

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCKPORT OF  
SPENCER COUNTY, INDIANA, CREATING A  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Rockport, Indiana, declares that the protection, maintenance, restoration, rehabilitation, reconstruction, or development of historic districts is in the public interest; and,

WHEREAS, it is the intent of this ordinance to provide a means to promote the cultural, economic, and general welfare of the public through the preservation and protection of structures and areas of historic and cultural interest within the City of Rockport; and,

WHEREAS, it is the intent of this ordinance to implement a comprehensive program of historic preservation by the appointment of a Historic Preservation Commission, now therefore;

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCKPORT,  
INDIANA, THAT:**

**SECTION 1: TERM OF COMMISSION VOTING MEMBERS.** There is hereby established the Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Rockport, Indiana. The Commission shall consist of five (5) voting members. The voting members shall be appointed by the Mayor of the City of Rockport, subject to the approval of the Common Council of the City of Rockport, Indiana. Voting members shall serve for a term of three (3) years; however, the initial terms of members shall be for one (1) year, two (2) years, and three (3) years in order for the terms to be staggered. A vacancy shall be filled within ninety (90) days for the duration of the term of the member who is being replaced.

**SECTION 2: QUALIFICATION FOR VOTING MEMBERSHIP ON COMMISSION.** Voting members shall be residents of the City of Rockport, Indiana, who are interested in the preservation and development of historic areas.

**SECTION 3: ADVISORY MEMBERS.** The Mayor of the City of Rockport, Indiana may, with the approval of the Common Council of the City of Rockport, Indiana, appoint such advisory members as the Common Council of the City of Rockport, Indiana, considers appropriate.

**SECTION 4: EX-OFFICIO ADMINISTRATOR.** The City of Rockport Mayor shall appoint an ex-officio administrator of the Commission. The Administrator shall provide staff assistance to the Commission, act as the Commission's secretary, and issue certificates of appropriateness as directed by the Commission.

**SECTION 5: COMPENSATION.** Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation but may be paid for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duty.

**SECTION 6: OFFICERS.** The Commission shall elect from its membership a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Treasurer who shall serve for one (1) year and who may be re-elected. The Commission shall adopt rules for the transaction of its business not inconsistent with this Ordinance. The rules must include the time and place of regular meetings and a procedure for the calling of special meetings. All meetings of the Commission must be open to the public. Public records shall be kept of the Commission's resolutions, proceedings, and actions.

**SECTION 7: MEETINGS.** The Commission shall hold regular meetings, at least monthly except when it has no business pending.

**SECTION 8: SUPPORT FROM CITY OFFICIALS.** Each official of the City of Rockport, Indiana, who has responsibility for building inspection, building permits, planning, or zoning shall provide such technical, administrative, and clerical assistance as may be requested by the Commission. The attorney for the City shall serve as the attorney for the Commission. However, the Commission may employ other legal counsel authorized to practice law in Indiana if it considers it necessary or desirable.

**SECTION 9: POWERS AND DUTIES OF COMMISSION**

A. The Commission shall be concerned with those elements of development, redevelopment, rehabilitation, and preservation that affect visual quality in a historic district. The Commission may not consider details of design, interior arrangements, or building features, if those details, arrangements, or features are not subject to public view, and may not make any requirement except for the purpose of preventing development, alteration, or demolition in the historic district obviously incongruous with the historic district.

B. The Commission shall submit to the City of Rockport Common Council a map describing the boundaries of a historic district or districts. A district may be limited to the boundaries of a property containing a single building, structure, or site. The map may divide a district into primary and secondary areas.

C. The Commission shall also classify and designate on the map all buildings, structures, and sites within each historic district described on the map. The Commission may devise its own system of classification for historic buildings, structures and sites.

D. The Commission may conduct surveys and draw and submit additional maps for approval of the City of Rockport Common Council, as the Commission considers appropriate.

E. The Commission may adopt preservation guidelines for architectural review. If adopted, preservation guidelines shall be published and made readily accessible to the general public.

F. The Commission has the authority to receive funds in order to promote its stated purpose.

G. The Commission shall promote public interest in historic preservation by initiating and carrying on a public relations and community education program.

H. The Commission shall have the authority to:

- (1) acquire by purchase, gift, grant, bequest, devise, or lease any real or personal property, including easements, that is appropriate for carrying out the purposes of the Commission;
- (2) hold title to real and personal property;
- (3) sell, lease, rent, or otherwise dispose of real and personal property at a public or private sale on the terms and conditions that the Commission considers best; and
- (4) establish procedures that the Commission must follow in acquiring and disposing of property.

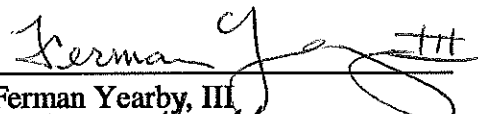
I. Indiana Code 36-7-11 is adopted and incorporated by reference into this Ordinance.

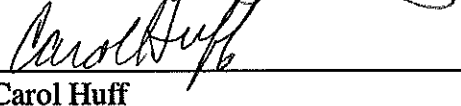
**SECTION 10: EFFECTIVE DATE OF ORDINANCE.** This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption.

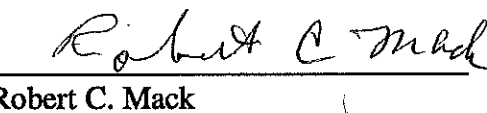
Passed and adopted by the Common Council of the City of Rockport, Indiana on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2015.

Common Council:

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Chris Brown


  
Ferman Yearby, III

  
Carol Huff


  
Robert C. Mack

  
Connie L. Hargis

Presented by me to the Mayor of the City of Rockport, Indiana on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2015 at 7:05 o'clock p.m.

  
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Susie Roberts,  
Clerk-Treasurer

Approved and signed by me this 1st day of September, 2015 at 7:05 o'clock p.m.

  
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Harold Goffinet, Mayor  
City of Rockport