

**Historical Preservation Commission
&
Architectural Review**

April 14, 2014
5:00 p.m.
Community Development Office

Minutes recorded by Kelly Hall, Administrative Assistant.

Commission members present: George Ewing, Mike Ballard, Tara Lytal, Tim McCartney and Brian Hudson

City Officials: None

Guests: Dr. George French

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by George Ewing.

The minutes of the March 10, 2014 meeting were reviewed. There being no changes needed, motion was made by Mike Ballard, seconded by Tim McCartney, to approve the minutes as written. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried approving the minutes of the March 10, 2014 minutes.

Dr. George French – Certified Local Government

Dr. George French has been retained by the City of Clinton to work with the various city departments to determine if we qualify for any grant monies and make application for said monies when appropriate. Dr. French has worked with other local municipalities in this capacity and helped obtain funding for several big projects, such as the Riley Center Opera House and City Hall in Meridian, MS. Being designated a Certified Local Government (CLG) would make us eligible for funds to help restore the city's brick streets, expand park facilities and make improvements to historic districts within the City of Clinton. Due to the City's median income level, we would not qualify for funds from USDA Rural Development. The majority of the funds for the projects in Meridian came from the Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration. Note: this requires a 50-50 match but Meridian had the match in "bond" funds. (About \$5 million on the Riley Center and \$3 million on City Hall.) These funds are tied to job creation. He noted that a lot of the requirements for a CLG are already in place here as we have preservation policies already in place, several areas are already designated a historic district, we have a committee dedicated to historic preservation and we keep regular minutes of our meetings. Brian Hudson asked if there are any drawbacks to becoming a CLG but, after a brief discussion, none were noted. A recommendation from this committee to pursue CLG status will not have to go through planning and zoning but will go directly to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. Dr. French has already prepared the paperwork for the Mayor's signature. The first project we will tackle is the restoration of the original brick streets in Old Towne. There is a company who can melt and remove the asphalt from the bricks and polish the bricks before putting them back in place.

Tara Lytal made the motion, seconded by Tim McCartney, to recommend to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen that we pursue a Certified Local Government status. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Other Business: None.

George Ewing noted that the next regular meeting, if needed, would be scheduled for Monday, May 12, 2014, at 5:00 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the committee, Tara Lytal moved to adjourn and was seconded by Brian Hudson. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried to adjourn at 5:19 p.m.