

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION HELD APRIL 14, 2009

The Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Eufaula met in regular session Tuesday, April 14, 2009, in the Municipal Courtroom of the Eufaula Police Department Complex, 545 East Barbour Street. The meeting convened at 4:09 p.m. immediately following the completion of the Commission's work session. Upon call of the roll the following members were present: Chairman David Ongemach, Vice Chairman Curtis Williams, Joel Smith, Sr., Doug Purcell, Bruce Turner, Judi Mathisen. Absent: Terry Honan.

Also present: Mayor Jay Jaxon, Jr., Council President Jim Martin, Mary Mason Shell of the Alabama Historic Commission, Building Inspector Bill Klein, Building Inspector Kenny Hayes.

Mr. Purcell asked that the courtroom clock be adjusted to show the correct time.

Chairman Ongemach opened the meeting by reading a statement of intent and purpose of the Historic Preservation Commission: "The Eufaula Historic Preservation Commission was established by City of Eufaula Ordinance 2001-2 on March 5, 2001. The purpose of the Commission is to promote the preservation of buildings, structures and sites of historic and architectural value within our city. All of the members of the Commission are unpaid volunteers. We are here today to review applications to see if the design of the proposed projects meet the design review manual requirements established by the city council for projects in the locally designated historic district."

Mrs. Mathisen moved to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2009 work session. Vice Chairman Williams seconded the motion. Voice vote was unanimous. Vice Chairman Williams moved to approve the March 10, 2009 regular meeting minutes. Mrs. Mathisen seconded the motion. Voice vote was unanimous. Mr. Purcell moved to approve the March 23, 2009 special meeting minutes. Vice Chairman Williams seconded the motion. Voice vote was unanimous.

Chairman Ongemach introduced visitors to the meeting: Tiffany Woo of The Eufaula Tribune and Dick Bower of DB's Signs.

The first item on the agenda was a request for Certificate of Appropriateness for signage at Farmers Exchange Bank, 101 North Eufaula Avenue. Dick Bower addressed the Commission on behalf of the applicant. He stated the bank wishes to duplicate the sign that is currently in place over the front entrance of the bank and place it at the rear of the bank over the drive-through window. He presented a photograph and rendering of the sign, which will be lettered on the wall in the same colors as the other sign. Size of the sign will be 4'x8'. Chairman Ongemach called for discussion. There was none. Mr. Purcell moved for approval of the

application as submitted. Mrs. Mathisen seconded the application. Roll call vote was recorded as follows: Yeas: Chairman Ongemach, Vice Chairman Williams, Mr. Smith, Mr. Purcell, Mr. Turner, Mrs. Mathisen. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Bower stated he is working with the owners of Los Portales Mexican Restaurant to bring their sign into compliance with HPC regulations. He outlined his plan to design a 3'x6' sign and bolt it to the brick wall above the doorway of the restaurant so it would be visible from both northbound and southbound traffic. Chairman Ongemach noted the Commission cannot take official action on the matter at this meeting and suggested Mr. Bower have the applicant complete a certificate of appropriateness for next month's meeting. Vice Chairman Williams asked if he work will be consistent with the signage for the other businesses in the multi-tenant building. Mr. Bower noted the Cajun Corner's sign also faces north and south and hangs from the balcony. Mr. Purcell expressed his appreciation to Mr. Bower for his work in the community, especially with the "Welcome to Eufaula" signs.

In other business, Building Inspector Bill Klein stated he has had no contact with Chris Sellers, the owner of the Bullock-Ballowe-Sellers House regarding the status of the renovation, and feels the property should be demolished because it is unsafe. Mr. Purcell said a situation report should be compiled and submitted to the City and one last attempt made to motivate the property owner. Mr. Purcell pointed out he has had two contacts from people who are interested in the property, and feels it would be worth one last effort to contact Mr. Sellers.

Mr. Klein also addressed the Commission regarding the March 10, 2009 minutes and the discussion of removal of chimneys. He pointed out the Commission's design guidelines state "Historic chimneys *should* be retained" and according to City Attorney Jimmy Calton, should is permissive, not mandatory. If the word "shall" had been used, then it would be mandatory that the chimneys be retained. Mr. Purcell stated that was merely semantics.

Mrs. Shell stated the Commission may want to require that a copy of the approved COA be posted on the work site so City officials can monitor exactly what work has been approved.

Mr. Purcell asked if any further information has been received on the old Martin Theater property. Mr. Klein stated he has heard nothing from the property owner, but will contact him again. He noted he is still concerned with the marquee and has asked for an engineer's letter saying it is safe. Mrs. Mathisen asked when the property owner was last asked for a letter. Mr. Klein stated he was last asked in December.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn.

THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF EUFAULA, ALABAMA
A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

David Ongemach, Chairman

ATTEST:

Teri Bush, Secretary/CLG Liaison