



Meeting Minutes August 1, 2022 at 2:00PM

An in-person meeting of The Historic Preservation Commission was held on Monday August 1st, 2022 at 2:00pm in the City-County 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, Luke Haney, Walter Brown, Jamesan Gramme, Alison Uphold. Commission Members Brenda Tabb and Dr. Matt Crawford had Excused Absences. Commission Members Matt Knight and Tempy Hoyal had Unexcused Absences. City of Thomaston Economic Development Coordinator, Mr. Taylor Smith was also in attendance.

Mr. Haney motioned to approve the Minutes of the June 6th, 2022 meeting, which was seconded by Mrs. Gramme and carried unanimously. Mr. Brown motioned to adopt the agenda, which was seconded by Mr. Haney, and 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 Mr. Brad Whitmire and his business, Whitmire & Associates at 101 S. Center St. Mr. Whitmire COA request was for an update to his exterior sign to commemorate his 20 year anniversary. The proposal was to replace the existing flat facing sign with a projecting "Blade" sign. Commission members commended Mr. Whitmire for his anniversary and thanked him for his efforts in improving the exterior aesthetics of his property. Commission Member Alison Uphold motioned to approve the application for Certificate of Appropriateness, which was seconded by Mr. Haney. The motion carried unanimously.

The next item up for discussion was continued from the July DDA/HPC Work Session and revolved around proposed updates to the Facade Grant Program. A brief highlight of proposed changes was given by Mr. Smith to board members that were unable to attend the Work Session. One key change discussed was the addition of a Facade Grant Design Committee to the Facade Grant Process. This committee would be made up of two (2) HPC members and two (2) DDA Members and hold preliminary meetings with interested applicants to discuss the Facade Grant Program. Board members were asked to nominate two (2) individuals that would serve on this Committee. Mrs. Gramme motioned to nominate Mr. Luke Haney, which was seconded by Mrs. Uphold and carried unanimously. Mr. Brown motioned to nominate Mrs. Uphold which was seconded by Mr. Haney and carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was discussion of the Downtown Sign Ordinance and variations between the DDA District and Local Historic District. City Building Official, Mr. John Baxter provided Mr. Smith with a breakdown of current signage allowances, which was shared with commission members. Mr. Smith requested that commission members review the document and

provide input, comments, questions on the very last page, prior to the August DDA Meeting, as this item would be on their agenda as well. Key topics of concern are LED Signage, Blade Signage, Wall Signage, and Dual Signage.

The Final item on the agenda was discussion of Design Guidelines for the HPC. The current guidelines were completed in 1998 and are in desperate need of updating. Mr. Smith informed the board that the goal is to update these in Fiscal Year 23, following the update to the Historic Resource Survey. A handout from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources-Historic Preservation Division was provided to commission members in an effort to educate them on the process. Mrs. Gramme presented the Commission with potential color palettes following conversations with Mr. John Kissane. These palettes included colors from the "Late 19th & Early 20th Century", as well as "Art Deco" period. This is the time the majority of the buildings in Downtown Thomaston were erected.

In other business, Mr. Smith asked commission members if they had spoken with Mrs. Hoyal, as she has missed several meetings in a row. Mrs. Uphold mentioned that Mrs. Hoyal had left her position at First Baptist following the retirement of their pastor, and had been struggling with some medical issues. Seeing as Mrs. Hoyal was in violation of the HPC Bylaws attendance policy, Mrs. Gramme motioned to write Mrs. Hoyal a Letter Thanking her for her Service and a Certificate of Appreciation. This motion was seconded by Mr. Brown and carried unanimously. In his final words, Mr. Smith informed the board that GDOT had accepted the city's Speed Limit Resolution to reduce the speed to 25mph in the downtown area (2 Block Radius from Square) and would be updating signage in the coming months.

Mrs. Brown motioned to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Haney. All commission members stood to show approval, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Taylor J. Smith

Economic Development Coordinator