



Public Services Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: April 29, 2025

Amending Historic Preservation Ordinance

Department:	Planning & Development
Presenter:	Carla Delaney, Director
Caption:	Discuss amending the appeals process of the Historic Preservation Ordinance by removing the requirement of mitigation prior to coming before the Augusta Commission.
Background:	<p>At the Historic Preservation Workshop on April 2, 2025, staff was instructed to place this item on the agenda for the next Public Services Committee meeting to discuss appeals to Certificate of Appropriateness applications. There were three outstanding questions that specific guidance is needed on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Shall appeals go to the commission prior to mediation?2) Shall post-demolition plans continue to be required?3) Should the pre-approved list of materials be updated?
Analysis:	<p>Section 7-4-32 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance requires that prior to an appeal going before the Augusta Commission, it must try to be resolved through mediation between the appellant and the Historic Preservation Commission with the appellant paying for mediator's fees. Appeals generally have not made it to the Augusta Commission due to the length of time, extra cost, and frustration of going through this process. Streamlining the appeals process by reversing the mediation order allows appeals to go directly to the Augusta Commission first.</p>
Financial Impact:	N/A
Alternatives:	Retain the current appeals processes as written in the Historic Preservation Ordinance.
Recommendation:	
Funds are available in the following accounts:	N/A
<u>REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:</u>	N/A