

Historical Commission Minutes

City of Foley Council Chambers
407 E. Laurel Ave., Foley, Alabama
December 2, 2025
1:00 p.m.

I. Call to order

Chairman JaNay Dawson called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

II. Roll call

Members present were: Tyler Higginbotham, Chad Watkins, Jerry Morrison, JaNay Dawson, Kathie LeDrew, and Bill Swanson. Absent member was Kim Ward. Staff present were: Eden Lapham, Planner 1; Amanda Cole, Planning and Zoning Assistant; Nathan Smith, Building Inspector; Jonathan Cottis, Building Official; Buford King, Director of Public Projects; Melissa Ringler, Recording Secretary.

III. Approval of Minutes

- Approve November 4, 2025 minutes as published

Commissioner Morrison made a motion to approve the November 4, 2025 meeting minutes. Commissioner Swanson seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye.

Motion to approve the November 4, 2025 meeting minutes passes.

IV. New Business

- Cheeseburger Randy's
Marcus Owens
209 S. Alston St.
National & Local District-Contributing
- a. Request to install two 20 x 30 ft. tents over the current left and back side outdoor seating areas

Mr. Nathan Smith explained the applicant is requesting to place two tents over the outdoor seating areas for the winter season for heating purposes.

Commissioner LeDrew asked if the tent would be temporary.

Mr. Alex Warner stated the tents would be used for approximately 3 month during the winter. He explained the tents would be placed over the current outdoor seating areas.

Chairman Dawson referenced the Design Guidelines which state a temporary approval may be given for a 3 month period. She explained they would need to reapply for a new certificate of appropriateness after the three months in order to get approval to continue the use.

Commissioner Swanson asked who would be installing the tents.

Mr. Warner stated he is unsure of the installer at this time. He explained he is still determining the exact type of tent he will be installing.

Chairman Dawson asked if the photos provided are not of the tent being installed.

Mr. Warner stated the tent will be very similar to the photos provided.

Commission Swanson asked if there would be lighting inside of the tents.

Mr. Warner stated he would be installing string LED lighting in the tents.

Mr. Jonathan Cottis stated the tents, lighting and heating source will have to meet code requirements. He explained there are requirements and allowable time limits within the Building Code and Zoning Ordinance. He stated if the certificate of appropriateness is issued they will start with the code compliance process.

Commissioner Swanson asked how they will know when the time limits are expiring.

Mrs. Melissa Ringler stated staff will keep track of the expiration and renewal.

Mr. Warner stated he is not wanting to keep the tents up permanently. He explained they will only be used during cold months to keep people warm.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the requested certificate of appropriateness. Commissioner Higginbotham seconded the motion.

Commissioner Swanson asked if the applicant would have to request additional certificate of appropriateness if they exceed the 90 days.

Chairman Dawson stated if the tents exceed 90days they will have to request another approval.

All Commissioners voted aye.

Motion to approve the requested certificate of appropriateness. Commissioner Higginbotham seconded the motion passes.

- City of Foley
John B. Foley Park
196 N. McKenzie St.
National & Local District- Contributing
- a. Request to extend the ground brickwork between the two existing benches. Install the USS Alabama Artillery Shell and WWII Barin Field Reader Rails.

Mr. Buford King the Director of Public Projects stated graphics of the proposed work have been provided to the Commissioners. He stated the request is to relocate a USS Alabama Artillery shell to the park. He explained the shell was acquired from the City of Gulf Shores. He stated the shell will be placed on a concrete slab and pavers will be extended for a walking area. He explained informational reader boards would be added to the area.

Commissioner Swanson asked about the height of the shell.

Mr. King stated the shell is approximately 42" tall. He explained the shell will be painted with a black historically accurate paint.

Commissioner Swanson made a motion to approve the requested certificate of appropriateness. Commissioner LeDrew seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye.

Motion to approve the requested certificate of appropriateness passes.

- Approval of the 2026 By-Laws

Chairman Swanson stated there are no changes in the by-laws.

Commissioner LeDrew made a motion to approve the 2026 by-laws. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye.

Motion to approve the 2026 by-laws passes.

- Select of 2026 Officers

Commissioner Tyler Higginbotham stated after discussion the Commission has decided that they would like the current chairman JaNay Dawson and Vice Chairman Kathie LeDrew to continue serving.

Commissioner Morrison made a motion to approve JaNay Dawson to serve as Chairman and Kathie LeDrew to serve as vice-chairman. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye.

Motion to approve JaNay Dawson to serve as Chairman and Kathie LeDrew to serve as vice Chairman passes.

V. Monthly Discussion

Mr. Jonathan Cottis stated the gentleman that received approval for the shed at last month's meeting is still working on the structure and staff is inspecting. He explained the applicant is working with Nathan in regards to signage.

Mrs. Darrelyn Dunmore stated the Half Shell Oyster House will be moving into a space in downtown. She explained the enforcement of the sign regulations will begin in January and should result in cleaning up of the downtown area. She explained more Edison style lights will be being installed on the roofs of downtown buildings.

VI. Adjournment

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:23 p.m. Commissioner Higginbotham seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:23 p.m. passes.

Historical Commission Chairman

Date

Recording Secretary

Date