) by 11 incidents in 1930 over the previous year. In 1929 there were 10 total. Lynchings were up 110%.

After the final vote (by the historic Council on which you serve) to remove the Vance Monument, our Mayor said that the values of Asheville had changed and that they are no longer reflected in the monument. Then she said, "I don't think they ever were". That is unfortunately not the case. Asheville has a very racist past and we are obviously still affected by that today.

I don't feel that Asheville, or any community, can live comfortably if we don't reach back and examine our oldest wounds. I don't feel that the Asheville City Council electoral system is the greatest wound inflicted on people that look like you by people that look like me, but I do believe there is a fundamental issue of honesty and integrity missing from the conversation about it and that is fundamentally important and it's a battle I will continue to pursue.

Thank you for your time (and again, time saving re astro-turf).

--

Jonathan Wainscott

18 Reynolds Road
28806

828.367.8165

Virus-free. www.avg.com