



## CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA

### CITY COUNCIL HYBRID MEETING – MINUTES

3120 Stonecrest Blvd., Stonecrest, GA 30038

Monday, April 25, 2022 at 7:00 PM

*Mayor - Vacant*

*Council Member Tara Graves - District 1      Council Member Rob Turner - District 2*

*District 3 - Vacant      Mayor Pro Tem George Turner - District 4*

*Council Member Tammy Grimes - District 5*

**Citizen Access:** [Stonecrest YouTube Live Channel](#)

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** George Turner, Mayor Pro-Tem

The Council Meeting began at 7:06 pm.

**II. ROLL CALL:** Sonya Isom, City Clerk

All members were present.

City Manager Janice Allen Jackson explained that City meetings are now hybrid. There are three options to view or participate, which are to be present in City Hall Chambers, to watch on YouTube, or to have presenters available on Zoom.

**III. INVOCATION**

**IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**V. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mayor Pro Tem George Turner wanted to add an appointment for the Economic Development Committee. Mr. Joe Coleman will be added to the list to be voted on when Council votes on the entire membership list for the committee.

**Motion** - Made by Councilmember Rob Turner to approve the agenda for Monday, April 25, 2022, with the stated addition. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**VI. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Approval – of the March 28, 2022 Meeting Minutes

**Motion** - Made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to approve the March 28, 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

## VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

*Citizens are welcomed to make public comments in person. Citizens may also submit public comments via email to [cityclerk@stonecrestga.gov](mailto:cityclerk@stonecrestga.gov) by 2 pm on the day of the meeting to be read by the City Clerk.*

*There is a two (2) minute time limit for each speaker submitting or reading a public comment.*

One (1) Public Comment was read by City Clerk Sonya Isom.

Edwina Clanton

City Manager clarified that Public Comments can be submitted either through email to the City Clerk or spoken directly in person. No Public Comments will be made via Zoom.

## VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

*Citizens wishing to participate can comment in person during the Public Hearing portion of the meeting or submit your comment including your full name, address, position on the agenda item you are commenting on (for or against) via email to [cityclerk@stonecrestga.gov](mailto:cityclerk@stonecrestga.gov) by 2 pm the day of the Hearing.*

*When it is your turn to speak, please state your name, address and relationship to the case.*

*As an alternative, you can submit comments and questions to the same email address by the same deadline to be read into the record at the meeting.*

*There is a ten (10) minute time limit for each item per side during all public hearings. There is a two (2) minute time limit for each speaker. Only the applicant may reserve time for rebuttal. Supporting speakers may not request rebuttal or speak a second time unless called upon by the applicant during the reserved time.*

- a. AX-21-002 (1724 Rogers Lake) - Keedra Jackson

Interim Planning & Zoning Director Keedra Jackson provided an overview. However, before her presentation, she informed Council that the applicant formally made a request this morning to withdraw their application.

**Motion 1** - Made by Councilmember Rob Turner to open Public Hearing for AX-21-002. Seconded by Councilmember Tammy Grimes.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

Comments in favor: The Applicant's attorney, Jody Campbell, stated that his Applicant formally wishes to withdraw their application without prejudice due to public concerns of the environmental impact.

Comments in opposition: Four (4) comments were stated in opposition.

Pyper Bunch (read by City Clerk)

Jennifer Wilson (read by City Clerk)

Renee Cail (read by City Clerk)

Carl Blair (in-person)

**Motion 2** - Made by Councilmember Tara Graves to close Public Hearing for AX-21-002. Seconded by Councilmember Rob Turner.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion 3** - Made by Councilmember Rob Turner to accept the withdrawal for AX-21-002. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

Keedra Jackson commented that there is no expiration date for the applicant to bring back the item.

**IX. CONSENT AGENDA**

**X. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**XI. APPOINTMENTS**

- a. Appointment to Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee - *Mayor Pro Tem George Turner*

Mayor Pro Tem George Turner recommended appointing Kennard Turner and Ieisha Fuller to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee.

**Motion** - Made by Councilmember Rob Turner to approve the appointment of Kennard Turner to the Parks & Recreation Advisory. Seconded by Councilmember Tammy Grimes.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion** - Made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to accept Ieisha Fuller as a member of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

It was agreed to delay additional appointments to the Economic Development item.

- b. Appointment of Councilmember Grimes to the Financial Oversight Committee - *Mayor Pro Tem George Turner*

Mayor Pro Tem George Turner stated the City Charter requires that two councilmembers be present on each committee. Because of the resignation of District 3, there was only one councilmember present.

**Motion** - Made by Mayor Pro Tem George Turner to appoint Councilmember Tammy Grimes to the Financial Oversight Committee. Seconded by Councilmember Rob Turner.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

## XII. REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

## XIII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **For Decision** - Ongoing Municipal Government Services Amendment #4 - *Gia Scruggs*

Finance Director Gia Scruggs provided a brief overview. This amendment was the first extension of the Jacobs contract from January 2022 to March 2022. Councilmember Rob Turner inquired if there were any new positions. Ms. Scruggs clarified that the positions were approved in the budget process.

**Motion** - Made by Councilmember Rob Turner to approve the Ongoing Municipal Government Services Contract Amendment #4. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- b. **For Decision** - Ongoing Municipal Services Contract Amendment #5 - *Gia Scruggs*

Finance Director Gia Scruggs provided a brief overview. This amendment was the first extension of the Jacobs contract from April 2022 to June 2022. City Manager Janice Allen Jackson clarified that the dollar amount listed is the maximum dollar value. The actual amount the City pays out could be lower.

**Motion** - Made by Councilmember Tara Graves to approve the Ongoing Municipal service Contract. Seconded by Councilmember Tammy Grimes.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

## XIV. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **For Decision** - AX-21-002 (1724 Rogers Lake) - *Keedra Jackson*

**Motion to accept withdrawal from applicant was approved in the public hearing.**

- b. **For Decision** - Resolution Appointing Prosecuting Attorney - *Mallory Minor*

Court Clerk Mallory Minor provided a brief overview and read the resolution preamble. Councilmember Rob Turner inquired if these are additional responsibilities to the City's relationship with Fincher Denmark or if the responsibilities are new. Ms. Minor clarified that these are new responsibilities that come out of the billable contract. Mayor Pro Tem

George Turner requested that some minor changes be made to the resolution before it is signed.

**Motion** - Made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to accept the resolution to appoint Fincher Denmark as the Prosecuting Attorney for the City of Stonecrest. Seconded by Councilmember Rob Turner.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**c. For Decision** - Creation of Economic Development Plan Steering Committee - *Jonathan Bartlett*

Economic Development Director Jonathan Bartlett read the mission and duties of the Economic Development Plan Steering Committee. The committee will meet on an as needed basis. Following is the list of appointees:

Joe Coleman, CS Truck and Trailer

Andrew Wells

Thad Mayfield

Dave Marcus

Dorian DeBarr, Decide DeKalb Development Authority

Christopher Seabrook, Executive Director of the Stonecrest Chamber of Commerce

Jetha Wagner, Stonecrest Business Alliance

Minal Patel, MP Hospitality

Sid Barron, Asbury Automotive, Nalley Toyota

Shelbia Jackson, Executive Director of the DeKalb Film and Entertainment Commission

Attorney Alicia Thompson confirmed that the intent of the committee was to be a steering committee. Attorney Denmark clarified that all meetings are in person. Mayor Pro Tem George Turner said members should serve for one year, January through December. They will be decommissioned at the end of the year or until the purpose of the committee is completed, whichever comes first. On January 1, 2023, the City can reconstitute, if needed.

**Motion** - Made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to approve the Economic Development Steering Committee with the members cited. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**d. For Decision** - Financial Management Policy Revisions - 1st Read - *Gia Scruggs*

Finance Director Gia Scruggs provided an overview. City Clerk Sonya Isom read the preamble.

This is the first read. No action needed.

**e. For Decision - Travel Policy Ordinance - 2nd Read - *Gia Scruggs***

Finance Director Gia Scruggs provided an overview. This is the second read of the Travel Policy, and the Finance Director is seeking approval of the amended ordinance. City Clerk Sonya Isom read the preamble.

**Motion** - Made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to accept the Ordinance of the Amendment of the Travel Policy and Procedures of the City of Stonecrest. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**f. For Decision - General Staffing Agreement Amendment - *Gia Scruggs***

Finance Director Gia Scruggs provided an overview including a recommendation to approve an amount not to exceed \$140,000 for temporary positions. Having the flexibility to utilize these services is vital to the continuation of the transition. The funding from this will be from the General Fund – Salary Savings per department affected.

**Motion** - Made by Councilmember Tara Graves to approve the General Staffing Agreement Amendment. Seconded by Councilmember Tammy Grimes.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**g. For Decision - Contingency Agreement Amendment - *Gia Scruggs***

Finance Director Gia Scruggs provided an overview including a recommendation to approve an amount not to exceed \$35,000 for direct hires for various non-director level positions for the City of Stonecrest. The funding from this will be from General Fund – Regular Salary Savings from the department with the vacancies.

**Motion** - Made by Councilmember Rob Turner to approve the Contingency Agreement Amendment. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**h. For Decision - Establishment of Charter Commission - *Mayor Pro Tem George Turner***

Mayor Pro Tem George Turner provided an overview of the Charter Commission. Mayor Pro Tem stated that by December there would be representation for District 3, a new Mayor, and General Assembly representatives to fulfill the requirements for the commission. This item was for discussion only.

**i. For Decision - Georgia Cities Week Resolution - *Janice Allen Jackson***

City Manager Janice Allen Jackson gave an overview. Each day, a different department will be featured on the Cities website via video. There will be a kid's corner with activities. City Clerk Sonya Isom read the preamble of the resolution.

**Motion** - Made by Councilmember Rob Turner to pass the Resolution for Georgia Cities Week for Stonecrest, Georgia. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

## **XV. CITY MANAGER UPDATE**

1. COVID in DeKalb County - reviewed statistics through April. City Hall is open, however, please continue to make appointments as staff are on staggered schedules. The appointment is to ensure that the staff member needed will be available and in the office. Reception is open as well.

2. The American Rescue Plan Act: There are \$9.7 million dollars available. The City is putting out a survey for citizens to send in their recommendations on what they believe are the priorities of the City.

3. There is a proposed Open House Event on Saturday, June 4th from 11 am to 2 pm. The staff will be available to show new office spaces and be open for dialogue in a more personal way.

Mayor Pro Tem welcomed new staff member DeAllous Smith, Director of Communications and Information Technology.

## **XVI. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Attorney Winston Denmark: Happy to see everyone again. Attorney Denmark stated the Georgia Open Meetings Act does not allow for virtual convenience. Attorney Denmark also commented on entire neighborhoods being bought out and used solely for rental properties.

Councilmember Tara Graves (District 1): Mentioned Autism Awareness Month. Councilmember Graves is partnering with the Atlanta Regional Director on their services, on April 26, 2022 at 5 pm.

Councilmember Rob Turner (District 2): Happy to be here.

Councilmember Tammy Grimes (District 5): Salem Middle School Baseball team are the champions for DeKalb County. The school is three for three in sports. It is Georgia Milestones week. Councilwoman Grimes also mentioned her principal, Terence Howard, who is moving from Salem Middle School. She also extended gratitude to the staff for their efforts in COVID protection and their ability to reach constituents on various platforms.

Mayor Pro Tem George Turner (District 4): District 4 is having a house demolished after it's extended vacancy from a fire. COVID is not over, but communities are getting back to some normalcy. Still practice precautions and be careful.

## **XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*(When an executive session is required, one will be called for the following issues: 1) Personnel, 2) Litigation, 3) Real Estate)*

**XVIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** - Made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to adjourn. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem George Turner.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

As approved on the 23rd day of May, 2022.

**CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA**

  
**George Turner, Mayor Pro Tem**

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sonya Isom, City Clerk

*Americans with Disabilities Act*

*The City of Stonecrest does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its programs, services, activities and employment practices.*

*If you need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication (such as a sign language interpreter, an assistive listening device or print material in digital format) or reasonable modification to programs, services or activities contact the ADA Coordinator, Sonya Isom, as soon as possible, preferably 2 days before the activity or event.*