



**AN ORDINANCE RECOMMENDING THE DESIGNATION OF
16 W. WOODROW AVENUE, KNOWN AS THE DR. JOHN M. AND
LAURA WATT PRESSLY HOUSE, AS A LOCAL HISTORIC
LANDMARK**

WHEREAS, the property located at 16 W Woodrow Ave., also known as the Dr. John M. and Laura Watt Pressly House, is an exceptional example of the American four-square style; and

WHEREAS, this structure was built in the twenties by the revered Dr. John M. Pressly and his wife, Laura Pressly; and

WHEREAS, Dr. John M. Pressly served as one of two doctors for the Eagle Mill; and

WHEREAS, Dr. John M. Pressly served as a commissioner in Belmont; and

WHEREAS, Dr. John M. Pressly was instrumental in bringing a public library, Davis Park, and the Auten-Stowe American Legion Building to the City of Belmont; and

WHEREAS, the Gaston County Historic Preservation Commission has reviewed the designation report and finds the property to be a contributing structure to the historic downtown Belmont area; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources has reviewed the designation report and provided comments in May 2024, and stated they believe the report provides the preservation commission and local governing boards sufficient information to determine if the subject property possesses the requisite special local significance and integrity of a local landmark designation:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that:

Section 1. The structure and property located at 16 W. Woodrow Ave. in Belmont, North Carolina, is hereby recommended for approval by the Gaston County Commissioners to be designated as a Local Historic Landmark as outlined in the interlocal agreement establishing a joint historic preservation commission for the City of Belmont and Gaston County.

Section 2. Said structure and property shall not be removed or demolished until three hundred sixty-five days' written notice has been provided to the Gaston County Historic Preservation Commission.

Section 3. Nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to prevent the ordinary maintenance or repair of any features on the subject property that does not involve a change in design, material, or other appearance thereof, nor to prevent the construction, reconstruction, alteration, restoration, demolition, or removal of any such feature when a building inspector or similar official certifies to the Commission that said action is required for the public safety because of an unsafe condition. Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the property owners from making any use of their property not prohibited by any other statutes, ordinances, or regulations.

Section 4. A suitable sign shall be posted indicating the said building and property designation as historic property and containing any other appropriate information. If the owner consents, the sign shall be placed upon the said building or property. If the owner objects, the sign will be placed on a nearby public right-of-way.

Section 5. The owner and occupant of the building and property should be given notice of this ordinance as required by applicable law and that copies of this ordinance be filed and indexed in the offices of the City Clerk, County Clerk, Gaston County Register of Deeds, Building Inspection Department, and Tax Supervisor as required by law.

Section 6. The proposed landmark designation only applies to the exterior of the house and servant's quarters on the legal parcel, including the landscaped area of the parcel.

Section 7. Should any provision of this ordinance be for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such provision shall be deemed a separate, independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of any other provision thereof, and to that end, the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

Ordinance adopted this 16th day of September 2024.

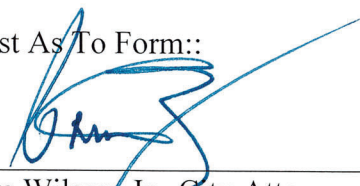


Jim Hefferan, Mayor Pro-Tem

Attest:



Cassidy Lackey, Deputy City Clerk

Attest As To Form::


Parks Wilson, Jr., City Attorney

