



Meeting Minutes January 4th, 2022 at 2:00PM

An in-person meeting of The Historic Preservation Commission was held on Tuesday January 4th, 2022 at 2:00pm in The City Manager's Meeting Room of The Thomaston-Upson Government Complex.

HPC chairwoman, Mrs. Jane Burdette called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. In attendance were commission members: Jane Burdette, Jamesan Gramme, Luke Haney, and Dr. Matt Crawford. Commission Members Claude Burgess, Walter Brown, and Brenda Tabb had excused absences. Commission Members Lila Bryan and Tempy Hoyal had an unexcused absence. City of Thomaston Economic Development Coordinator, Mr. Taylor Smith and City Manager Mr. Russell Thompson were also in attendance.

Dr. Crawford motioned to approve the Minutes of the October 21, 2021 meeting, which was seconded by Mrs. Gramme. All votes were in favor of approving the meeting minutes. Mr. Haney motioned to adopt the agenda, which was seconded by Mrs. Gramme and the motion carried unanimously. Prior to addressing the agenda items, Chairwoman Burdette asked commission members to disclose any conflicts of interest. There were none.

The first item on the agenda was a Certificate of Appropriateness for Ms. Natasha Cromer and her building located at 103 W. Gordon Street (Hair Studio). Ms. Cromer is applying for the Facade Grant and her exterior improvements needed to be approved by HPC prior to DDA review. Ms. Cromer will be painting the building, replacing the awning, and removing the inoperable Christmas Tree Lights running along the roof. Mrs. Gramme motioned to approve the exterior modifications to the building and it was seconded by Mr. Haney. The motion carried unanimously.

The second item on the agenda was a Certificate of Appropriateness for RM Properties & Restorations, LLC and their properties located at 106 & 108 W. Main Street. Mrs. Coggins & Mrs. Avery are applying for the Facade Grant and their exterior improvements needed to be approved by HPC prior to DDA review. The buildings will be receiving a full facade restoration including the removal of metal cladding, plaster repair, paint, and signage. Dr. Crawford motioned to approve the exterior modifications and Mr. Haney seconded. The motion carried unanimously to approve COA's for both properties (106 & 108) at the direction of City Manager Russell Thompson.

The next item up for discussion was a Certificate of Appropriateness for Mr. Landon Maddox and his new business located at 101 1/2 N. Church Street (Farmer's Insurance). Mr. Maddox recently opened his agency and is seeking Certificate of Appropriateness in order to add exterior signage to the building. Mrs. Gramme motioned to approve the COA, which was seconded by Dr. Crawford. The motioned carried unanimously.

The fourth item up for discussion was a Certificate of Appropriateness for Mr. Daniel Palmer. Mr. Palmer's business located at 709 A&B N. Bethel Street is located outside of the Historic District. However, he is applying for the Facade Grant and must receive HPC approval prior to review by the DDA. Mr. Palmer submitted renderings of new paint for his buildings. Mr. Haney motioned to approve the COA, which was seconded by Dr. Crawford. The motion carried unanimously.

The final item up for discussion was a potential revision of the HPC Bylaws. The city recently received their Certified Local Government (CLG) results from the Department of Community Affairs. One of the findings noted was our newly passed HPC bylaws were not in compliance with 44-10-24 of the Georgia Historic Preservation Act, which states "all members of the commission shall reside within the historic preservation jurisdiction of their respective municipality or county." Mr. Smith informed the commission that he had spoken with Paige Jennings of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs regarding Mrs. Gramme's membership on the commission. Mrs. Gramme serves as the Director of the Thomaston-Upson Archives, but lives in Upson County. Mrs. Jennings informed Mr. Smith that this rule is established at the federal level and must be a component of our Bylaws. However, due to Mrs. Gramme's position she could serve in an advisory role for the commission. Mr. Smith asked the board to table the potential revision of the HPC bylaws, so that he may amend them to include language regarding Mrs. Gramme's advisory role position. Mr. Haney motioned to table the bylaw revision, which was seconded by Dr. Crawford. The motion carried unanimously.

In other business, Mr. Thompson asked if we had an update on the Historic Resource Survey. The city included monies for a new survey, as the last one completed was in 1988. Mr. Smith informed Mr. Thompson that Keyes Williamson of WLA Studio had provided the original quote. Mrs. Gramme asked if the city received any hard copies of the Master Plan. Mr. Thompson asked if Mr. Smith would reach out to WLA in regards to the hard copies.

Mr. Haney motioned to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Dr. Crawford. All commission members stood to show approval, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:48 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Taylor J. Smith

Economic Development Coordinator