



AGENDA ACTION FORM

Consideration of a Resolution to Accept a Donation from the Friends of the Kingsport Archives to Restore the J. Fred Johnson Desk

To: Board of Mayor and Aldermen

From: Chris McCartt, City Manager *CM*

Action Form No.: AF-277-2025

Work Session: October 6, 2025

First Reading: N/A

Final Adoption: October 7, 2025

Staff Work By: Committee

Presentation By: Michael T. Borders

Strategic Focus Area: 3. Exceptional Cultural & Recreational Opportunities

Recommendation:

Approve the Resolution

Executive Summary:

If approved the City will accept a donation from the Friends of the Kingsport Archives (Friends) for the purpose of restoring the J. Fred Johnson Desk in an anticipated amount to be no more than \$1,500.

The Friends are a nonprofit corporation that supports the Kingsport Archives and takes an active role in preserving the history of Kingsport.

J. Fred Johnson's desk has been stored in the lower level of the Kingsport Public Library for over a decade. The desk needs to be relocated during the renovation of the library. When staff and Friends examined the condition of the desk it was determined that if the desk was to be kept it would need to be restored to a presentable condition.

Staff working with members of the Friends developed a restoration plan. The plan will begin with the least invasive work at which point staff and the Friends will evaluate the condition and determine if more invasive work is required for the desired outcome. The goal of this restoration project is to preserve the desk as a piece of Kingsport history in as close to the original condition of the desk as possible.

During their September 8th meeting, the Friends voted to move forward with funding the restoration project. The acceptance of this donation allows the City to move forward with the restoration project. After restoration the desk will become a centerpiece of the Archives located at City Hall.

This project is anticipated to be fully funded through the Friends. Staff are grateful for the support of the friends to preserve this piece of Kingsport's history.

Donations will be receipted into Library Fund 137.

Attachments:

1. Resolution
2. Desk History
3. Restoration Presentation