

Historical Commission Minutes

City of Foley Council Chambers
407 E. Laurel Ave., Foley, Alabama

January 6, 2026

1:00 p.m.

I. Call to order

Chairman JaNay Dawson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

II. Roll call

Members present were: Chad Watkins, Jerry Morrison, JaNay Dawson, Kathie LeDrew and Kim Ward. Absent members were: Tyler Higginbotham and Bill Swanson. Staff present were Jonathan Cottis, Building Official; Nathan Smith, Building Inspector; Amanda Cole, Planning and Zoning Assistant and Melissa Ringler, Recording Secretary.

III. Approval of Minutes

- Approve December 2, 2025 minutes as published

Commissioner Morrison made a motion to approve the December 2, 2025 meeting minutes. Commissioner Ward seconded the motion. All members voted aye.

Motion to approve the December 2, 2025 meeting minutes passes.

IV. New Business

- Yawdie, LLC- A Taste of Home
Duane Besentie
17 W. Orange Ave.
National & Local District-Contributing
- a. Request to install two wall signs

Mr. Nathan Smith stated the applicant is requesting to install two wall signs. He explained a 13.75 square foot sign is being proposed for the front of the building and a 4 square foot sign on the smoke shed. He explained the signage on the front of the building will be neon lit and the sign on the smoke shed will be back lit. He stated due to the apparent nonconformity staff is unable to recommend approval of the requested signs.

Chairman Dawson stated the Design Guidelines do not permit neon signage or illuminated box signs.

Commissioner LeDrew made a motion to deny the requested certificate of appropriateness. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion.

Commissioner Watkins stated the Commission can not go against the rules and the requested item should not have made it on the agenda. He explained he appreciates the beautiful signs but they do not match the guidelines. He stated he would like to see a path in place for items like this in the future.

Mr. Duane Besentie stated he is willing to present to the Commissioners the same signs in black and white with gooseneck lighting and asked if the Commission would approve.

Mr. Jonathan Cottis stated staff will accept the renderings from the applicant first in order to prevent the Commission from approving something at this moment without more details.

Mr. Besentie asked if he could use the same signage in black and white with gooseneck lighting.

Mr. Smith stated the applicant can submit a request for the signage and staff will review the information and present it to the Commission.

Commissioner LeDrew stated the applicant could use the signage he has already purchased inside of the business.

Commissioner Ward asked how they were able to get a business license without having a sign installed.

Mr. Cottis explained signage is not required to get a business license.

All Commissioners voted aye.

Motion to deny the requested certificate of appropriateness passes.

V. Monthly Discussion

• Main Street Alabama Grant - Asphalt Art

Mr. Cottis provided the Commissioners with an example of a proposed COA submittal checklist/affidavit and asked for the Commissioners to provide feedback at next month's meeting.

Mrs. Dunmore explained a grant was received for the crosswalk program. She stated the crosswalks will be painted by an artist and last approximately five to seven years. She stated there is a five year maintenance contract with the artist and money is also being set aside for maintenance. She provided the Commissioners with examples of the proposed paintings and a map of the locations. She stated signage will be added to cat alley this year which will include an informational QR code and sponsor information.

VI. Adjournment

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to adjourn at 1:37 p.m. Commissioner Morrison seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:37 p.m. passes.