Historical Commission Minutes

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

April 7, 2026
1:00 p.m.

I. Call to order

Vice Chairman Kathie LeDrew called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

II. Roll call

Members present were: Jerry Morrison, Kathie LeDrew, Chad Watkins, Kim Ward, Tyler Higginbotham and Bill Swanson. Absent member was JaNay Dawson. Staff present were: Jonathan Cottis, Building Official; Nathan Smith, Building Inspector; Nelson Bauer, Infrastructure and Development Manager; Wayne Dyess, Director of Infrastructure and Development; Amanda Cole, Planning and Zoning Assistant and Melissa Ringler, Recording Secretary.

III. Approval of Minutes

- Approve February 3, 2026 minutes as published

Commissioner Ward made a motion to approve the February 3, 2026 meeting minutes. Commissioner Higginbotham seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye.

Motion to approve the February 3, 2026 meeting minutes passes.

IV. Staff Approvals

- Manning Jewelry
  Glenn Manning
  207 W. Laurel Ave.
  National District- Contributing
  a. Request to install signage on building front

Mr. Nathan Smith explained the applicant has replaced the temporary fabric sign with a more permanent sign.

- Goodyear
  Jay Bostwick
  302 S. McKenzie St.
  National District- Contributing
  a. Request to replace roof

Mr. Smith explained a new galvalume roof will replace the current metal roof on the Goodyear building. He stated the roof is the same material and color as the existing one. He added that the current roof appears darker due to discoloration caused by exposure to the elements.

- Half Shell Oyster House
  Barbara Duvall
  118 W. Laurel Ave.
  National District- Contributing

a. Request to install a sign on the front of the building
b. Approves signage

Mr. Smith stated a staff approval was issued for a wall sign.

V. New Business

- The Hotel Magnolia Restaurant
  Diana Rohe
  119 N. McKenzie St.
  National District- Non Contributing

a. Request to paint exterior of building

Vice Chairman asked if the request was to paint both the brick and atrium. She explained that the design guidelines state that unpainted brick is not to be painted. She stated the brick is newer and the building is not considered contributing. She added that the renderings showing the building painted make it appear more compatible with the historic district than the existing unpainted brick. She explained that the Commission must determine when and where exceptions are appropriate. She stated that the Commission can make exceptions, and this may be one of those times due to moisture issues.

Mr. Smith stated a letter addressing the moisture issues has been provided by a brick mason.

Commissioner Higginbotham stated the design guidelines specify that the Historical Commission does not permit painting unpainted historic brick. He clarified that the bricks in questions are not historical.

Mr. Cottis stated that Mr. Stephen McNair had been contacted and advised that the brick could be painted. He added that the building's non-contributing status may be the basis for allowing the painting.

Mayor Ralph Hellmich stated he understands the concern about setting a precedent but does not believe anyone considers the bricks to be historic. He explained he supports the request and feels it will be an improvement to the appearance of the building.

Commissioner Ward made a motion to approve the requested Certificate of Appropriateness. Commissioner Higginbotham seconded the motion. All members voted aye.

Motion to approve the requested Certificate of Appropriateness passes.

- Adoption of Certificate of Appropriateness Checklist and Affidavit

Mr. Cottis stated the checklist and affidavit provides a tool to increase applicant accountability and reduce time and resources spent on incomplete and non-conforming applications.

Commissioner Morrison requested a link with a PDF of the Design Guidelines be added after item 5.

Commissioner Ward made a motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness Checklist and Affidavit. Commissioner Morrison seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye.

Motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness Checklist and Affidavit passes.

VI. Monthly Discussion

- Discuss Potential Updates to the Design Guidelines

Staff and Commissioners agreed upon and discussed the need to have a consultant update the design guidelines.

VII. Adjournment

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:19 p.m. Commissioner Ward seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:19 p.m. passes.