



CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – MINUTES

3120 Stonecrest Blvd., Stonecrest, GA 30038

Monday, June 22, 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 6:08pm.

II. ROLL CALL: Sonya Isom, City Clerk

All members were present with Councilmember Karmesha Smith being virtual.

III. INVOCATION: Bishop Micheal J Paden, Sr., Holy Fellowship COGIC

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

V. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

There was a request for the following:

1. Update New Business item f. to state For Decision and change item name to Approval & Ratification of City Manager Agreement.
2. Move item g under New Business – to the next Work Session for Discussion.
3. Move item h under New Business – to the next Work Session for Discussion.

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to approve the agenda with the stated changes. Second by Councilmember Karmesha Smith.

Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 seat being vacant.

VI. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Approval of Meeting Minutes - Special Called Meeting, May 18, 2026

There was a request to change CID to SLIP in the minutes and the motion to approve the resolution for the Stonecrest Lithonia Industrial Park CID.

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to approve the Special Called Meeting Minutes from May 18, 2026, with the stated changes. Second by Councilmember Alecia Washington.

Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 seat being vacant.

b. Approval of Meeting Minutes - City Council Meeting, May 26, 2026

There was a request to correct the public comment from the previous District 2 Councilmember Terry Fye regarding his experiences. There was also a request to remove the word committee from the motions of the Appointments of the SLIP CID Board Members.

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to approve the City Council Meeting Minutes from May 26, 2026, with the stated changes. Second by Councilmember Alecia Washington.

Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 seat being vacant.

c. Approval of Meeting Minutes - Special Called Meeting, May 28, 2026

Motion – made by Councilmember Alecia Washington to approve the Special Called Meeting Minutes from May 28, 2026. Second by Councilmember George Turner.

Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 seat being vacant.

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 three (3) minute time limit for each speaker submitting or reading a public comment. Individuals will be held to those established time limits.

There was a request from council to address the rules of decorum for attendees wishing to speak during the public comments section of the City Council meetings. Please control emotions and keep it clean, as the use of profane words are subject to being censored and that goes against our transparency protocol for all of our citizens.

Faye Coffield- Stated that Stonecrest sits on some of the most valuable land in South DeKalb. She is asking the city to think high-end for valuable land and look at the improvements being made at Northpoint Mall and think high-end.

Donald Rose Jr- Introduced himself as a new resident of the City of Stonecrest, retired veteran and business owner who spends most of his time serving others. He sees the potential and beauty in Stonecrest and wants to know how he can help, extending his skills with the city.

Dave Marcus- Thank you to the new City Manager for accepting the position, suggested changing charter for ethics violations, addressed six local businesses that were broken into, and hopes the city is working to strengthen the current IGA with DeKalb County police. Mr. Marcus also stated it is great to see the city and council settle legal matters and would like the Metro Green settlement agreement to be released.

Renee Cail- Stated that she is extremely disappointed that the agreement has been reached with Greenland LLC (Metro Green), noting they did not adhere to the regulations, many of which were blatantly ignored. She would like to see the settlement agreement and will be glad when it is released.

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 upon your request.

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** - 2026 Millage Rate - Keisha Franklin, Finance Director & Eric Hawkins, Revenue Manager

The presentation was given by Revenue Manager Hawkins stating the 1st and 2nd Public Hearings were held June 8th at 11 am and 6pm and that this is the 5th consecutive year that the city has had the same millage rate. The city is proposing to maintain it's current millage rate of 1.257 mills. It was mentioned that property tax reassessments are conducted by the DeKalb County Tax Assessors Office and not the City of Stonecrest.

There was review of the 2026 Proposed Millage Rate, Taxpayer Bill of Rights, 2026 City Digest Requirement Millage and Rollback Rate, Notice of Property Tax Increase, Computation of Millage, Current Tax Digest & 5 Year History of Levy, Understanding the Millage rate, Digest Growth, Revenue Growth, and How it all works together.

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to open public hearing for the 2026 Millage Rate. Second by Councilmember Alecia Washington.

Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 seat being vacant.

In Favor:

Faye Coffield *not opposed or in favor

Dave Marcus *not opposed or in favor

Fred Riggins

In Opposition:

None

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to close public hearing for the 2026 Millage Rate. Second by Councilmember Karmesha Smith.

Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 seat being vacant.

- b. For Decision** - Resolution for the 2026 Millage Rate - *Keisha Franklin, Finance Director & Eric Hawkins, Revenue Manager*

The City Clerk read the preamble.

It was mentioned that the tax bill shows several taxes and we are only concerned with city taxes. The next opportunity to vote on the millage rate will be in June of 2027.

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to approve the Resolution got the 2026 Millage Rate. Second by Councilmember Alecia Washington.

Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 seat being vacant.

- c. Public Hearing** - ZM 26-001 Woodrow Road - *Shawanna Qawiy, Division Director Community Development*

The presentation was given by Director Qawiy stating that this is a request to remove approved conditions 1,2,3,4,5,11 and 12 established under DeKalb County Case No CZ-00060. The amendment is sought to allow the property, previously approved for an assisted living facility, to be developed as a solar farm. There was a review of the background. public participation, listed conditions, future land use map, zoning overlay map, aerial map, proposed use site plans and staff recommendations.

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to open the public hearing for ZM 26-001 6400 Woodrow Road. Second by Councilmember Alecia Washington.

Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 seat being vacant.

In Favor:

Adolphus Armstrong

Faye Coffield

In Opposition:

None

Planning Commission recommends approval with four conditions as listed, after removing seven conditions that were listed on the initial request, referring to a senior living facility.

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to close the public hearing for ZM 26-001 6400 Woodrow Road. Second by Councilmember Karmesha Smith.

Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 seat being vacant.

- d. For Decision** - Ordinance for ZM 26-001 6400 Woodrow Road - *Shawanna Qawiy, Division Director Community Development*

The conditions that will not be removed: 6,7,8,9,10,13,14a,14b,15 and 16.

The City Clerk read the preamble.

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to approve the Ordinance for ZM 26-001 6400 Woodrow Road. Second by Councilmember Karmesha Smith.
Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 seat being vacant.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

X. APPOINTMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

XI. REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

- a. **Proclamation** - Municipal Court Clerk – There was a proclamation given to Davina Daughtry, Municipal Court Administrator, honoring Municipal Court Clerk Week.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **For Decision** - Ordinance for SLUP 25-007 1695 Spring Hill Cove - *Shawanna Qawiy, Division Director Community Development*

Director Qawiy stated the applicant has requested a deferment to the next city council meeting on July 27, 2026.

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to defer this item to next city council meeting, scheduled for July 27, 2026. No Second.

Motion died for lack of a second.

Motion – made by Mayor Pro Tem Tara Graves to defer this item to the next City Council Meeting, scheduled for July 27, 2026. Second by Councilmember George Turner.

Motion failed 2-2 with District 2 seat being vacant and Mayor Cobble absent from the dais during the vote.

Motion – made by Councilmember Karmesha Smith to defer this item to the next Work Session, scheduled for July 13, 2026, for decision only. Second by Councilmember Alecia Washington.

Motion passed 3-1 with Councilmember G. Turner voting Nay and District 2 seat being vacant.

- b. **For Decision** - Resolution for the Matrix Fee Study - *Shawanna Qawiy, Division Director Community Development & Keisha Franklin, Finance Director*

The presentation was given by Director Qawiy and Director Franklin stating that the Matrix Study was conducted to evaluate whether the current fees charged by the city adequately cover the cost associated with providing the services. The study compared existing fees to actual service delivery. The proposed fee adjustments are intended to improve cost recovery, reduce reliance on general revenues and to align the city's fee structure with industry standards and comparable jurisdictions. There was review of the updates made to the Master Fee Schedule, Study Objectives, Fee Study Results and Fee Calculation Method. The next steps will be to adopt the fee schedule and re-evaluate in 5-7 years. City Manager would like to defer this item in order to discuss the Matrix Fee Study with Director Franklin and Director Qawiy.

Motion – made by Councilmember Karmesha Smith to defer this item to the next city council meeting for decision. Second by Councilmember George Turner.

Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 seat being vacant.

- c. **For Decision** - Ordinance for Purchasing Card Policy Amendment, 2nd Read - *Keisha Franklin, Finance Director*

The presentation was given by Director Franklin stating this is the 2nd read of the ordinance and giving an overview of the suggested changes. There has not been any changes since the 1st read.

2nd read of the ordinance by City Manager.

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to approve the Ordinance for Purchasing Card Policy Amendment, 2nd Read. Second by Councilmember Alecia Washington.

Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 seat being vacant.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **For Decision** - Contract for Audit Services - *Keisha Franklin, Finance Director & Catherine Turner, City Manager*

The presentation was given by Director Franklin and City Manager Turner stating this is a recommendation to approve Mauldin & Jenkins as the city's audit firm to assist with completing the city's outstanding audits and restoring Stonecrest to a current audit cycle. The city has previously worked with Mauldin & Jenkins. The objectives are to complete the outstanding audits, restore compliance, strengthen financial transparency, improve public confidence and position the city for future grant opportunities, financing initiatives and long-term stability. There was a Thank you to Tabb & Tabb, LLC, and review of Why Move Forward with Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC, Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC, Work Plan and Project Schedule and the Proposed Timeline for Fiscal Years 2023-2026.

It was noted the city plans to be current with all audits thru FY2026 by September 2027. Updates will be given during monthly financial updates.

Motion – made by Mayor Pro Tem Tara Graves to remove Tabb & Tabb, LLC as the city auditors. Second by Councilmember Alecia Washington.

Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 seat being vacant.

Motion – made by Councilmember Karmesha Smith to approve the proposal from Mauldin & Jenkins pending review and acceptance of the contract. No Second.

Motion – made by Councilmember Karmesha Smith to appoint Mauldin & Jenkins as the City Auditors pending review and approval of the contract. No Second.

Motion – made by Councilmember Karmesha Smith to appoint Mauldin & Jenkins as the city auditors pending the review of their contract. Second by Councilmember Alecia Washington.

Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 seat being vacant.

- b. For Decision** - Contract for Vendor Recommendation for Southeast Athletic Complex Dog Park - *Tanisha Boynton, Procurement Manager & Hari Karikaran, City Engineer*

Presentation by Ms. Boynton making a recommendation for a Southeast Athletic Complex Dog Park. The solicitation for this project was released on February 4, 2026. There was a total of 4 responses out of 1,688 vendors that were notified. F.H. Paschen, S.N. Nielsen & Associates, LLC was deemed the lowest responsive bidder. Staff are requesting an award in the amount of \$382,705.20 to this bidder. The funding source is SPLOST utilizing GL Account: 3000-6210-541200 for Site Improvement.

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to reject and revisit the Contract for Vendor Recommendation for Southeast Athletic Complex Dog Park. Second by Councilmember Alecia Washington.

Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 seat being vacant.

- c. For Decision** - Ordinance Appointing DeKalb County to Conduct the City of Stonecrest Special Election - *Sonya Isom, City Clerk*

Presentation was City Clerk Isom stating this is to seek approval for DeKalb County to conduct the City of Stonecrest Special Election on November 3, 2026.

The City Clerk gave the 1st read of the preamble.

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to approve the Ordinance Appointing DeKalb County to Conduct the City of Stonecrest Special Election, 1st Read. Second by Councilmember Alecia Washington.

- d. For Decision** - Resolution to Set Qualifying Dates & Fees for the November 3, 2026, Special Election - *Sonya Isom, City Clerk*

Presentation by City Clerk Isom stating this is to seek approval to set the qualifying dates and fees for the November 3, 2026 Special Election.

The City Clerk read the preamble.

Motion – made by Councilmember Karmesha Smith to approve the Resolution to Set Qualifying Dates & Fees for the November 3, 2026, Special Election. Second by Councilmember Alecia Washington.

Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 seat being vacant.

- e. For Decision** - Feral Hogs Program Hotline - *George Turner, District 4 Councilmember & Karmesha Smith, District 5 Councilmember*

Presentation by Councilmember Turner stating that the city has implemented trappings, trap locations and a hotline number that citizens can use to report sightings of any feral hogs in the community. Stay alert and visual of any mulch, garden or trash disarray as that could mean hogs are in the area and may carry diseases. Please call 1-866-878-HOGS.

Motion – made by Councilmember Karmesha Smith to approve the Feral Hogs Program Hotline. Second by Councilmember Alecia Washington.

Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 seat being vacant.

- f. For Discussion** - Execution of the City Manager Agreement & Authorization of Signatory
- *Tara Graves, Mayor Pro Tem*

Item title was changed to Approval and Ratification of City Manager Employment Agreement.

For Decision - Approval & Ratification of the City Managers Agreement – *Tara Graves, Mayor Pro Tem*

Motion – made by Councilmember Alecia Washington to Approve and Ratify the City Manager Employment Agreement effective June 15, 2026, and authorize any actions necessary to implement the terms of the agreement. Second by Councilmember Karmesha Smith.

Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 seat being vacant.

- g. For Discussion** - Supplemental Pay Policy - *Tara Graves, Mayor Pro Tem*

This item was moved to the next Work Session.

- h. For Discussion** - Governance and Ethics Standards - *Tara Graves, Mayor Pro Tem*

This item was moved to the next Work Session.

XIV. CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS

No comments.

XV. CITY MANAGER UPDATE

Thanked staff for support. Shared accomplishments made during 1st week in position, and shared plans on moving forward. Gave updates for city departments including Finance, Community Development, Economic Development, Facilities, Human Resources, Parks & Recreation, City Engineering Departments and future their plans. There was an overview of the Employee Recognition Program and Mr. Reginald Powell was recognized at the City Council Members for going above and beyond and exceeding expectations for the City of Stonecrest.

XVI. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Cobble – No comments

District 1 – Mayor Pro Tem Tara Graves – Thanks everyone for coming out to our townhall meeting. Thank you, the staff member who received the first award from the employee recognition program. Thank you to the Parks staff for their hard work from this weekend.

District 2 – Vacant

District 3 – Alecia Washington – Thanked all 114 constituents that came out to the combined district townhall meeting. Please continue to engage as we move Stonecrest forward.

District 4 – George Turner - Establishing the SLIP CID will bring good things to Stonecrest and they are currently selecting board members and becoming organized.

District 5 – Karmesha Smith – Thanks to all constituents who came out to the Town Hall. Would like to tilt my hat to the council for collaborating and supporting the events on Saturday. The Juneteenth Celebration was an excellent celebration for our culture and city.

XVII. 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

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to enter Executive Session for personnel, litigation, real estate and cyber security. Second by Councilmember Alecia Washington.

Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 seat being vacant.

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to exit Executive Session and return to the regular scheduled meeting. Second by Councilmember Karmesha Smith.

Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 seat being vacant.

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to approve the minutes from Executive Session. Second by Councilmember Karmesha Smith.

Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 seat being vacant.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion – made by George Turner to adjourn the meeting. Second by Councilmember Karmesha Smith.

Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 seat being vacant.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42pm.

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 days before the activity or event.