

Civil War Museum Advisory Board
MONDAY DECEMBER 1, 2025 4:00 PM/City Hall Council Chambers

Members Present: Brian Crigger, Garry Keene, Gary Stuart, Chris Johnson

Also Present: Mayor Flanigan, Council Member Ron Wells & Tourism Director Melissa Little

Absent: David Armstrong & Steve Weldon

Mayor Flanigan thanked the members for their willingness to serve with such gratitude to our local history. He also emphasized the importance of telling both Union and Confederate perspectives accurately and engagingly to be a major attraction to our tourism. He encouraged collaboration within the board as the meetings happened to move forward in making our history within the museum. He is currently seeking a passionate individual that can serve on the board as Steve Cottrell submitted his resignation.

New Business:

1. Discuss duties and responsibilities of the Civil War Museum Advisory Board: Each member was given the verbiage that was in the code to know that their duties and responsibilities are as follows in Division 5 Sec. 2-496: *The Civil War Museum Board shall be an advisory board to advise the city on the establishment of the overall mission of the museum including operational goals and objectives. These will include but not be limited to the appropriateness of exhibits to be displayed in said museum, hours of operations, staffing, and procedures. The board shall not be responsible for the day to day management of the museum nor shall the board have any power over expenditure of funds or receipt of funds for said museum. For reporting and organizational purposes, the Civil War Museum Board will report through the public service committee which will function as the board's oversight committee.*

Gary Stuart provided an overview of recent visitor counts at the museum, noting that the highest traffic continues to occur from April through October. He also shared that the Sons of Confederate Veterans have received a Confederate Medal of Honor awarded to a Jasper County soldier by the federal government. They are preparing a display case and hope to hold a dedication this spring.

Garry Keene informed the board that The 165th Battle of Carthage Reenactment is scheduled for June 5–7 at the Civil War Ranch, and the Battle of Carthage Committee will meet on December 8 to elect officers and begin planning.

Additionally, Mike Moorehouse provided Ron Wells with an original 1861 newspaper. Melissa will look into preservation options to determine whether it can be safely displayed in the museum.

Adjournment at 4:52 pm

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 5th at 4:00 pm in the Civil War Museum