



CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING – MINUTES

3120 Stonecrest Blvd., Stonecrest, GA 30038

Thursday, July 02, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Mayor Jazzmin Cobble

Mayor Pro Tem Tara Graves - District 1 Vacant - District 2

Council Member Alecia Washington - District 3 Council Member George Turner - District 4

Council Member Karmesha W. Smith - District 5

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

I. CALL TO ORDER: Tara Graves, Mayor Pro-Tem

The meeting began at 6:16pm.

II. ROLL CALL: Sonya Isom, City Clerk

All members were present with District 2 seat vacant.

Ground rules were established for today's meeting. In an effort to conduct an effective and orderly meeting, all comments and responses to each item will be limited to five minutes per person. This time limit will apply to everyone including council, mayor, staff and anyone responding to questions. If a speaker would like another individual to speak and respond to questions, they must first ask for permission from Mayor Pro Tem before yielding the floor or inviting another person to speak.

Motion – made by Councilmember Karmesha Smith to allocate a maximum of five minutes to speak, per person, per agenda item. Second by Councilmember Alecia Washington.

Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 being vacant.

It was confirmed these rules are for this Special Called Meeting only.

III. AGENDA ITEMS

a. For Decision - Execution of the City Manager Employment Agreement and Authorization of Signatory - *Tara Graves, Mayor Pro Tem*

There was an overview by Mayor Pro Tem Graves stating the city's governing body has approved the appointment of the City Manager. This item is to ensure that the employment agreement is properly carried out so that the city can move forward. Attorney Thompson

confirmed the employment agreement has not been signed, stating it was presented to the mayor for signature. The mayor spoke of discrepancies in the agreement and stated the charter references a ceremonial mayor and that the contract is valid as the council voted and approved of it. Attorney Thompson read the section of the charter referencing this matter. It was stated the mayor's signature is a requirement.

Motion – made by Councilmember Alecia Washington to authorize the Mayor Pro Tem to execute the City Manager Employment Agreement and any related documents necessary to implement the council's previously approved appointment of the City Manager based on the mayor's refusal to execute the agreement. Second by Councilmember Karmesha Smith.
Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 being vacant.

b. For Decision - Resolution Ratifying Emergency Actions Taken by Council Prior to the City Manager Appointment - *Tara Graves, Mayor Pro Tem*

The purpose of this resolution is to formally acknowledge the actions that council took during the declared state of emergency to ensure the continued operations of the city government, including the uninterrupted delivery of essential services. These actions were put in place while the City Manager position remained vacant. The resolution was read by Councilman Turner, giving examples of some of the emergency declarations. It was noted the mayor attempted to make an Acting City Manager appointment, however, the recommendation was denied by way of vote of council. The mayor requested a correction to the resolution stating the date and time of mayor's appointment, as well as the votes.

The City Attorney read the preamble.

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to approve the resolution by the City Council for the City of Stonecrest, Georgia, to acknowledge and ratify certain actions taken to preserve the continuity of Municipal Government. Second by Councilmember Alecia Washington.

Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 being vacant.

c. For Discussion - Supplemental Pay Policy - *Keisha Franklin, Finance Director, Myrlene Thomas, Human Resources Analyst & Robin Jackson, Human Resources Generalist*

The presentation was given by Myrlene Thomas, HR Analyst, giving the definition of supplemental pay and stating this is when an employee is placed in acting status, when they are temporarily reassigned to a position that is different from their hired position or they are assigned significantly to greater duties and responsibilities than those assigned. This pay will come in at 5% or an amount that appropriately reflects the additional duties and responsibilities and will only remain in effect during the duration of the acting assignment. The employee placed in this status must meet the minimum requirements of the position before the reassignment begins. The acting assignment may not exceed 12 consecutive months unless the City Manager provides written approval for an extension. The City Manager may also approve supplemental pay for employees with additional or specialized degrees and/or certifications when recommended by the Department Director. There were a series of questions from council to be answered at a later date due to the HR Director being out of the office.

d. For Discussion - The Consideration of a Resolution to Censure the Mayor - *Tara Graves, Mayor Pro Tem*

The discussion was led by Mayor Pro Tem Graves stating this resolution to censure is a formal expression of the council's disapproval regarding conduct. It does not remove an elected official from office, nor does it oppose legal penalties. The purpose of this agenda item is to allow the council to consider the proposed resolution, review the facts, and hear from those involved, engage in discussion and determine whether the proposed action is warranted. The proposed resolution stems from an incident that occurred on Thursday, June 25th, involving an elected official and an appointed staff member. Because this matter involved the conduct of an elected official, the council is considering it during the open public meeting to ensure transparency and to provide all parties with an opportunity to be heard.

The appointed staff member voluntarily submitted a written statement to council regarding the incident. The statement was not requested by council. It was sent via email at 12:00 approximately 12:15 a.m. on June 26. I myself did not prepare or submit a written statement although I went to City Hall after being notified of the incident around 9:55 a.m. on June 25th. As of today's meeting, no written statement has been submitted by the mayor. This agenda item is for discussion and consideration only. We do have the appointed staff member, which is our Director of Finance, online, but we're having a hard time hearing her. So, she wanted us to read the letter that she forwarded to council the day after, which is on the 26th, that is going to be read by our City Manager.

City Manager Turner proceeded with reading the statement from Director Franklin. Notice of Incident, June 25, 2026. Council, I'm writing to formally notify you of a workplace incident that occurred on June 25th at approximately 10 a.m. at City Hall. This note is from Director Keisha Franklin. I apologize. Upon my arrival at City Hall, I observed that Mayor Jazzmin Cobble had positioned a chair directly in front of my office door and was sitting there waiting for my arrival. As I approached my office, the mayor immediately confronted me regarding the payment of her hotel accommodation for the upcoming conference and directed me to print her check immediately. I advised the mayor that I do not print checks on demand, and the city follows established financial processes for ensuring payments. During the exchange, the mayor repeatedly yelled, "Print the check or find another" and out of respect, I'm just going to put an initial, "m f'ing job. She also stated that I printed the check on demand before, which I advised was not true. The mayor further stated words to the effect that she could do whatever she wanted because she was the mayor, that it was "her city" that she "ran the city". This interaction occurred in presence of city staff. Because the situation continued to escalate, I attempted to end interaction by closing my office door. As the door was nearly closed, the mayor pushed the door toward me, in an apparent effort to prevent it from closing. I pushed the door completely closed, and it automatically locked. Immediately after, the mayor repeatedly manipulated the lock, door handle, while continuing to yell outside of my office. I remained inside my office as an effort to separate myself from the confrontation and de-escalate the situation. While inside my office, I heard the mayor state that I had called the police, and that she did not care because the police could not do anything to her because it was her city and she ran the city. A responding police officer who identified himself as Officer Keene arrived at my office door shortly thereafter because the mayor continued yelling nearby. I advised the officer that I intended to leave the building to remove myself from the situation. After I exited my

office, the mayor stated that her check was the only check that had not been paid, and that she could not leave for the conference without it. I responded that the statement was false and that it was a lie. I further advised that her hotel reservations remained active, had not been canceled or otherwise affected, and that she was free to travel to check into her hotel. I then left City Hall to remove myself from the situation. I remained in my vehicle because I was visibly shaken by the incident. Shortly thereafter, I was instructed that I could return home for the remaining of the day. As a result of this incident, I was unable to continue to perform my duties that morning. I believe that it is important that the governing body be informed of these events that they be documented as part of the city's official record.
Director Keisha Franklin.

Mayor Pro Tem Graves asked Mayor Cobble if she would like to respond. Mayor Cobble responded, "absolutely." Actually, I'd like my attorney to respond. Attorney Tyson, would you please come to the podium? As he's coming, I would also like to mention that the statement that you heard just read by the city manager was only in the words of one individual. As we know, one side of the story is only that. So, you'll hear from my attorney, who will not only explain the procedural violations that this council and the city manager just violated, but also, the continuation of the incorrect and in factually stated events that occurred, which we actually have evidence and proof of. Attorney Tyson, would you please? Mayor Pro Tem Graves interrupted and stated, excuse me, Mayor Cobble. I actually gave you the floor. Are you asking for your city attorney to come add some content, or would you like to respond? Mayor Cobble responded, my city attorney is going to respond on my behalf. Mayor Cobble asked Mayor Pro Tem, are you refusing to let me share my side of the story through my legal counsel? Mayor Pro Tem responded, No, absolutely not. Mayor Cobble stated, ok, Attorney Tyson will speak on my behalf. Mayor Pro Tem stated that the question is: before you invite anybody to speak, I gave you the floor. Mayor Cobble stated, yes, you gave me the floor and in you giving me the floor, I am having my attorney to speak. Mayor Pro Tem Graves asked, so are you having your attorney speak? Mayor Cobble stated that if the floor is hers, then I may proceed with having the floor and having the floor includes having my attorney speak. Mayor Cobble asked Mayor Pro Tem Graves if she would like for her to request from her personally. Councilmember Alecia Washington asked if we could ask legal, is that the right procedure, that he can speak on her behalf? Mayor Cobble also asked legal to explain if she has permission to indulge in the floor in a meeting where I'm rightfully a member of the governing body.

City Attorney Thompson stated that she would recommend, if the mayor wants to give a statement or if she wants to speak right now to address the matter that's on the floor, that you directly speak because we have not opened the floor for a public comment of any sort. So right now, we are having a meeting for the members of this body. Mayor Cobble stated, we're having a meeting for members of this body of which I am a part of. And so, there's no law that says that a part of my own discussion, I cannot bring others into it. As a matter of fact, you just had more than one person speaking on another item right before this with the body. I am a part of this body and there are no stipulations in law that state that as I have the floor, I may not involve multiple parties in my presentation. As a matter of fact, council just involved multiple parties in their presentation. So, if you can find law that says that I must get permission when I have the floor to include multiple parties, then we may have a legal argument. Otherwise, if the Mayor Pro Tem would like me to ask for personal permission for my attorney to speak on a personnel matter on my behalf, I will oblige. The

City Attorney added that she will leave the approval to the body to decide whether a member from the public can speak on this agenda item. Mayor Cobble stated that this is not a member of the public, this is my legal counsel. You're talking about a legal matter, a personnel matter in which you've allowed the city manager to read one statement from one person, to create the theme of this meeting a misrepresentation and now you are trying to take the right from me to give my side of the story, so that at least the representation is equitable. This is not a member of the public. This is my legal counsel. The council has already gone into a personnel matter publicly, which violates our charter, our human resources policies and many others. So now you want to add to that by restricting the mayor from allowing her legal counsel to speak when I have the floor. Council, please. Mayor Pro Tem Graves asked Mayor Cobble if she was referring to herself as personnel? Mayor Cobble stated that absolutely, I am personnel per your personnel policy and your charter. Mayor Pro Tem Graves asked Mayor Cobble if she remembered the instructions. Mayor Cobble responded, yes absolutely. Just because you said it doesn't make it lawful. Just because you said it, doesn't mean there is law to support what you said. Just because you said it doesn't mean you get to take the rights from the mayor to have the floor. You gave me the floor. You do not get to dictate how I use said floor. I am part of this governing body as everyone else is. You have invited multiple people in all of your items before this to have participation in you having the floor. But if you'd like me to ask you, may I invite someone to the floor you've given me, I certainly shall.

Councilmember Karmesha Smith stated that according to Robert's Rule, can a person give the floor to someone else? They may yield to ask to allow them to make a comment. They may briefly yield for them to provide a bit of clarity, but I don't think they can actually give the floor to someone else. Mayor Cobble responded, would you like for me to use the word yield versus give? Councilmember Smith replied, yield for a question or comment. Mayor Cobble's response, would you like for me to use the words yield for a comment? Councilmember Smith stated, not for a statement and I would like to find out according to Robert's Rule, that we utilize here, if that is allowed. To my understanding, it is not. The city attorney stated that Councilmember Smith is correct as the mayor's attorney is acting as her proxy and we haven't established that. Mayor Cobble asked, "A proxy to what? Attorney Thompson replied, to speak on your behalf. Mayor Cobble stated she has never had to have permission to bring anyone to the podium to speak on an item. Never. Not one council meeting, not one work session, not one community meeting, not one commission meeting, not a single one has the city council had the authority under no circumstances to dictate how any member of council which includes me, uses the opportunity in front of the microphone. Never, not one time. But, have no fear. Attorney Tyson, please stand there. I will read. As the city manager read, I will read. I would like to make note before I begin reading this, that we find it not coincidental at all that the city council would allow the statement of the staff member to be read with no interruption. To misrepresent an event and then find ways using its legal counsel to suppress my abilities and my authority. Certainly, this is newsworthy. I'll read.

I understand that one or more of the members of the city council intends to bring forward a resolution or a proposal to censure Mayor Cobble, in connection with an alleged incident involving the city's finance director. As of this writing, no one has spoken with the mayor about the matter. No written complaint has been furnished to her and no factual inquiry of any kind appears to have occurred. I am writing to raise three specific concerns under the charter. Raise one under its personnel policy and request that your office advise the council

accordingly. Clearly, they did not. First, the charter supplies the appropriate mechanism for examining a matter of this kind, and it has not been invoked. Section 2.08 authorizes the council to make inquiries and investigations into the affairs of the city, including the power to take testimony and require the production of evidence. No such inquiry has been undertaken. The mayor has not been interviewed, asked to respond, or even shown one what is alleged. In fact, the mayor and her staff possess relevant information, including a recording. It has not been requested or reviewed. Not only does the council proceeding with this censure without conducting an investigation violate basic principles of due process, it cannot withstand the slightest scrutiny. Second, because the city council's failure to invoke the formal investigative process in the charter, the council is already in violation of Section 3.03b6, which provides the mayor and the council shall not discuss in public the performance of or complaints against any city officer or employee unless acting pursuant to a duly authorized investigation. It is our understanding that members of council discussed the alleged incident between mayor and the finance director in an open council meeting in Savannah on June 28th. Further, it is our understanding that the open discussion led to an open records request, an open records request that contains specific information about the incident based on public comment. As you know, without a properly authorized Section 2.08 inquiry, a public airing of this matter violates Section 3.03b6 and is also inconsistent with the city's broader obligations in regarding confidential personnel information in its personnel policy manual.

If the council continues with a public discussion at the meeting tomorrow evening, it will further violate the terms of the charter and the policy. Third, I note the posture in which this situation presents your office. Section 3.08b of the city charter provides that in a conflict between the mayor and council, the city attorney shall arrange separate outside representation for each and shall not represent the interest of one against the other. The course the council appears poised to take would create precisely such a conflict. I've raised this not to be adversarial, but so that your office can take steps, take the steps the charter requires and provide counsel to the council on the proper path forward before an action is taken. We are prepared to be appointed as the mayor's representative. Finally, it also appears the city's personnel policies have not been followed. We are unaware of any complaint filed against the mayor under those policies, and even if a complaint has been filed, it must be kept confidential. Further, to the extent any witness statements exist, the mayor has not been provided with them. Although we are aware that one report, although we are aware of one report that includes information only from the finance director, that is inconsistent with the evidence in the possession of the mayor. If the city wishes to pursue complaints against the mayor or anyone else, it should follow its own personnel policy manual rather than proceeding with the censure resolution without all of the facts. On behalf of the mayor, I respectfully request that any resolution or proposal related to the alleged incident not be presented, discussed publicly or brought to a vote unless until one, the specific allegation are reduced to writing and provided to the mayor. Two, the council determines through a proper section 2.08 process, where the factual basis for any action exists and three the mayor is afforded a meaningful notice and opportunity to be heard. The mayor is prepared to participate fully and in good faith. I welcome the opportunity to discuss with you directly. Please contact me by email. All of the mayor's rights under the charter and applicable law are expressly reserved. So, seeing that some of these things have already taken place and have already been violated, my attorney's office is prepared to represent the mayor's office in these egregious violations. Also, because you have refused to allow him to even speak. Thank you.

Mayor Pro Tem asked council, “Do you have any other questions?”

Councilmember George Turner responded this item is listed for discussion only. No decision has been made nor are we opposing to make a decision this evening. That being the case, what was read to us, I cannot imagine this happened without there being other witnesses and their statements would be important for us to make a decision as to whether we go forward with this suggested resolution. This is not a hearing but us responding to a letter we got that will not be ignored as the accusations are very serious. We will not be intimidated by lawyers coming before us, which was part of the accusations, intimidation, which has not been validated but would take a hearing to get to the bottom of it. Is there enough evidence to raise it to the next level? In my opinion, it is and I am going to suggest that at some point we conduct an investigation to see if this is warranted to offer a censure. Our conduct speaks volumes about how we treat our staff and constituents, which must be with due respect at all times and if it gets out of control, we must pull ourselves in line.

Mayor Cobble asked, Mayor Pro Tem, may I comment? Mayor Pro Tem commented yes. Mayor stated, I first want to say that as much as we have to protect our staff and our constituents, the elected officials are also included in the respect and treatment, just as the staff and the constituents. Elected officials should not be verbally abused or physically assaulted. It is not just the responsibility of the elected to ensure that there is respect only given, there also should be respect given back to the elected. I'm sure that through your investigation, you will see that respect is mutual. Violations happen when multiple people decide to disrespect or even physically interact with both the elected and the staff. It would be irresponsible for the city council to simply take the word of one and to not openly discuss with the, all people involved, including the mayor. There's some kind of theme here that I am excluded from rightful treatment. But in fact, when I am disrespected, when I am physically assaulted, I also have rights. It is imperative that respect is mutual. But it's also imperative that action on both sides are taken, not just on the side of the elected. It's also actions to be taken on the side of the staff. When staff is incorrect, and when elected are incorrect, each one should have, first of all, its due process, and second of all, meaningful action to correct the behavior. So, I do not want anyone to leave here believing that I am not a victim, because I am. It will come out through this investigation and I hope the council does take it very seriously, as I also have rights, not just as an elected official, but also as a citizen.

Mayor Pro Tem asked council if there were any other questions. City Manager Turner stated, Mayor Pro Tem, I have a statement. Mayor Pro Tem replied, yes, Madame City Manager. City Manager proceeded, this is a statement as occurred at City Hall on Wednesday, June 24th. On Wednesday, June 24th, about 4:30p.m., I was approached by the Executive Assistant of the mayor regarding she was waiting for the hotel that was booked by the GMA conference on the mayor's personal credit card to receive a city check to pay for her room versus her using her personal credit card to pay for her travels. She stated the mayor would not be willing to allow the charges to her personal credit card. Without clear assurance that the check had been applied to her reservation, she would remain in Stonecrest. She was also checking with the hotel to see if the check had been posted to her account. I did remind her of the travel policy, where the city of Stonecrest reimburses travel for reasonable and necessary expenses that actually occur in connection with approved travel. We went back and forth from Wednesday afternoon, about 4:30 p.m., until about 12:42 a.m. Thursday morning, and again from 9:19 a.m. to 2:26 p.m. on

Thursday. We pretty much went back and forth on the same issue that the room had not received the check to pay for the mayor's room and that what we were going to do about it. On Thursday morning, the day of traveling to the GMA conference, I received a voicemail from my Executive Assistant, saying the mayor wanted me to call her. Because I couldn't call her, she called me back again, saying the mayor was going off on Director Franklin, and that Franklin, Director Franklin, was calling security, and that I needed to call her, and if she didn't have her check, she was going to go off on people. I texted my Executive Assistant that I was on a call right then, but I was working on a solution with Director Franklin and would call her back. I also called Mayor Pro Tem to make her aware of what was going on with the check on the room payment, and also what was going on at City Hall. While I was talking with Director Franklin, I heard the mayor in the background yelling. And Director Franklin said the mayor had blocked her door with a chair and threatened her. Because I heard the word "threaten," I told her to hang up the phone and call security and the police. I called Mayor Pro Tem back to alert her of the employee threat, and that security was alerted. Mayor Pro Tem stated she was headed to City Hall. I called back to see if City Director Franklin was okay, and she was very shaken up and emotional, and was told by Mayor Pro Tem to go home. I tried to calm her down and asked her, did she have someone who could be with her, or did I need to come where she was located because she appeared to be a nervous wreck on the phone. She told me no, she would be okay. She was really shaken up. I asked her was she okay to drive? And she said yes, she was. I immediately changed my attire because I was headed and headed to City Hall because I was originally getting ready to head to Savannah for the GMA conference.

I called the mayor back, and she stated Finance walked out the building without giving her her check for her hotel room, and she was not putting it on her credit card. A solution was, she said, to use the p-card, which is what was done in the past. She stated she did not harass Director Franklin or touch her. She did put a chair in the front of her door. She said Director Franklin could use the credit card authorization form, and she said y'all can have the city. The check should have been sent via UPS or FedEx. Who puts a check in the f'ing mail where you can where you can track it, where you can't track it? My apologies if this word was used inappropriately. This is what I'm saying to say in front of everybody in this meeting. She said her room was not paid. I told her mine was not either. She said so, you are new. I said it's the same policies and procedures. I asked her let me get a solution, and I would circle back. Once I arrived at city hall, I was told by employees and security of the various profanity that was used by the mayor, such as f'ing check, or Director Franklin would be fired if she didn't bring her check, she was overheated, find a solution or find another job, and why did they bring your stupid a back, with a chair blocking Director Franklin's door. One employee stated no one came and checked on them until the city manager came and addressed the issues and she considered the incident to be extremely hostile, and she was upset. I asked the employees of Stonecrest from the Finance Department to come into the conference room. I did apologize on behalf of the mayor for what this what they had just witnessed and observed. They reminded me just the day before at our all staff meeting that I told them that we would not tolerate people being disrespected, unprofessionalism, or unacceptable conduct at City Hall by anyone, including myself. I again apologized for what they experienced. I asked them while it was fresh on their mind if they would put a statement in writing of what they observed. I told them it would not be used against them nor would it impact their jobs. I was told by the Director of Finance that they would not put a statement in writing as they had been previously managed by fear and intimidation. But I asked for her permission if it was okay to talk to

her employees and ask them to do so. Director Franklin told me yes. Some of the employees asked if they could go in their work area and type their statement and date it. I need to, I apologize but others have been given, can I finish? They asked if they could go in their work

Mayor Cobble stated, I was interrupted and was not able to finish mine, so. City Manager stated, I'm almost finished. Mayor stated, I was almost, that is, I was interrupted. Mayor Pro Tem stated. Madame City Manager, you, time, you reached the limit but thank you for your statement. Council, do you have any other questions? This agenda has been. Mayor Cobble stated, I have more to say, I would like the floor. Mayor Pro Tem stated, are you asking? Mayor Cobble replied, yes, I would like the floor. Mayor Pro Tem replied, Mayor Cobble.

Mayor Cobble proceeded, again, what you're hearing are statements, one that I have not been given, two that are coming from a one-sided story that I have proof and evidence is actually not true. Through an investigation, you will come to find that there are some people who will speak with integrity and some who will not. As you can see, right, we're a smart city. This has been crafted so that one side of the story is what's prevalent, and you can see that there is an attempt to suppress the other side. I do want to really quickly, in my short period of time, state that my Executive Assistant, who was also in, not only in the City Manager's statement, but also on, on the telephone with me, as supposedly the city manager was on the telephone with the deputy, with the Finance Director. My assistant was on the phone with me, and yet she has not been asked for a statement, and yet no one has given her an opportunity to speak. So, you can see the theory and the theme that's going on here. Additionally, the reason why there was even a discussion is because both the City Manager and the Finance Director lied to my assistant and to me the day before. I have, which will come out, this is not a hearing apparently, well, the city council has planted statements throughout this evening. Where on Wednesday, the city manager tells my assistant that the finance director had spoken with the hotel directly, and that the check for my hotel had been delivered. Then the next day, sends a text message saying the check for your hotel arrived today, Thursday, at noon. So Wednesday, the city manager says the check is there, we've confirmed it with the hotel. My assistant calls the hotel, the hotel says absolutely not, we have nothing. The next day at noon, the city manager says your check arrived today. Well, how did it arrive yesterday and also today? So in between yesterday and the next day is when I approached the finance director to inquire about a payment solution. Again, we have all the evidence that we need that included audio of the verbal exchanges. So all of these words that the city manager is choosing not to share, that is making it seem like I used all kind of explicative, the audio will prove that the conversation, I was not the aggressor. The audio and the video will also prove that I was physically assaulted, that I was the victim of insubordination. But you cannot forget that up until now, only the people who support one side has been asked for statements, haven't, and those statements were collected by the city manager and in her possession only. The statements of those who were taken don't even have a copy of it themselves. Our HR policy states that the HR department conducts these kind of statements. We have staff members willing to actually say that they were demanded to give statements and could not leave their workspace until doing so, and that they were told not to email it to themselves or anyone else, but to simply print it and hand it to the city manager. And the city manager today is still in possession of those, solely. So yes, an investigation needs to happen. Process and procedure, charters and policies, all of which need to be had. Y'all, this was a

heated debate, a heated argument between the mayor and a staff member who reports to mayor and council. Whom, when the city manager and the finance director did not tell the truth, I sought the answer so that I could attend a conference like everyone else. This will come out. It's unfortunate that it has to play out here, but this is the choice the city council took. So, Attorney Tyson, who will represent me in this investigation, I'm sure will prevail again as we have with Stonecrest three times in the past. Yet, another black city, in public.

Councilmember Smith stated, Mayor Pro Tem. Mayor Pro Tem replied, Councilwoman Smith. Councilmember Smith proceeded, I would just like to state for the record, something that is incorrect that the mayor just stated. City council has planted statements. I, Karmesha Washington Smith, am a part of the city council, and I have planted no statements. That is untrue.

Councilmember Turner said, Mayor Pro Tem. Mayor Pro Tem replied, councilman Turner. Councilmember Turner stated, just to be clear, we are going to direct the city manager to initiate the investigation, just so we can get all questions answered before we address this question, or possible censure or not to censure. So, just wanted to be clear that is the direction we are going in. Mayor Cobble replied, Councilman Turner, asking the City Manager to initiate the investigation is a policy and charter violation. The charter and the policy dictates whom shall conduct the investigation. If you are recommending someone outside of the policy. Councilmember Turner replied, Mayor Pro Tem. Mayor Pro Tem responded, yes, Councilman Turner. Councilmember Turner stated that the question is still there. Are we going to direct the City Manager or whomever to initiate this investigation, just so that we can get all questions answered before moving forward with this idea of a censure?

Mayor Pro Tem Graves stated our conclusion is to have it investigated, but I believe we are going to ask for assistance from GMA because our Finance, our HR Director is currently, will not be in the office so we are going to ask for GMA to come in and assist with this matter. And I also want to make a comment. Nothing here was planted from city council. I was actually at the building myself that day and I can say I experienced some of that as well. I did not make a statement. Actually, doing this agenda item was difficult because we are a team, we're supposed to work together as a team. So when I entered City Hall, my goal was to see if I can get some type of resolution to the matter. But at the end of the day, we have to make sure we respect our staff, we respect our colleagues, and it's not about a check. Let me be clear. If the check wasn't at the location, that was okay because when you go to, anybody know when you check in a hotel, you do not pay for it up front. You just pay for it when you check out. And we were expecting our director to actually be in Savannah also at the retreat, so if all failed, and the payment was not there, she could have taken care of it in Savannah. So let me be clear, this situation and what we're talking about is not about a check and the date that it arrived. It's about making sure that we show our colleagues, our staff members, because we are the leaders of the city. We shouldn't come up here going back and forth. We should be able to talk to each other with respect. But because we are elected officials, we were trying to be transparent with our city and let them know what is currently going on, because I received a lot of calls that day in regards to the incident. Of course, I didn't make any comment because, again, I think this is a situation that I thought we could control among ourselves. I tried to reach out to talk to Mayor Cobble, you called me that day, we talked, you asked me not to call you back. So

at the end of the day, we are a team. We should work as such. But we wanted to come and discuss.

IV. 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

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49pm.

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.