



CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING –MINUTES

3120 Stonecrest Blvd., Stonecrest, GA 30038

Monday, April 24, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Mayor Jazzmin Cobble

Council Member Tara Graves - District 1 Council Member Rob Turner - 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 started at 6:14 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL: Sonya Isom, City Clerk

All Councilmembers were present with the exception of Councilmember Alecia Washington.

III. INVOCATION: Pastor Raymond Randle, Redeeming Word Church, Stonecrest, GA

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion – made by Councilmember Rob Turner to approve the April 24, 2023 meeting agenda. Councilmember Tara Graves seconded.

Motion passed 4-0. Councilmember Alecia Washington was absent.

VI. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Approval of Meeting Minutes - March 13, 2023

Motion – made by Councilmember Tara Graves to approve the March 13, 2023 meeting minutes. Councilmember Tammy Grimes seconded.

Motion passed 4-0. Councilmember Alecia Washington was absent.

b. Approval of Meeting Minutes - March 27, 2023

Motion – made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to approve the March 27, 2023 meeting minutes. Councilmember Rob Turner seconded.

Motion passed 4-0. Councilmember Alecia Washington was absent.

VII. REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

A proclamation was presented by Mayor Cobble and City Council Members to the Salem Middle School Lions Baseball team.

VIII. 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.

Public Comments were given by:

Dave Marcus

**this public comment was sent via email and read by the City Clerk*

Concerns that part of the animal exhibition has not been discussed by council or presented to the public. Questioning why outdoor animal exhibitions would be allowed in the Arabia overlay. Asking that Council revise the proposed ordinance. He listed the following reasons:

1. This was not included in any discussion of the ordinance, and I don't believe that it was discussed at the council work session. This is another example of a change that was made without fanfare or discussion but instead just slipped in. The public should have a chance to weigh in on this and - effectively - the public has not had that chance.
2. Zoos and similar uses generate traffic, pose parking problems, and generate smells which, despite buffers, may waft into neighbor's yards. I don't think that this is a good use in any residential area.
3. The justification in the ordinance applies to properties that would allow access from the PATH trail, but the ordinance would allow this use for any property in the overlay whether the property is adjacent to the trail.

Malaika Wells

Stressed a problem with signs not being allowed inside the Chambers at the last meeting, stated doors were locked and unstaffed, and citizens were not able to get in. Asking for a response within seven days with written evidence as to why signs were not allowed. She also asked for a public explanation as to why no members have been appointed to the Charter Review Commission.

Faye Coffield

Questioned why no photos could be taken at meeting, concerned that 501(c)3's are not eligible to receive ARPA funds, would like public comment time changed to three minutes, and questioned why city has failed to pay Department of Labor for unemployment benefits. Also questioned why public comments are not allowed at Special Called Meetings. Would be nice to have clock showing how much time is left for public comments.

Terry Fye

Directed his inquiry to Councilman Rob Turner, asking for a response as to why citizens were not allowed to display signs during the April 17, 2023 Special Called Meeting.

IX. 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.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

XI. APPOINTMENTS

- a. Appointments to Development Authority

XII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **For Decision** - Major Plat Approval - *Ray White*

Presentation by Director Ray White. Zoning of parcel took place in DeKalb prior to city being incorporated. This is a combination plat, not a subdivision.

It was stated staff has 90 days to review and bring for consideration.

Councilmember Grimes asked for clarification on where item is located in the city. Response was it is left of the Botanical Gardens.

Motion – made by Councilmember Rob Turner to defer the Major Plat Approval to the next council meeting. Councilmember Tammy Grimes seconded.

Motion passed 4-0. Councilmember Alecia Washington was absent.

- b. **For Decision** - TMOD 22-012 Animal Exhibition - *Ray White*

Presentation by Director Ray White. He stated there is currently no usage and this would allow for certain usage in the city. Recommendation is zoning would be C1 Local Commercial and C2 General Commercial.

There was a review of recommended supplemental regulations. There was also a review of conservation/open space character areas. Staff is recommending permissible areas.

The current proposal is to allow for more time and a public hearing to take place.

Mayor Pro Tem George Turner stated there are three categories listed and requested a clear definition of each category, including defining what an aquarium is. Mayor Cobble stated this was an ordinance assigned to the consultant to review. Arabia Mountain overlay is an area she believes should be removed. It is her opinion that it does not serve us well there.

Councilmember Grimes asked for clarification on the difference between C1 & C2, and what could be allowed. It was stated C1 is more service oriented and C2 is more commercial businesses, professional and a mix of uses.

Councilmember Rob Turner asked if there was more information to be presented before Council makes a decision. Director White answered yes, there are some key areas that need refinement. Councilmember Turner asked for the timeline to get the information back to Council and Director White stated by the May 22, 2023 City Council meeting. Councilmember Grimes asked for the time frame for scheduling the public hearing. Director White stated May 11th is the scheduled CPIM and it will then be brought to council on May 22nd.

Motion – made by Councilmember Rob Turner to defer TMOD 22-012 Animal Exhibition to the next council meeting. Councilmember Tara Graves seconded.

Motion passed 4-0. Councilmember Alecia Washington was absent.

c. For Decision - Freight Cluster Plan with Metro Analytics - *Hari Karikaran*

Presentation by City Engineer Hari Karikaran. Mr. Karikaran stated the city applied for a grant in 2021 and the city is ready to move now. He is recommending approval of the contract.

Mr. Karikaran confirmed he has verified references and they have a good relationship with ARC staff. They also have a good team and scope of work is in the contract.

Motion – made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to approve the Freight Cluster Plan with Metro Analytics. Councilmember Tara Graves seconded.

Motion passed 4-0. Councilmember Alecia Washington was absent.

d. For Decision - Freight Cluster Plan with ARC - *Hari Karikaran*

Presentation by City Engineer Hari Karikaran. ARC secures funding and will give 80%, and the city will give 20%.

Councilmember Grimes asked for clarity on the percentage.

Motion – made by Councilmember Tara Graves to approve the Freight Cluster Plan with ARC. Councilmember Rob Turner seconded.

Motion passed 4-0. Councilmember Alecia Washington was absent.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

a. For Decision - 2023 SPLOST Funding Reallocation - *Hari Karikaran*

City Engineer Hari Karikaran gave an overview and stated a detailed presentation was given at the previous Work Session.

Mr. Karikaran gave a review of the 2023 SPLOST funding reallocation. By approving this, the city will be saving money.

Mayor Jazzmin Cobble noted if approved, Hari Karikaran and ACM Gia Scruggs would make adjustments to the Capital Improvement Budget.

City Attorney Thompson if moving between departments, a resolution will be needed. ACM Scruggs stated this is not needed if within the same department.

Motion – made by Councilmember Rob Turner to approve the 2023 SPLOST Funding Reallocation. Councilmember Tammy Grimes seconded.

Motion passed 4-0. Councilmember Alecia Washington was absent.

b. For Decision - Updated City Event Calendar - *Benjamin Dillard*

Presentation by Director Ben Dillard. He stated there were no changes since the last meeting. Director Dillard is asking Council to approve the adjusted calendar for 2023.

Councilmember Graves asked about adding an additional five hundred dollars to the Cities Week Autism event. Mayor Cobble stated Cities Week and the Autism event were two separate events and that the budgets have been combined.

Motion – made by Councilmember Tara Graves to approve the Updated City Event Calendar. Councilmember Tammy Grimes seconded.

Motion passed 4-0. Councilmember Alecia Washington was absent.

c. For Decision - Georgia Cities Week Resolution - *Gia Scruggs and Xavier Ross*

Overview of Georgia Cities Week and scheduled events. The theme for this year is Georgia Cities Light the Way/Stonecrest Lighting the Way.

The City of Stonecrest has been actively engaged in Cities Week since the 2nd year of inception.

Motion – made by Councilmember Tara Graves to approve the Georgia Cities Week Resolution. Councilmember Tammy Grimes seconded.

Motion passed 4-0. Councilmember Alecia Washington was absent.

d. For Decision - Camera Utility Easement Agreement - *Gia Scruggs*

Presentation by Acting City Manager Gia Scruggs. Ms. Scruggs stated the city received a request to install cameras in the right of ways, specifically Panola Road.

Staff is requesting approval to get additional cameras to assist in providing safety and security to residents.

Mayor Pro Tem stated he is greatly in support of having cameras in place.

Motion – made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to approve the Camera Utility Easement Agreement. Councilmember Rob Turner seconded.

Motion passed 4-0. Councilmember Alecia Washington was absent.

XIV. CITY MANAGER UPDATE

Acting City Manager gave a reminder of Cities Week, Summer Camp registration on city website. She also stated the ARPA application has been extended to May 22, 2023.

XV. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Jazzmin Cobble – No comments

District 1/Councilmember Tara Graves – No comments

District 2/Councilmember Rob Turner – Would like to invite everyone to Georgia Cities Week.

District 3/Councilmember Alecia Washington – Not in attendance

District 4/Mayor Pro Tem George Turner – Has received request from constituents for more town hall meetings. He will plan to hold more meetings for District 4, at least quarterly.

District 5/Councilmember Tammy Grimes – Stated Georgia is in the midst of Milestone testing. Reminding students to get rest and be alert.

XVI. 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 Tammy Grimes to enter into Executive Session for Litigation and Personnel matters. Councilmember Rob Turner seconded.

Motion passed 4-0. Councilmember Alecia Washington was absent.

Motion – made by Councilmember Rob Turner to exit Executive Session and return to the regular Council meeting. Councilmember Tara Graves seconded.

Motion passed 4-0. Councilmember Alecia Washington was absent.

Motion – made by Councilmember Rob Turner to approve the minutes from the Executive Session. Councilmember Tammy Grimes seconded.

Motion passed 4-0. Councilmember Alecia Washington was absent.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion – made by Councilmember Rob Turner to adjourn. Councilmember Tammy Grimes seconded.

Motion passed 4-0. Councilmember Alecia Washington was absent.

The meeting ended at 9:49 pm.

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.