

CHAPTER 19

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT*

Art. I. Planning Commission, §§ 19-1 --- 19-4

ARTICLE I. PLANNING COMMISSION**

Section 19-1. Membership.

Said Commission shall consist of at least sixteen (16) members representing the following:

- a. at least one (1) representative from each Council Ward;
- b. four (4) at-large members representing divergent professions and segments of the City; and,
- c. five (5) ex-officio members, one (1) member representing each of the following entities: Jones County Economic Development Authority, Laurel Downtown Association, Laurel City School District, Jones County Board of Supervisors, and Laurel Historic Preservation Commission.

These members shall be selected primarily on their ability and willingness to strive for the overall betterment of Laurel. Each member will be nominated by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council to serve in an advisory capacity without pay. The duties of the said Commission shall be such as are hereinafter set forth.

The members of said Commission shall be appointed for terms of five (5) years, in a staggered fashion and beginning on the calendar year, unless it is to fill an unexpired term; but the original appointment of the members thereof shall be so fixed that the terms of office of as near an equal number as possible shall expire each year. Members shall be eligible to succeed themselves at the pleasure of the Mayor and City Council.

The following are hereby named as current members of the said Commission hereby established and, solely for the purpose of providing for terms to expire in each year, the terms of such appointees shall be as follows, to-wit:

Those to serve for a period of five (5) years:

Eleanor McClendon, Ward 7
Gwendolyn Lomas, Ward 5

*Cross References --- Buildings and building regulations, Ch. 7; streets and sidewalks, Ch. 23; zoning, App. A; subdivisions, App. B.
State Law Reference --- Municipal planning, Miss. Code 1972, §17-1-1 et seq.

**Cross Reference --- Administration, Ch. 2.

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Patsy Scrimshire, Member-at-Large
Walter Strong, Laurel City School District (ex-officio member)
Thomas Shows, Ward 1

Those to serve for a period of four (4) years:

Jones County Board of Supervisors (to be named)
Curtis Boykin, Ward 6
Harry Bush, Ward 3
Sandy Holifield, Jones County EDA (ex-officio member)

Those to serve for a period of three (3) years:

Laurel Historic Preservation Commission (to be name)
Ken Morgan, Laurel Downtown Association (ex-officio member)
Lee Watts, Ward 4

Those to serve for a period of two (2) years:

Louis Crumbley, Jr., Member-at-Large
Charlotte Myrick, Ward 2
Billy Taylor, Member-at-Large

Those to serve for a period of one (1) year.

Bill Renovich, Member-at-Large

All appointed Planning Commission members shall also attend and hear all zoning public hearings and matters. Whenever any of the voting members shall have missed more than three (3) unexcused meetings, within a calendar year, being either the Commission meeting or the zoning public hearings, said member shall be automatically terminated from the Commission. The Planning Commission shall establish its own rules for attendance and unexcused records. The Mayor shall nominate replacement members no later than thirty (30) days subsequent to a member's termination.

In conjunction with membership, there shall be two (2) types of membership:

- a. voting members, none of whom may be employees of the City, whose terms of office shall be as specified in the Ordinance creating the Planning Commission, and ex-officio members.
- b. Ex-officio members shall have all privileges of a member except that of holding elective office and voting on all business matters. However, ex-officio members may be allowed to vote if a quorum of voting members is not present and a decision of the Commission is required on pending matters providing that their inclusion does not constitute a majority of the required number of votes.

Source: Ordinance No. 1340-1999, §1, 6-8-99; Ordinance No. 1601-2013, 8-20-2013

Section 19-2. General Responsibilities.

In order to further the welfare of the people of this community by helping to create an increasingly better, a more healthful, convenient, efficient and attractive City environment with emphasis being placed on the most depressed areas of the city, and to coordinate and bring planning into a high degree of harmony in accordance with a carefully thought out comprehensive long-range plan for the development of the City of Laurel, including the most depressed areas of the City with the goal being to bring them up to par with other areas of the City in all facets, the members of said Commission shall make, prepare, recommend and present to the City Council:

- (1) a long-range comprehensive plan to guide the development of the City and its environs;
- (2) continuing work to review, to update and to improve the comprehensive plan on an annual basis;
- (3) critical review of all subdivision plats, proposals for amendments of the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations, including inspection in their physical locations of the areas described in such plats and proposals;
- (4) pertinent recommendations to guide subsequent actions of the local governing body; and
- (5) studies or preparing information at the request of the Mayor and City Council when these efforts directly concern the long-range comprehensive planning process or probable major change in the City's physical or economic environment.

Also any other matters which may be submitted from time to time by the City Council, and any other matters which in the judgment of the Commission will bring about a more orderly development of the City of Laurel, Mississippi, working in close cooperation with Jones County Economic Development Authority, Laurel Downtown Association, Laurel City School District, Laurel Historic Preservation Commission, and Jones County Board of Supervisors.

Source: Ordinance No. 1340-1999, §2, 6-8-99

Section 19-3. Meetings.

Regular meetings of the Planning Commission shall be held on the second Thursday of each month with the designated time of the meeting to be set by the Planning Commission. All zoning public hearings will immediately follow the regular meetings of the Planning Commission. Appearing at either of these meetings qualifies the member for being in attendance.

Special meetings may be called by the chairman and as often as the Commission may deem necessary for the accomplishment of the purposes for which the said Commission is created. A quorum for all regular and called special meetings shall be at least fifty percent (50%) of the voting members of the Commission.

When any item is before the Commission, either for discussion or voting, and it is apparent that the vocation, profession, or personal interest of any member of the Commission may be

opposed to or contrary to the public interest, the member so concerned shall excuse himself/herself and abstain from consideration or voting on that item.

The Commission shall establish its own rules of procedure, subdividing itself into such committees as it may deem proper, and select such other officers, coordinating committees, and other committees as will best promote the work of the said commission, and accomplish the purposes for which it is created.

It is the responsibility of the Planning Commission to meet with the Mayor and City Council when requested in order to understand the policy of the governing authority and thereby assist by relating the long-range comprehensive planning to such policy and in order that there may be a maximum of harmony between the planning and policy-making functions of local government.

Source: Ordinance No. 1340-1999, §3, 6-8-99

Section 19-4. Officers and Duties.

There shall be at least two (2) elected officers: the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman.

The Chairman shall preside at all meetings and public hearings of the Planning Commission and shall have the duties normally conferred by parliamentary usage of such offices. The Chairman shall be one of the voting members of the Commission and shall have the privilege of discussing all matters before the commission and to vote thereon.

The Vice-Chairman shall act for the Chairman in his absence and shall be a voting member of the commission.

Source: Ordinance No. 1340-1999, §4, 6-8-99

Section 19-5. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall be in force and effective thirty (30) days from and after its passage.

Source: Ordinance No. 1340-1999, §5, 6-8-99

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