



CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA

Honorable Mayor Jason Lary, Sr.

Council Member Jimmy Clanton, Jr. – District 1 Council Member Rob Turner - District 2

Council Member Jazzmin Cobble – District 3 Council Member George Turner - District 4

Council Member Tammy Grimes – District 5

CITY COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 25 at 6:03 P.M.

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

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

II. ROLL CALL: Tomika R. Lewis, Acting City Clerk

All members were present.

III. INVOCATION

Councilmember Rob Turner gave the invocation.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Acting City Clerk, Tomika Lewis informed Council that the first three items under “New Business” needed to be moved to “Public Hearings” on the agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Turner stated the following items will be moved to “Public Hearings”: RZ-21-005; TMOD-21-007; and TMOD-21-008.

Mayor Pro Tem Turner stated there was an appointment to the SPLOST Committee that will be discussed under “Announcements”.

Deputy City Manager, Jim Nichols inquired if it was possible to move Item (e) from New Business to (h) the end of the agenda.

Motion 1 – made by Councilmember Rob Turner to approve the agenda for City Council’s virtual meeting for Monday, October 25th with the stated changes. Seconded by Councilmember Jazzmin Cobble. **Motion passed unanimously.**

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Turner mentioned that at the last “Public Comments” he stated Council would get back to those who made comments in a written form, which has not happened. He then mentioned



CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA

personnel has to be put in place to make sure the necessary research is done and we can answer questions on a consistent basis. Mayor Pro Tem Turner also addressed previous meeting comments: approval of the Miller Rd. Daycare; SeaQuest Project; ethical treatment of animals; trash and vacant property.

Acting City Clerk, Tomika Lewis read a public comment from fayeiswhoiam@gmail.com pertaining to RZ-21-005.

Mayor Pro Tem Turner suggested skipping the “Oath of Office” item for now and moving to the “Announcements” item.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Grimes gave a brief introduction of Mr. Lemuel Hawkins and recommended appointing him to the SPLOST Committee.

Motion 2 – made by Councilmember Jazzmin Cobble to approve Mr. Lemuel Hawkins as a member of the SPLOST Committee. Seconded by Councilmember Tammy Grimes. **Motion passed unanimously.**

The Council moved to “OLD BUSINESS” on the agenda.

XII. OLD BUSINESS:

a. **Approval** – of the Holiday City Council Meeting Schedule - Jim Nichols

Deputy City Manager, Jim Nichols recommended that the December 28 meeting be moved to Monday, December 20 to not interfere with holiday plans that many Council and staff may have planned at the end of the year.

Motion 3 – made by Councilmember Jazzmin Cobble to approve the change to the City Council schedule, to change the meeting from December 28 to December 20. Seconded by Councilmember Rob Turner. **Motion passed unanimously.**

The Council moved to “OATH OF OFFICE” on the agenda.

XIII. OATH OF OFFICE

a. **Construction Board of Appeals**

Judge Ramsey administered the Oath of Office to the following Construction Board of Appeals members: Clara Delay, Mike Burdette, and Kerry Williams.

The Council moved to “PUBLIC HEARINGS” on the agenda.



CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA

XIV. PUBLIC HEARINGS

a. **Approval** – of RZ-21-005, 6301 Browns Mill Road - Jim Summerbell

Planning and Zoning Director, Jim Summerbell gave a brief overview of the rezoning request, RZ-21-005 located at 6301 Browns Mill Road. The applicant requested to rezone the subject property within the Arabia Mountain Conservation Overlay from Residential Medium Lot (R-100) to Residential Small Lot (RSM) for the development of a 20 single-family detached house community. Staff recommended approval with conditions.

Motion 4 – made by Councilmember Rob Turner to go into Public Hearing for RZ-21-005. Seconded by Councilmember Jazzmin Cobble. **Motion passed unanimously.**

The Public Hearing opened.

Michele Battle gave a brief presentation of the proposed development to be located in the Arabian Mountain Overlay District.

Acting City Clerk, Tomika Lewis read a public comment from Dave Marcus, 6501 Rockland Road, Stonecrest, GA 30038 in opposition to RZ-21-005.

Motion 5 – made by Councilmember Rob Turner to close the Public Hearing for RZ-21-005. Seconded by Councilmember Jazzmin Cobble. **Motion passed unanimously.**

The Public Hearing closed.

Motion 6 – made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to defer this RZ-21-005 for a 30-day cycle. Seconded by Councilmember Jazzmin Cobble. **Motion passed unanimously.**

b. **Approval** – of TMOD-21-007, Private Permitting Review – Jim Summerbell

Planning and Zoning Director, Jim Summerbell gave a brief overview of TMOD-21-007, Private Permitting and proposed a text amendment to the Stonecrest Code of Ordinances, Chapter 7 – Building and Construction. This would include the adoption of the GMA model ordinance for Private Permitting Prequalification for review and inspection. The Planning Commission recommended unanimously to adopt the text amendment.

Motion 7 – made by Councilmember Rob Turner to go into the Public Hearing for TMOD-21-007. Seconded by Councilmember Jazzmin Cobble. **Motion passed unanimously.**

The Public Hearing opened.

There were no public comments for this item.



CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA

Motion 8 – made by Councilmember Jimmy Clanton to end the Public Hearing on TMOD-21-007. Seconded by Councilmember Rob Turner. **Motion passed unanimously.**

The Public Hearing closed.

Motion 9 – made by Councilmember Jimmy Clanton to approve TMOD-21-007. Seconded by Councilmember Rob Turner. **Motion passed unanimously.**

c. **Approval** – of TMOD-21-008, Administration – *Jim Summerbell*

Planning and Zoning Director, Jim Summerbell gave a brief overview of TMOD-21-008, a proposed text amendment to the Stonecrest Code of Ordinances, Chapter 27, Article 7 – Administration regarding application procedures, training requirements for commission and board members, and public notification of rezoning and building activity. The Planning Commission recommended to the City Council consider adding a provision for stipends for commission and board members.

Motion 10 – made by Councilmember Rob Turner to go into the Public Hearing for TMOD-21-008. Seconded by Councilmember Jazzmin Cobble. **Motion passed unanimously.**

The Public Hearing opened.

There were no public comments for this item.

Motion 11 – made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to end the Public Hearing on TMOD-21-008. Seconded by Councilmember Rob Turner. **Motion passed unanimously.**

The Public Hearing closed.

Motion 12 – made by Mayor Pro Tem George Turner to defer this item to the next City Council meeting and City Council Work Session. Seconded by Councilmember Rob Turner. **Motion passed unanimously.**

XV. CONSENT AGENDA

There were no items under the Consent Agenda.

XVI. REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

There were no reports or presentations.

XVII. OLD BUSINESS:

a. This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.



CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA

b. **Approval** – of the NEOGOV Human Resource Contract Amendment – *Gia Scruggs*

Finance Director, Gia Scruggs gave a brief overview of the proposed Human Resource Management tool, NEOGOV to assist the City with the onboarding process, learning management tool and e-forms. Staff requested approval for an additional service for a contract amount of \$23,476.00. The original contract amount was for a not to exceed amount of \$17,223.50.

Motion 13 – made by Councilmember Jazzmin Cobble to approve. Seconded by Councilmember Rob Turner. **Motion passed unanimously.**

c. **Approval** – of the Tree Protection Ordinance Amendment – *Gia Scruggs*

The current ordinance did not allow for the establishment of a separate fund to accept tree bankfunds. The tree Protection ordinance be amended to include Tree Protection Administration to allow for the receipt and disbursement of funds.

Motion 14 – made by Councilmember Jazzmin Cobble to approve. Seconded by Councilmember Rob Turner. **Motion withdrawn due to a second reading occurring at the next Regular City Council meeting.**

XVIII. NEW BUSINESS:

Items a, b, and c were heard under Public Hearings.

d. **Approval** – of the Decorum Resolution – *Winston Denmark*

This should be an ordinance. Resolutions are not a permanent policy and should require two reads. Colleague Alicia Thompson read the first read regarding the following parameters: The purpose of this item is to establish conduct and decorum guidelines for all elected officials in the COS and discussed 4 specific areas of conduct. The first read will be either amended or passed as an ordinance on the second read which will be presented at a future meeting. Penalties were also mentioned.

e. **Presentation** – of Benefits Declarations Ordinance – Steve McClure

An ordinance and declaration application which will allow COS to participate in the benefits system life and health programs. This is to be administered by GMA and needs to be effective by December 1, 2021. Healthcare, Vision, Dental, Life and Short Term disability are all parts of the Employee Benefit program. This declarations and ordinance will require two readings. A special call meeting was set for Oct. 29 for ten minutes.

Jazzmin Cobble offered a motion to approve the health benefits declaration page for the City of Stonecrest. Jimmy Clanton seconded the motion. All approved unanimously.



CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA

f. **Presentation** – of the Benefits Declaration and Ordinance - *Steven McClure*

Acting Human Resources Director, Steven McClure presented an ordinance and declaration and application for approval to allow the City of Stonecrest to participate in the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System’s Life and Health Program, administered by GMA, effective December 1, 2021.

Mr. McClure informed the Mayor and Council that the ordinance and declaration are prepared by GMA, and they will not administer the program without the ordinance signed by the Mayor and City Council.

Due to this ordinance needing two readings and this would be the first meeting, the Council agreed to meet on Friday, October 29, 2021, at 6:00p.m. for the second reading.

Motion 15 – made by Councilmember Jazzmin Cobble to approve the Health Declaration page for the City of Stonecrest. Seconded by Councilmember Jimmy Clanton. **Motion passed unanimously.**

g. **Presentation** – of the Employee Retirement Program - *Steven McClure*

Acting Human Resources Director, Steven McClure presented the Employee Retirement Program and requested approval for the City to participate in the Georgia Municipal Association 401a Defined Contribution Plan, including a 457b plan, effective December 1, 2021.

Motion 16 – made by Council member Rob Turner to approve the Employee Retirement Program for the City of Stonecrest. Seconded by Councilmember Jazzmin Cobble. **Motion passed unanimously.**

h. **Presentation** - of The Union at Stonecrest – *Winston Denmark*
Pete Walker, President/CEO of Housing Authority of DeKalb Co.

The City of Stonecrest has been approached by a developer and the Dekalb Housing Authority to issue tax exempt revenue bonds and approve a public finance transaction. This is referring to a multi-residential 122 multi-family unit called The Union on Hillendale Road. They also want to be approved to operate within the city limits. The Lou Walker Senior Center made a public comment.

Motion 17 - Council member T. Grimes made a motion to approve the request (consent resolution) for The Union at Stonecrest and the Dekalb County Housing Authority contingent upon the city asking that the fees are coming to the City of Stonecrest. Council member Rob Turner seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.



CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA

- I. **Presentation** - FY2022 Budget Recommendation – *Janice Allen Jackson and Gia Scruggs*
City Manager, Janice Jackson presented the budget and approval presentation and they are seeking budget approval on November 10, 2021 (the public hearing is Nov. 8) and to also allow positions to be advertised sooner. This includes major changes from last year’s budget. Major sources of revenue were also discussed: real property; total business taxes; general business licenses and building permits. This makes total revenues of \$13,746,000. The next steps would be to set Budget Work Session Dates. A consensus was made to have the Budget Work Session on Nov. 10 at 6 p.m.

XIX. CITY MANAGER UPDATE

- a. COVID Report – City Manager, Janice Jackson

Ms. Jackson started with the good news that the COVID numbers are trending in the right direction, (based on the data published by the DeKalb County Health Department.) The case count in the past 7 days has been steadily declining from 125 to 76 per 100,000 people.

Council members discussed how and if they are now able to consider in-person meetings and/or hybrid meetings. A decision was made to stay virtual until the first in-person meeting of the council. On Nov. 8, they will be ready for committee meetings to go in-person as well in the Chamber to accommodate the public.

XX. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council member Turner – We’re in an election and have to make those votes count for the protection of our city.

Council member Cobble – Councilman Cobble and Commissioner Marie Davis-Johnson will be hosting a food distribution commission at United Methodist Church this Saturday from 11 – 1 p.m.

Council member Grimes – Early voting has started and ends on October 29. Election Day is Nov.

2. Exercise your right to vote!

Mayor Pro Tem Turner - 8 lbs., 5 oz., 19.5” long –bouncing baby girl. I am a grandfather for the second time as of Saturday morning.

Mayor Lary - Three exciting events going on all week long:

1. The annual scholarship and career fest is going on at New Birth Missionary Baptist Church. Over a million dollars have been distributed thus far.
2. The Harvest Fest will be at the new Black Wall Street this week. On Saturday and Sunday, there will be a sneak preview at some of the stores and businesses there.
3. There will be a HBCU homecoming celebration at the mall along with trunk or treat this weekend.



CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA

XXI. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

The Council did not meet in Executive Session.

XXII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion 18 – made by Council member Clanton to adjourn. Seconded by Council member Grimes. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 10:09 P.M.

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.