

The Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Harlem, Georgia met for their Regular Meeting on Thursday, February 8, 2024, at the Public Safety Building at 6:30 p.m. with Chairman Bill Speer presiding.

Present: COMMISSION: Chairman Bill Speer, Vice Chairman Diane Holland, Commissioner Lynda Morris; STAFF: Community Development Director Robert Fields, and City Clerk Leona Holley; ABSENT: Commissioner John Paul Stout.

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Speer at 6:31 p.m.

The Invocation was given by Vice Chairman Holland.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Morris.

Approval of the Agenda: Commissioner Morris made the motion to approve the Agenda as presented; 2nd by Vice Chairman Holland. The motion carried with Commissioners Holland, Morris, and Speer voting in the affirmative.

Approval of the Minutes: Vice Chairman Holland made the motion to approve the minutes from the January 11, 2024, Regular Meeting as written; 2nd by Commissioner Morris. The motion carried with Commissioners Holland, Morris, and Speer voting in the affirmative.

Continued COA Applications: None.

New COA Applications: None.

Old Business:

Potential Commissioner Projects (Model T at Museum): Chairman Speer explained discussion of the potential Model T project at the Museum is being postponed; Commissioner Stout was not in attendance.

Historic Walking Tours – Golf Cart: Chairman Speer commented he thought it was best to wait about having discussion on the Historic Walking Tours – Golf Cart tour until the full Commission was in attendance.

Term Limits: Mr. Fields explained the Harlem City Council has conducted the 1st Reading of the Term Limits for the Historic Preservation Commission.

Status of Bell and Cornerstone from 2nd Mt. Moriah Church: Mr. Fields explained he spoke with one of the Deacons at Second Mount Moriah Church, and they have moved the bell and the cornerstone from the former Second Mount Moriah Church; the bell and the cornerstone is now at the new location of Second Mount Moriah Church at 842 Appling Harlem Highway.

Mission Statement: Mr. Fields explained there has not been a decision from the Council on the Mission Statement for the Historic Preservation Commission.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

City Attorney Report: None.

Staff Report – Robert Fields:

FRESH (Acronym): Mr. Fields provided information on FRESH (acronym) – Footprint and Foundation, Roof shape, Envelope, Skin and Holes for determining the compatibility for new structures in a historic district.

Potential Development Properties: Mr. Fields reported there has been some interest in potential development for properties located in the overlay district on West Milledgeville Road. Discussion was given about whether the Commissioners would have the opportunity to go look at Historic Buildings in the overlay district to see if the buildings could be deconstructed and if they could find out the background of the buildings. Vice Chairman Holland stated they do not want to stop growth for Harlem. Chairman Speer asked Mr. Fields to send the spreadsheet of all the historic properties out to the Commissioners.

Certified Local Government Grant Webinar: Mr. Fields reported he took a webinar on the Certified Local Government Grant, there were some issues with the quality of the webinar. Mr. Fields stated the awarded grant is a maximum amount of \$25,000.00 and this is for the whole state of Georgia.

Chairman's Comments: Chairman Speer asked if there is any progress on filling the position of the fifth member for the Commission; Mr. Fields stated at this time there is not. Chairman Speer suggested to place something on the city's website or on social media to see if anyone is interested.

With there being nothing further before the Commission for discussion, Vice Chairman Holland made the motion to adjourn the meeting; 2nd by Commissioner Morris. The motion carried with Commissioners Holland, Morris, and Speer voting in the affirmative. The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leona H. Holley
City Clerk