

1.1 HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

1.1.1 Appointment and Composition

- A. A Historic Preservation Commission (“HPC”) is hereby established. The members of the HPC shall be appointed by the Board of Aldermen. The HPC shall consist of seven (7) members, all residents of the City of Ocean Springs. All members of the HPC shall serve staggered terms not to exceed three (3) years, and shall be eligible for reappointment. The HPC annually shall elect from its membership a chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary; and
- B. All HPC members shall have a demonstrated interest, competence, knowledge, or expertise in historic preservation. To the extent available in the community, the Board shall appoint professional members from the primary historic preservation related disciplines of architecture, architectural history, history, urban design or interior design, archaeology, planning, cultural anthropology, law and related fields.

1.1.2 Responsibilities

- A. Preserve, promote, and develop the historic resources of Ocean Springs and accomplish the purposes set forth in the Mississippi Local Government Historic Preservation Act of 1978;
- B. Advise the Board of Aldermen as to the designation of historic districts, landmarks, and landmark sites and to perform such other functions as may be provided by law;
- C. Recommend to the Board the adoption of ordinances designating landmarks, landmark sites, and historic districts;
- D. Initiate or receive from the owners of record of a proposed landmark or landmark site or a majority of the owners of record in a proposed historic district, a thorough investigation of historic, architectural, archaeological, and/or cultural significance of the buildings, structures, features, sites, and surroundings of such districts, landmarks, and landmark sites. The findings shall be collected and/or received in a cohesive printed format, made a matter of public record, and made available for public inspection. This survey will be maintained in a file and updated a minimum of once every five (5) years;
- E. Review applications proposing erection, alteration, restoration, demolition or moving of any landmark or building located on a landmark site or within an historic district so designated by the Board and shall issue or deny certificates of appropriateness accordingly;
- F. Promulgate and publish such standards and rules of procedure as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this article;

- G. The Commission is authorized to apply for, receive, hold, and spend funds from private and public sources, in addition to appropriations made by the City for the purpose of carrying out provisions of this article subject to all federal, state and local laws, rules, ordinances and standard accounting practices;
- H. The Commission shall not consider interior arrangements or interior use except for interiors that have been designated architecturally or historically significant after written consent has been obtained from the owner of the property; and
- A. This is a recommending body with final decisions to be made by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.