

1 **CITY OF STONECREST**

2 **STATE OF GEORGIA**

4 **ORDINANCE NO. _____**

5 **CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA**

6 **PREAMBLE AND FINDINGS**

7 A HOME RULE ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF
8 STONECREST, GEORGIA; TO AMEND ARTICLE III. - EXECUTIVE BRANCH, SECTION
9 3.12, CITY INTERNAL AUDITOR; TO PROVIDE FOR CODIFICATION; TO PROVIDE FOR
10 SEVERABILITY; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE AN
11 ADOPTION DATE; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES
12 ALLOWED BY LAW.

13 **WHEREAS**, the governing authority of the City of Stonecrest, Georgia (the “City”) are
14 the Mayor and Council thereof; and

15 **WHEREAS**, The City Council is proposing an amendment to Section 3.12 of the City
16 Charter to enhance its ability to effectively audit city finances and ensure transparency and
17 accountability; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the Charter requires the appointment of an internal auditor to report on city
19 expenditures at least quarterly, but mandates that the auditor must be a direct employee of the city;
20 and

21 **WHEREAS**, this restriction limits the Council’s flexibility in selecting the most effective
22 means to carry out its financial oversight duties; and

23 **WHEREAS**, The City Council is also proposing an amendment that would revise the
24 reporting requirement of the internal audit from quarterly to at least bi-annually; and

25 **WHEREAS**, a synopsis of this ordinance, along with the dates of the first and second
26 readings has been advertised once per week for three (3) weeks within sixty (60) days preceding
27 the adoption of this ordinance, in accordance with Section 36-35-3(b)(1) of the Official Code of
28 Georgia;

29 **WHEREAS**, a synopsis of the ordinance, along with the dates of the first and second
30 readings were advertised in The Champion newspaper on July 31, 2025; August 7, 2025; and
31 August 14, 2025;

32 **WHEREAS**, the notice of the adoption of this ordinance provided that a copy of the
33 proposed ordinance is available for inspection at the City clerk's office and at the DeKalb County
34 Clerk of Superior Court, in accordance with Section 36-35-3(b)(1) of the Official Code of Georgia;

35 **WHEREAS**, this ordinance has been considered at two (2) regular consecutive meetings,
36 no less than seven (7) and no more than sixty (60) days apart, in accordance with Section 36-35-
37 3(b)(1) of the Official Code of Georgia;

38 **WHEREAS**, this ordinance was considered at public meetings held on August 25, 2025 at
39 6:00 pm and September 22, 2025; at 6:00 pm

40 **WHEREAS**, these amendments are necessary to further the general health and welfare of
41 the community; and

42 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR**
43 **AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA** and by the authority thereof:

44 **Section One.** The City's Charter is hereby amended as follows with added text in **red font,**
45 **bold and underlined** and deleted text in **red, bold and strikethrough** font. Section 3.12. - City Internal
46 Auditor, of Article III, Executive Branch, read and to be codified as follows:

47 **Section 3.12. - City internal auditor.**

48 “The city council shall appoint an internal auditor(s) to audit the financial records and
49 expenditures of city funds and to report the results of such audits in writing to the city council at
50 times and intervals set by the city council, but no less than ~~quarterly~~ bi-annually. Such audit
51 reports shall, at a minimum, identify all city expenditures and other financial matters that the
52 internal auditor either determines are not in compliance with or cannot conclusively be determined
53 to be in compliance with:

54 (1) The provisions of this Charter;

55 (2) The applicable city budget; and

56 (3) Applicable ordinances, resolutions, policies, or other actions duly adopted or approved
57 under the provisions of this Charter.

58 The internal auditor ~~shall~~ may be a direct employee of the city or a contractor.

59 **Section Two.** (a) It is hereby declared to be the intention of the Mayor and Council that
60 all sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of this Ordinance are or were, upon their
61 enactment, believed by the Mayor and Council to be fully valid, enforceable and constitutional.

62 (b) It is hereby declared to be the intention of the Mayor and Council that, to the greatest
63 extent allowed by law, each and every section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this
64 Ordinance is severable from every other section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this
65 Ordinance. It is hereby further declared to be the intention of the Mayor and Council that, to the
66 greatest extent allowed by law, no section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance
67 is mutually dependent upon any other section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this
68 Ordinance.

69 (c) In the event that any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this Ordinance
70 shall, for any reason whatsoever, be declared invalid, unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable
71 by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, it is the express intent of

the Mayor and Council that such invalidity, unconstitutionality or unenforceability shall, to the greatest extent allowed by law, not render invalid, unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs or sections of this Ordinance and that, to the greatest extent allowed by law, all remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections of this Ordinance shall remain valid, constitutional, enforceable, and of full force and effect.

Section Three. All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby expressly repealed.

Section Four. The effective date of this Ordinance shall be the date of adoption unless otherwise stated herein.

ORDAINED this ____ day of _____, 2025.

[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA

Jazzmin Cobble, *Mayor*

ATTEST:

_____ **(SEAL)**

City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney