



## CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA

### CITY COUNCIL MEETING – MINUTES

3120 Stonecrest Blvd., Stonecrest, GA 30038

Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 6:00 PM

*Mayor Jazzmin Cobble*

*Council Member Tara Graves - District 1    Council Member Terry Fye - District 2*

*Council Member Alecia Washington - District 3    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 meeting began at 6:07pm.

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

All members were present with Councilmember Alecia Washington excused.

**III. INVOCATION:** Pastor Billy R. Johnson, New Covenant Christian Ministries

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to excuse Councilmember Alecia Washington’s absence from the May 28, 2024 City Council Meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

**Motion passed 3-1 with Councilmember Terry Fye voting Nay and Councilmember Alecia Washington excused.**

**IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Pro Tem George Turner, District 4 Councilmember

**V. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Terry Fye to approve the May 28, 2024, City Council meeting agenda as is. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

**Motion passed 4-0 with Councilmember Alecia Washington excused.**

**VI. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**a. Approval of Meeting Minutes - Special Called Meeting, April 8, 2024**

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to approve the meeting minutes from the April 8, 2024, Special Called Meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

**Motion passed 4-0 with Councilmember Alecia Washington excused.**

- b. Approval of Meeting Minutes - City Council Meeting, April 22, 2024

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Tara Graves to approve the meeting minutes from the April 22, 2024, City Council Meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Tammy Grimes.

**Motion passed 4-0 with Councilmember Alecia Washington excused.**

## VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

*Citizens wishing to make a public comment may do so 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.*

*All members of the public wishing to address the City Council shall submit their name and the topic of their comments to the city clerk prior to the start of any meeting held by the City Council. There is a three (3) minute time limit for each speaker submitting or reading a public comment. Individuals will be held to established time limits.*

### **In Person**

#### Dave Marcus

Comments on the Botanical Gardens and concerns about the contractors that are currently working on the Botanical Garden. He also has concerns about staffing retention problems.

#### Faye Coffield

Concerns regarding the air conditioning issues, the new gas station at Hillandale and Lithonia Industrial, commenting on no signs, the New Birth Amphitheater, District 5 having a sound barrier to the Rockdale County Line and the city having a tree ordinance.

#### Freddie Redding

Concerns about the new gas station coming to Hillandale and Lithonia Industrial Boulevard and the Personal Care Home coming to LeFleur.

#### Nann Wynn

Present on behalf of citizens off Rock Chapel and Pine Mountain Road, stressing concerns about a business with loud music from late Friday until Sunday.

#### Renee Cail

Comments on environmental justice and stated there are enough gas stations in the city. She is not clear on Community Planning meetings and items that are not being discussed. She also asks that the city not grant a business license or certificate of occupancy to Metro Green.

#### Brenda Whitaker

Asking that council not allow Metro Green into the city or give them a business license.

#### Jacqueline Bryant

Stressed concerns about Metro Green and asking that the city not release any permits or certificate of occupancy.

#### Georgette Peterson

Seeking support for an angel monument at Hillandale Memorial Gardens.

Jennifer Wilson \*read by City Clerk

Concerns about Metro Green and the city denying the issuance of permits or a certificate of occupancy.

Pyper Bunch

Concerns about Metro Green not being allowed to operate in the city.

A schedule was shared by Director Shawanna Qawiy regarding CPIM and Planning Commission items.

City Manager Gia Scruggs addressed Browns Mill and stated they have had multiple contractors come out and are waiting on pricing. There will also be professionals in the industry to assist with the Botanical Gardens. In regard to retention and staffing levels, the City Manager is taking the lead to see how to address and stated she appreciates staff that are currently in place.

## VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

*Citizens wishing to participate and comment during the public hearing portion of the meeting may comment in person. You may also submit your request including your full name, address, position on the agenda item you are commenting on (for or against) via email to cityclerk@stonecrestga.gov by 2 pm the day of the Public Hearing to be read into the record at the meeting. A zoom link for the meeting will be sent to you.*

*When it is your turn to speak, please state your name, address and relationship to the case. There is a ten (10) minute time limit for each item per side during all public hearings. Only the applicant may reserve time for rebuttal.*

**a. Public Hearing - RZ 24-001 6039 Hillandale Drive - Shawanna Qawiy, Planning & Zoning Director**

Presentation by Director Qawiy stating the applicant, John Link, is seeking to rezone the property from M - Light Industrial to R-100 Residential Medium Lot. There was review of the facts and background, future land use/character area, zoning map, overlay district map, aerial maps and submitted survey. Staff recommended approval with conditions as stated in the packet.

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Terry Fye to open public hearing for RZ 24-001 6039 Hillandale Drive. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

**Motion passed 4-0 with Councilmember Alecia Washington excused.**

The applicant, Mr. Link, stated he is seeking approval based on demand.

In Favor

John Link

Dave Marcus

Faye Coffield

Georgette Peterson

In Opposition

None

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Terry Fye to close public hearing for RZ 24-001 6039 Hillandale Drive. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

**Motion passed 4-0 with Councilmember Alecia Washington excused.**

There was clarification on the location, stating it is on the right side. It was stated all traffic will come from the existing cemetery and the trees will remain.

- b. For Decision** - Ordinance for RZ 24-001 6039 Hillandale Drive - *Shawanna Qawiy, Planning & Zoning Director*

The preamble was read by the City Clerk.

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Terry Fye to approve the ordinance for RZ 24-001 6039 Hillandale Drive. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

**Motion passed 4-0 with Councilmember Alecia Washington excused.**

**IX. CONSENT AGENDA**

**X. APPOINTMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**XI. REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS**

- a.** Municipal Court Clerks Week Proclamation

The presentation was given by Curtis Miller, Chief Judge, proudly acknowledging the City of Stonecrest court staff, Mallory Minor, Court Administrator and Victoria Harris-Ferguson, Court Clerk for their hard work, dedication and support.

Mayor Cobble presented the Proclamation. June 10—14, 2024 is Municipal Court Clerk Week.

**XII. OLD BUSINESS**

**XIII. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. For Decision** - GDOT Lighting Agreement for Panola Road @ I-20 (Fairington Road to Snapfinger Woods Drive) - *Hari Karikaran, City Engineer*  
Presentation by Engineer Karikaran stating this is a standard lighting agreement that GDOT is seeking to execute with the City of Stonecrest. This agreement is for the Panola Road Bridge. Director Karikaran stated that at this time DeKalb County is responsible for the lighting. The bridge is separate, and the city will be responsible for that lighting. A map is in the packet. All fees will be handled by the City of Stonecrest once an active Public Works Department is added.

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Terry Fye to approve the GDOT Lighting Agreement for Panola Road @ I-20 (Fairington Road to Snapfinger Woods Drive). Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

**Motion passed 4-0 with Councilmember Alecia Washington excused.**

- b. For Decision** - Film Commission to be Incorporated Under the Stonecrest Development Authority - *Christian Green, Director of Economic Development*

Presentation by Director Green stating this is a request for adoption of the Stonecrest Film & Commission to go under the Stonecrest Development Authority. There was a review of

the Film Commission current structure limitations and structure opportunities, including the ability to generate revenue. The structure of the Film Commission will not change but staff is requesting a film industry representative to be added to the commission.

The preamble was read by the City Clerk.

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to approve the resolution for the Film Commission to be Incorporated Under the Stonecrest Development Authority. Seconded by Councilmember Terry Fye.

**Motion passed 3-1 with Councilmember Tara Graves voting Nay and Councilmember Alecia Washington excused.**

**c. For Decision - RFP #24-01 Internal Auditing Services - *Gia Scruggs, City Manager***

Presentation by City Manager Scruggs stating the charter outlines required positions such as an Internal Auditor. There was a solicitation, and the city has received 5 bids. The Internal Auditor will look at internal operations and will provide up to 4 audits per year. The new vendor will assess the 3-year strategy that is in place for possible changes. Staff is recommending Cherry Bekaert in the amount of \$74,910 for the first year, which will come from Professional Services, Internal Audit Department in the budget.

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to approve the RFP #24-01 Internal Auditing Services. Seconded by Councilmember Terry Fye.

**Motion passed 4-0 with Councilmember Alecia Washington excused.**

**XIV. CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

**No comments.**

**XV. CITY MANAGER UPDATE**

Great grand opening for the Browns Mill Aquatic Center. On June 17, 2024, there will be a Public Information Meeting at 6pm in the City Council Chambers. The Juneteenth Celebration will take place on June 15th and she is encouraging everyone to attend. The Comprehensive Plan is wrapping up, please attend the Planning Commission meeting on June 4th, the TIPS Committee meeting on June 12<sup>th</sup> or the City Council meeting on June 26<sup>th</sup> for engagement.

**XVI. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Mayor Cobble** - On June 8, 2024, she will be co-sponsoring the I am a Father 5k walk. You can register at [Iamafather.org](http://Iamafather.org). The walk will begin at 8:00am in the mall parking lot.

**District 1 - Councilmember Tara Graves** – Inviting everyone to come out and join her this Saturday, from 1:00pm-3:00pm for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Autism Walk.

**District 2 - Councilmember Terry Fye** – Thanked Parks & Rec for hosting a great event and the City Manager for being transparent with our city and providing updates. April 11, 2024 marked his 100th Day in office and he has released a 100 Day Report on all activities. Please contact him to obtain a copy. He gave an explanation and apology on the attendance vote.

District 3 - **Councilmember Alecia Washington** – Congratulations to the graduates of the Citizens Academy. Encouraging all constituents, with emphasis on District 3, to get involved and learn more about our city government.

District 4 – **Mayor Pro Tem George Turner** – There is currently no hard date for the opening of Salem Park but we are getting close. The South River Watershed Alliance is hosting A Paddle Down the River. Please research The South River Watershed Alliance if you are interested in kayaking and canoeing at Panola Shoals.

District 5 - **Councilmember Tammy Grimes** – Started Cities Week with a great worship at Cross Culture Church, and Pastor Woodrow Walker II. Shout out to the scholars at Salem Middle School who are in Milestone testing and thanks to the parents for getting the students to school. She will be hosting Talk with Tammy, focusing on small business owners in District 5 on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at City Hall from 6:00pm- 8:00pm. There will be a district clean-up on May 4<sup>th</sup>, across the street from Flat Rock Elementary, from 8:00am-11:00am. Stay Engaged. Congratulations to the graduates of the Citizens Academy.

## **XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*(When an executive session is required, one will be called for the following issues: 1) Personnel, 2) Litigation, 3) Real Estate, 4) Cyber Security*

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Terry Fye to enter into Executive Session for Personnel, Litigation, Real Estate and Cyber Security. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.  
**Motion passed 4-0 with Councilmember Alecia Washington excused.**

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Terry Fye to exit Executive Session and return to the regular scheduled meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.  
**Motion passed 4-0 with Councilmember Alecia Washington excused.**

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Terry Fye to approve the Executive Session meeting minutes. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.  
**Motion passed 4-0 with Councilmember Alecia Washington excused.**

## **XVIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Terry Fye to adjourn the city council meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.  
**Motion passed 4-0 with Councilmember Alecia Washington excused.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:01pm.

### *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.*