



CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – MINUTES

3120 Stonecrest Blvd., Stonecrest, GA 30038

Monday, March 25, 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 was called to order at 6:09pm.

II. ROLL CALL: Sonya Isom, City Clerk

All members were present.

III. INVOCATION

Invocation by Pastor Lee May, Transforming Faith Church

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Alecia Washington, District 3 Councilmember

V. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Request to add Black Women's History Month Proclamation under Reports and Presentations.
Request to remove item a under New Business, as it is not ready to be heard. Item e under New Business is for discussion only.

Motion – made by Councilmember Terry Fye to approve the meeting agenda with the stated adjustments. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion - made by Councilmember Terry Fye to move Reports and Presentations ahead of Public Hearing. Seconded by Councilmember Alecia Washington.

Motion passed unanimously.

VI. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Approval of Meeting Minutes - Council Planning Retreat, February 23-25, 2024

Motion – made by Councilmember Terry Fye to approve the Council Planning Retreat meeting minutes. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

Motion passed unanimously.

- b. Approval of Meeting Minutes - City Council Meeting, February 26, 2024

Motion – made by Councilmember Terry Fye to approve the February 26, 2024 City Council meeting minutes. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

Motion passed unanimously.

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 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 two (2) minute time limit for each speaker submitting or reading a public comment. Individuals will be held to established time limits.

In Person

Tara Terrell

Opposed to SLUP 23-009.

Faye Coffield

Inquiring about a donation to help purchase uniforms for a sports team in District 5.

She also mentioned concerns with the vote of SLUP-23 009 at the last meeting.

Renee Cail

Spoke against Metro Green being in the city and thanked Stonecrest for filing the appeal with the Supreme Court and Chase.

Pyper Bunch

Asking the city to refrain from issuing a business license or certificate of occupancy to Metro Green. Protect our children, property values, and your constituents.

Dave Marcus

Does not doubt the council's love for the city and its residents, but stated leadership and management are also required. Commented on the city positions are vacant, and the fact that Panola Shoals has been closed for years. He also spoke on the annual comprehensive financial audits, and the chart of accounts for the city.

Brenda L Whitaker

Asking Council to please not let Metro Green come in.

Malaika Wells

Asking the city to deny Metro Green's certificate of occupancy. She also thanked the Council for their anticipated vote to extend the time for public comments from two to three minutes and for holding town halls for Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4. She also voiced her concern over city staff turnover and the multiple lawsuits that have been engendered.

YaQuis Shelley

Stated his Church has an outreach program that hosts a women's kickball league and currently utilizes the Southeast Complex. He would like to follow up on field upgrades. They service about 250- 300 women, and want to ensure a safe environment, field-wise.

Sent via Email

Pasty Moore

Stated she enjoyed the Valentine's Day Party and wanted to thank Councilmembers Tara Graves and Alecia Washington for the opportunity.

Tenika Kemp

Asking council to deny Metro Green any work in our community. We have to stand up for our community and anything that can harm it.

Donna Priest-Brown

Against granting the business license and certificate of occupancy for Metro Green Recycling plant as it poses severe environmental risks, affecting our community's residents. Request the denial of necessary permits for the Metro Green Recycling plant.

Kelly Newberry

Representative from Metro Green that wanted to address misconceptions concerning environmental practices and the impact of the facility on the Stonecrest community.

Lewis Anderson

Mr. Anderson gave condolences to Councilwoman Grimes. He also commented on text modification (TMOD) 21-008, as well as community comments on this text modification.

Gina Mangham

Urges council to do whatever it can to stop Metro Green from moving forward.

Freesia Young

Is opposed to the certificate of occupancy and business license for Metro Green Recycling.

Sabrina Farmer

Thankful for the repaving and requesting the rezoning of 5961 Chupp Way from light industrial. She is also opposed to Metro Green and asks no business license or certificate of occupancy is issued.

Nia Harper

Does not want Metro Green in the community causing additional environmental hazards.

Robbie Sullivan and Rosa Shannon

Please deny the Metro Green Recycling plant.

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 Qawi, Director of Planning & Zoning**

No public hearing was held.

Motion – made by Councilmember Terry Fye to defer the public hearing on RZ 24-001, 6039 Hillandale Drive to the next City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

Director Qawiy stated that staff, along with the cooperation of the applicant, who is present, is requesting deferral to the April City Council meeting.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

X. APPOINTMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a.** Appointment of Charter Review Commission Members

Mayor Pro Tem George Turner stated there is one appointment to the Charter Review Commission, Senator Tanya Anderson of District 43, representing the Georgia State Senate. No vote is required for this appointment.

The Charter Commission bylaws will be ready at the next Council meeting. There is a tentative date of May 1st to start deliberation of the Charter Commission.

XI. REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

- a. Proclamation**, Attorney E. Noreen Banks-Ware - *Councilmember Tammy Grimes*

Proclamation presentation by Councilmember Grimes for Black Women's History Month.

A proclamation was presented to Attorney E. Noreen Banks-Ware for being awarded the Nikki-Randall Service Award. Presentation by Councilmember Tammy Grimes and State Representative Rhonda Taylor.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. For Decision** - Ordinance for SLUP 23-009 3309 & 3313 Panola Road - *Shawanna Qawiy, Planning & Zoning Director*

Introduction by Director Qawiy stating this item is for decision only. Mayor Pro Tem George Turner added facts and background on the history of this item. Mayor Pro Tem acknowledged the absence of Councilmember Tara Graves and requested all council is present to provide a full vote and requested a recess.

Motion – made by Councilmember Terry Fye to recess the city council meeting at 7:18pm for three minutes. Seconded by Councilmember Alecia Washington.

Motion passed 4-0 with Councilmember Tara Graves absent during the vote.

Motion – made by Councilmember Terry Fye to come out of recess at 7:22pm. Seconded by Councilmember Tammy Grimes.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion – made by Councilmember Alecia Washington to deny the ordinance for SLUP 23-009 3309 & 3313 Panola Road. Seconded by Councilmember Tammy Grimes.

Motion passed 4-1 with Councilmember Terry Fye voting nay.

b. For Decision - Allotted Time for Public Comments - *George Turner, Mayor Pro Tem*

Presentation given by Mayor Pro Tem George Turner stating that currently each speaker is allowed 2 minutes during the public comment portion of the meeting. Requests have been received to extend the allotted speaking time to 3 minutes per speaker.

1st read of the ordinance preamble by the City Clerk.

City Attorney Alicia Thompson confirmed that this item will require 2 reads before a decision can be rendered. A second read can be heard at a Special Called Meeting.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

a. For Decision- Browns Mill Aquatics Center Pool Maintenance Contract- *Sedrick Swan, Director of Parks and Recreation*

This item was removed from the agenda.

b. For Decision - Browns Mill Road & Covington Highway Sidewalk Construction Contract - *Hari Karikaran, City Engineer*

The presentation was given by City Manager Gia Scruggs in lieu of the absence of City Engineer Hari Karikaran. The Transportation Plan recommended segment sections of sidewalk on Covington Highway and those on Browns Mill Road to be constructed to bridge all gaps. The city received 14 bids on February 1, 2024.

Staff is requesting approval of the contract recommendation for Lagniappe Construction Company in the amount of \$194,333.21. The funds for this contract will be covered in 2023 SPLOST.

Motion – made by Councilmember Terry Fye to approve the Browns Mill Road & Covington Highway Sidewalk Construction Contract. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

Motion passed unanimously.

c. For Decision - Intersection Improvement Concept Design Contract - *Hari Karikaran, City Engineer*

The presentation was given by City Manager Gia Scruggs in lieu of the absence of City Engineer Hari Karikaran. The Transportation Master Plan recommended intersection improvements at Miller Road and Thompson Mill in addition to Turner Hill Road widening. Arcadis is one of the five Engineering Firms providing engineering and design services. DeKalb County Public Works previously allowed the city to piggyback off of their contracts.

Staff is recommending approval of the 3 tasks for Arcadis in the amount of \$60,000 each, totaling \$180,000. The funding for these 3 tasks will come from SPLOST 23 Allocation – Quick Response Projects which has a total of \$200,000.

Motion – made by Councilmember Tara Graves to approve the Intersection Improvement Concept Design Contract. Seconded by Councilmember Terry Fye.

Motion passed unanimously.

- d. **For Decision** - Panola Road at I-20 Bridge Scape GDOT Memorandum of Agreement - *Hari Karikaran, City Engineer*

The presentation was given by City Manager Gia Scruggs in lieu of the absence of City Engineer Hari Karikaran. The City of Stonecrest has plans over time to have a bridge scape installed over all bridges over I-20 as well as monuments to all city entrances. GDOT has agreed to amend their contract with the design firm to include the bridge scape in their bridge design and is proposing a MOA to recover the cost of the bridge scape. Staff is recommending approval of the MOA with GDOT to include the bridge scape design on Panola Road at the I-20 bridge for an amount of \$103,000. The funding will come from the 2024 SPLOST Allocation, Bridge Scape and Street Scape.

Motion – made by Councilmember Terry Fye to approve the Panola Road at I-20 Bridge Scape GDOT Memorandum of Agreement. Seconded by Councilmember Tammy Grimes.
Motion passed unanimously.

- e. **For Decision** - Panola Shoals Contract Recommendation - *Gia Scruggs, City Manager*

Mayor Pro Tem George Turner introduced this item and stated it has been before the council many times in the last 2-3 years. There was a presentation by City Manager Scruggs discussing the stabilization of Panola Shoals. There has been significant time spent on the design and construction of the stabilization, in an effort to be safe for everyone. Ms. Scruggs asked the council if this item could be brought back prior to the April Work Session for decision, as we will have what is needed from Procurement. Mayor Pro Tem Turner made note that a Special Called Meeting will be held before the April Work Session. The council has budgeted for this project, and we are almost at the finish line.

- f. **For Decision** - Resolution Declaring the Results of November Election - *George Turner, Mayor Pro Tem*

This item was introduced by Mayor Pro Tem George Turner, yielding to the City Attorneys. It was stated this resolution is to declare the results of the November election, asking if there was a desire to move forward with bond issuance and SPLOST tax dollars. This agenda item works hand in hand with the next item, Resolution Authorizing the Commencement of Validation Proceeding for General Obligation Bonds, in which both are critical in moving forward with validating bonds. In order to issue revenue bonds in Georgia, it must go through a validation process in Superior Court. The issuance of the bonds is a result of SPLOST dollars received from tax dollars to contribute to improving the city through paving roads and other projects over a period of time. The revenue bonds will grant the money upfront to take care of projects and the city will pay back the debt using SPLOST dollars.

The City Clerk read the preamble.

Motion – made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to approve the Resolution Declaring the Results of the November Election. Seconded by Councilmember Alecia Washington.
Motion passed unanimously.

- g. **For Decision** - Resolution Authorizing the Commencement of Validation Proceeding for General Obligation Bonds - *George Turner, Mayor Pro Tem*

City Attorney Alicia Thompson stated that the city will have to go through a Validation Hearing before the bonds can be approved. This resolution is for submission of the validation proceedings on behalf of the City of Stonecrest.

The City Clerk reads the preamble.

Motion – made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Commencement of Validation Proceeding for General Obligation Bonds. Seconded by Councilmember Alecia Washington.

Motion passed unanimously.

XIV. CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS

No comment

XV. CITY MANAGER UPDATE

There is an annual Easter Egg Drop scheduled for March 30th at Southeast Athletic Complex, from 10am -1pm. There are many jobs available for the summer program, and they are listed on the website. There will be upgrades happening at Salem Park. Please refrain from using the park during the upgrades. April is Black Woman in History Month. The city will be hosting the Women of Wonder Gala on April 19th followed by Earth Day on April 20th. Georgia Cities Week will be April 22nd-26th and an Autism event is scheduled for April 27th. Come out and participate.

XVI. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Cobble – Introduced a new social media campaign called “Fly Fridays”, which is an opportunity to promote great things happening in the City of Stonecrest by showcasing merchandise. Businesses, Schools, Recreations, Faith Based Organizations or Civic Organizations are welcome send or drop off merchandise at City Hall and Mayor Cobble will wear the merchandise on Fridays.

District 1 – **Councilmember Tara Graves** - Would like to send a warm thank you to everyone who attended the first combined Town Hall Meeting. Everyone have a safe and enjoyable Easter and Spring Break.

District 2 – **Councilmember Terry Fye** - Will be at Stoneview Elementary School on Wednesday for Career Day discussing all the great things that Stonecrest is doing and he is looking forward to seeing the young people.

District 3 – **Councilmember Alecia Washington** - Would like to thank all 70 constituents for coming out to the Townhall and thanks to District 1 Councilmember Tara Graves and District 2 Councilmember Terry Fye for making sure that most of the participants got their questions answered. Have a safe and enjoyable Easter/Resurrection Day.

District 5 – **Councilmember Tammy Grimes** - Would like to thank everyone for the continued prayers and all the love and support during the time of loss of my sweet mom. “If I didn’t know before, I know now that I am loved.” Please keep my dad in your prayers, who is 82, as he was the primary caregiver for my mom. Excited about the Townhall’s that have been taking place around town. District 5, Talk with Tammy is coming soon. Parents, please note Georgia Milestones start April 17th. Thank you for your continued support of District 5.

District 4 - **Mayor Pro Tem George Turner** – We had a real lively and well appreciated town hall. We will do it again as I prepare a summary of the things that came out of District 4, and I will share that with you within the next few days.

XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Motion – made by Councilmember Terry Fye to enter Executive Session for real estate, personnel, litigation, and cyber security. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.
Motion passed unanimously.

Motion – made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to exit Executive Session and return to the regular scheduled meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.
Motion passed unanimously.

Motion – made by Councilmember Terry Fye to approve the minutes from Executive Session. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.
Motion passed unanimously.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion – made by Councilmember Terry Fye to adjourn the City Council Meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.
Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting ended at 9:04pm.

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.