

STATE OF GEORGIA  
COUNTY OF DEKALB  
CITY OF STONECREST

**A RESOLUTION BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
STONECREST, GEORGIA TO AMEND THE FINANCIAL  
MANAGEMENT POLICY BY ADOPTING CERTAIN REVISIONS; TO  
PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY;  
AND FOR OTHER LAWFUL PURPOSES.**

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6  
7 **WHEREAS**, the governing authority of the City of Stonecrest (“City”) is the Mayor and Council  
8 thereof; and  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to the City charter the city council shall have the authority to adopt and  
11 provide for the execution of such ordinances, resolutions, policies, rules, and  
12 regulations, not inconsistent with this Charter and the Constitution and the laws of  
13 the State of Georgia, which it shall deem necessary, expedient, or helpful for the  
14 peace, good order, protection of life and property, health, welfare, sanitation,  
15 comfort, convenience, prosperity, or well-being of the inhabitants of the City of  
16 Stonecrest and may enforce such ordinances by imposing penalties for violation  
17 thereof.; and  
18

19 **WHEREAS**, the purpose of the City’s Financial Management Policy is to provide guidance to  
20 elected officials and staff on fiscal issues and core financial decisions that affect the  
21 management and function of the City; and  
22

23 **WHEREAS**, the City desires to amend the Financial Management Policy to adopt certain  
24 revisions to the financial management policy.  
25

26 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND**  
27 **COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA:**  
28

29 **BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED**, the City of Stonecrest Financial Management  
30 Policy is hereby amended by adopting the provisions set forth in Exhibit A attached  
31 hereto and made a part by reference.  
32

33 **BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED**, the preamble of this Resolution shall be  
34 considered to be and is hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set out herein.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, to the extent any portion of this Resolution is  
declared to be invalid, unenforceable, or nonbinding, that shall not affect the  
remaining portions of this Resolution.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, all City resolutions are hereby repealed to the  
extent they are inconsistent with this Resolution.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

**RESOLVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.**

**STATE OF GEORGIA  
COUNTY OF DEKALB  
CITY OF STONECREST**

**CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA**

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**Jazzmin Cobble, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

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**City Clerk**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM BY:**

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**City Attorney**

**STATE OF GEORGIA  
COUNTY OF DEKALB  
CITY OF STONECREST**

**EXHIBIT A**

Stonecrest  
Financial  
Management  
Policy

~~(ADOPTED January 2019)~~  
REVISED March 2025

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## SECTION I. GENERAL BUDGET POLICIES

The budget process provides the primary mechanism by which key decisions are made regarding the levels and types of services to be provided within estimated resources. The budget policy guides this process. The budget policy also directs the City's financial health and stability.

Georgia law (e.g., O.C.G.A. 36-81-2 et seq.) provides the budget requirements for Georgia local governments. The information below provides an outline of the City's application of those laws. The City's goal will be to adopt operating budgets where current revenues equal anticipated expenditures. All departments supported by the resources of this City must function within the limits of the financial resources identified or available specifically to them. A balance must be struck between revenues and expenditures, so that the public can realize the benefits of a strong and stable government. It is important to understand that this policy is applied to budget entities over periods of time which extend beyond current appropriations. By law, budgets cannot exceed available resources, defined as revenues generated in the current period added to balances carried forward from prior years. Temporary shortages, or operating deficits, can and do occur, but they are not tolerated as extended trends.

### A. SCOPE

This policy ~~applies to all budgeted funds, which are the responsibility, and under the management of the City of Peachtree Corners and its Department of Finance.~~ **Provides guidance for how local government officials and staff should approach fiscal issues and core financial decisions that affect the management and function of the City.**

### B. FINANCING CURRENT COSTS

Current costs shall be financed with current revenues, including the use of authorized fund balances. The City shall avoid balancing current expenditures through the obligation of future year's resources. The City shall strive to avoid short-term borrowing to meet cash flow requirements. ~~However, the City may enter into short term borrowing should a critical need arise.~~

### C. BUDGET OBJECTIVE BY TYPE OF FUND

The following budget objectives are established for the different funds the City uses:

1. General Fund – ~~The annual budget for the General Fund shall provide for general government operations of the City and maintain working capital necessary for the City's financial health and stability.~~ **Is the primary operating fund used by government entities to finance the general administrative costs and delivers basic services such as public safety, salaries, office supplies and utilities. This fund is crucial as it handles the day-to-day operational costs that maintain**

**the function of government services.**

2. Special Revenue Fund(s) – ~~The City adopts annual budgets for each special revenue fund that demonstrates that any legally restricted revenue sources are used consistent with the applicable laws and/or regulations (i.e. Hotel/Motel Fund, Drug Enforcement Agency Fund, and Operating Grants Fund).~~ **Funds that are used by government entities to accumulate proceeds from certain revenue sources whose use is restricted to specific purposes or activities. Special revenue funds provide an extra level of accountability and transparency to taxpayers that their tax dollars will go toward an intended purpose.**

3. Capital Project Fund(s) – ~~The City adopts project budgets for each of its capital project funds. These adopted appropriations do not lapse at the end of a fiscal year; rather they remain in effect until project completion or re-appropriation by City Council.~~ **Funds used to account for financial resources to be used for the acquisition or construction of major capital facilities. These funds are critical for planning, financing, and tracking costs associated with large scale public infrastructure**

4. Debt Service Fund(s) – ~~The City adopts annual budgets for its debt service funds (if applicable). Any remaining fund balances from prior years plus current years projected revenues shall be sufficient to meet all annual debt service requirements.~~ **Funds established to account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of, general long-term debt principal and interest. These funds ensure that governments have the resources to repay debt obligations.**

5. Enterprise Fund(s) - ~~Although generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) or Georgia statutes do not require the City to adopt budgets for enterprise funds, the City will adopt budgets for enterprise funds in order to monitor revenues and control expenses. The City will use a business approach if and when budgeting enterprise funds. Enterprise funds shall be self-supporting whenever possible and subsidized losses will be minimized when break-even is not possible. See revenue policies in Section IV~~ **These are self-supporting funds that pertain to the goods and services provided by government departments or units to the public for a fee. These funds are treated as business entities with separate accounting for their revenues and expenditures from other departmental activities. Enterprise funds include such as water and sewer.**

~~Additionally,~~ The City classifies funds as either operating funds or non-operating funds. Operating funds are those funds that include appropriations for the payment of salary **and** benefits ~~and whose maintenance & operating appropriations are necessary to continue that maintain~~ the daily operations of the City. The General Fund

will always be an operating fund. Non-operating funds are those funds that do not include appropriations for the payment of salary **and** benefits and whose maintenance & operating appropriations are not critical to the daily operations of the City. Examples of non-operating funds are the SPLOST Fund, and Grant Operating Fund.

## **OPERATING BUDGET**

The operating budget ~~shall be prepared on an annual basis and include those funds detailed in Section I that are subject to annual appropriation (all funds excluding the Capital Project Funds).~~

**is a financial plan that outlines all revenues and expenditures over a specific period, typically a year that guides governmental operations.**

~~Prior year budget appropriations and prior year actual data will be provided as reference data, with the current year appropriation. At a minimum,~~ The City shall adopt **an** annual balanced budgets for the general fund, each special revenue fund, and each debt service fund (if applicable) in accordance with O.C.G.A. 36-81-3.

The annual proposed budget should be submitted to the governing authority while being held by the Department of Finance for public review/inspection in accordance with O.C.G.A. 36-81-3.

Public meetings will be conducted after proper advertisement prior to the City Council adopting and approving the annual budget document. (O.C.G.A. 36-81-5 and 36-81-6).

### **A. DEPARTMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS**

The budget shall be developed based upon “line-item” expenditures within each department. This type of budget focuses on categories of expenditures such as personal services, contractual services, supplies, equipment, etc. within each department. At a minimum, each department’s appropriation in each fund shall be detailed within the budget document. (O.C.G.A. 36-81-3 and 36-81-5).





## City of Stonecrest Financial Management Policy

### B. BUDGET PREPARATION CATEGORIES

Each department shall submit budget requests separately for:

- Current services - A current services budget is defined as that level of funding which is necessary to provide the same level of service for the upcoming year that is currently being provided. The current services budget will include replacement capital equipment.
- Expanded services - An expanded services budget includes funding requests associated with new services, additional personnel or new capital projects/equipment.

### C. BALANCED BUDGET

~~The budget shall be balanced for each budgeted fund. Total anticipated revenues plus that portion of fund balance in excess of authorized reserves (see operating budget policy G below) that is designated as a budget funding source shall equal total estimated expenditures for each fund. A balanced budget is when total expected revenues are equal to total planned expenditures for each budgeted fund.~~

### D. BASIS OF BUDGETING

~~Neither GAAP nor Georgia statutes address a required budgetary basis of budgeting, the City adopts budgets in conformity with GAAP for all budgeted funds. All governmental funds use the modified accrual basis of accounting and proprietary fund budgets (when applicable) use the accrual basis of accounting. The basis of budgeting refers to the recognition of expenditures and revenue in the development of the budget and in establishing and reporting appropriations. Governments use accrual basis of accounting which means that revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when liabilities are incurred.~~

### E. BUDGET PROCESS

~~The budget process is a set of activities that encompass the development, implementation, and evaluation of a plan for the provision of services and capital assets.~~

~~The City Manager creates a budget calendar that details the timeline for the creation of the proposed budget. Department Heads submit their projections and financial request for the upcoming fiscal year to the Finance Department. The Finance staff compiles the balanced revenues and expenditures into a proposed budget document that is then presented to the Finance and TIPS Committee. All comments, changes and suggestions received from both committees are made to the proposed budget so that it can be presented to the Elected Officials and the Public. After the third public reading of the proposed budget, it will be adopted and published.~~

### F. LEVEL OF BUDGET ADOPTION AND CONTROL

All budgets shall be adopted at the legal level of budgetary control, which is the department level within each individual fund. See policy J below for amending the budget.

### G. ~~BUDGET STABILIZATION RESOURCES UTILIZATION OF FUND BALANCE~~

~~The City shall establish a fund balance reserve in all operating funds (defined in Section I of this policy) for working capital. The purpose of working capital is to cover the cost of expenditures caused by-~~

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~~unforeseen emergencies, cover shortfalls caused by revenue declines, and to eliminate any short-term borrowing for cash flow purposes. This reserve shall accumulate and then be maintained at all times an amount which represents no less than twenty five percent (25%) of operating and debt expenditures.~~  
**which is intended to serve as a measure of the financial resources available in the operating fund. Fund balance represents the net cash after all revenues have been deposited and all expenditures have been paid resulting in a surplus or a deficit. The City shall also establish a Reserves, which are designated funds to ensure stable service delivery, meets future needs and protect against financial instability. The amount of reserves that the City shall accumulate and maintain are no less than twenty-five percent (25%) and no more than forty-five percent (45%) of operating and debt expenditures. Any amounts in the reserves that accumulate to more than the forty-five percent (45%) can be allocated to Capital Projects. A proposal shall be submitted to the City Manager, detailing the request and need for the use of the funds. Approvals of the proposals will be made after evaluating the needs and priorities of the growth of the City.**

#### H. OPPORTUNITY FUND

The City shall establish a fund balance reserve in the general operating fund (defined in Section I of this policy) for future unknown projects. This reserve shall accumulate and then be maintained at all times an amount which represents no less than ten percent (10%) of operating expenditures. This policy shall not apply if the City or its component units have debt service payments.

## City of Stonecrest Financial Management Policy

### ~~I. UTILIZATION OF PRIOR YEAR'S FUND BALANCE IN BUDGET~~

~~If necessary, the City may use fund balance in excess of the reserve for working capital (see budget policy F above) as a funding source for that fund's budget. The amount of unreserved fund balance shall be estimated conservatively, taking into consideration future year needs. The minimum requirement for the reserve for working capital, equal to twenty five percent (25%) of operating and debt expenditures, must first be met before utilizing the excess fund balance as a funding source for the budget.~~

### I. APPROPRIATION LAPSES AT YEAR END

All operating budget appropriations (including encumbered appropriations) shall lapse at the end of a fiscal year. Purchases encumbered in the current year, but not received until the following year, must be charged against a department's subsequent year appropriation. **Budget controls are necessary to ensure that a government does not spend more than the amount legally appropriated by its governing body. By establishing clear spending boundaries, budget controls also promote accountability and bolster trust throughout the organization.**

### J. BUDGET CONTROL REPORTS

The City shall maintain a system of budgetary control reports to assure adherence to the budget. The City will prepare and distribute to departments, timely monthly financial reports comparing actual revenues, and outstanding encumbrances and expenditures with budgeted amounts.

### K. AUTHORIZATION OF BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS AND AMENDMENTS

The budget is a dynamic rather than static plan, which requires adjustments and formal budget amendments as circumstances change. The City Council must approve all increases in total departmental appropriations, and increases in the personal services budgets (i.e., moving salary or employee benefit budget to other line items).

Department heads must submit budget amendment requests transferring appropriations from one line item to another, other than those prohibited above, and obtain approval by the Director of Finance and the City Manager. Adjustments from appropriations that have been obligated, committed, or reserved for a designated purpose shall not be transferred until a formal de-obligation occurs.

At the mid-point of each year, any necessary budgetary appropriations, including budgets for any projects authorized but not funded during the year, shall be appropriated through a supplementary budget ordinance. This mid-point adjustment is limited to requesting additional resources. Such supplemental appropriations shall be balanced with additional revenues for each fund. A justification for each requested change must be prepared (O.C.G.A. 38-81-3).

### L. CONTINGENCY LINE-ITEM

The City shall establish an appropriated contingency of two percent (2%) of the total annual expenditure appropriation in all operating funds (defined in Section I of this policy) in order to accommodate unexpected operational changes, legislative impacts, or other economic events affecting the City's operations which could not have been reasonably anticipated at the time the budget was prepared.



## City of Stonecrest Financial Management Policy

Non-operating funds (defined in Section I of this policy) shall not require a contingency reserve appropriation.

This contingency reserve appropriation will be a separate line item within the budget. This amount shall be subject to annual appropriation. The approval of the City Manager is required before this appropriation can be expended. If approved, the Finance Department will transfer the appropriation from the contingency line item to the applicable line item(s) with the applicable department's budget.

### M. MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT OF CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

The City Council will give budget priority to requests that provide for **the** adequate maintenance of capital equipment and facilities and for their orderly replacement.

### N. CONTRIBUTIONS

Unless authorized by the City Manager, outside contributions to programs operated by City departments shall be subject to the City's accounting and budgetary policies. The City welcomes both unrestricted and restricted contributions compatible with the City's programs and objectives. Any material contribution shall be appropriated by the City Manager prior to expenditure. Material contributions shall be defined as one-time contributions exceeding one percent of the department's annual maintenance and operating expenditure appropriation or \$10,000, whichever is less.

### O. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE FEE/COST ALLOCATION

Whenever possible, the City may assess an administrative service fee from the General Fund to any other fund, based upon documentation and/or an outside independent study. This assessment will be based upon a percentage of the operating revenues, or services provided to the fund and shall be used to reimburse the General Fund for the administrative and support services provided to the assessed fund.

## **CASH FLOW BUDGET**

For analysis and internal management purposes, the City shall prepare an annual cash flow budget in conjunction with the Operating Budget. The purpose of this document will be to provide the necessary guidelines to ensure that cash will be available to pay budget costs on a timely basis.

### A. BUDGET ALLOTMENTS

Budget allocations (i.e., budget allotments) are used in the operating budget, when needed to manage cash flows. The annual appropriation may be divided into segments in order to ensure that the projected revenue streams will be adequate to fund the appropriated expenditures. The cash flow budget will provide details as to the periods in which the revenues will be collected, and thereby providing for available resources to pay obligations.

## **CAPITAL BUDGET**

The Capital Projects Funds are used to accumulate resources available and expenditures approved for items that have an estimated life of five or more years including vehicles and large equipment. In providing additional detail on the criteria of operating vs. capital, projects that are appropriated may be continuations of previously completed projects. Projects resulting in improvements to enterprise or special revenue funds are paid directly from those funds.

The majority of the city's capital projects are financed on a pay-as-you-go basis. The financing mechanism for pay-as-you-go capital is an inter-governmental fund transfer originating from the general fund. Appropriations for the transfers are made primarily from undesignated fund balance. Additional revenue sources include State Department of Transportation funds for qualified street and highway improvements, grants, and interest earnings. As a matter of practice, the city does not customarily enter into contracts creating improvement districts for citizens whereby a re-payment is required for capital work to be completed. These types of projects customarily are qualified as the responsibility of the appropriate party.

Newly identified capital projects are accumulated throughout the year and are added to the "unfunded" project list. Each of these unfunded projects is prioritized on an on-going basis to allow for direct funding when available. The annual budget process appropriates project specific items as funding is available. When funded capital projects are completed, the remaining balance is transferred to an unallocated capital project account. Routinely, Council discussions apply unfunded budgetary appropriations to projects with the highest priority.

## **SECTION II. REVENUE**

This section provides direction in the administration of the revenues the City receives.

The City levies, collects and records certain taxes, license and permit fees, intergovernmental revenues, charges for service, investment income, fines and forfeitures, and other miscellaneous revenues and financing sources.

### **A. DIVERSIFICATION AND STABILITY**

All revenues have particular characteristics in terms of stability, growth, sensitivity to inflation or business cycle effects, and impact on the tax and ratepayers. A diversity of revenue sources can improve a City's ability to handle fluctuations in revenues and potentially help to better distribute the cost of providing services. The City shall strive to maintain a diversified and stable revenue structure to shelter it from short-term fluctuations in any primary revenue source. When possible, the revenue mix shall combine elastic and inelastic revenue sources to minimize the effect of economic downturns.

### **B. CONSERVATIVE REVENUE ESTIMATES**

As part of the annual budget process, an objective analytical process will estimate revenues realistically and prudently. The City will estimate revenues of a volatile nature conservatively.

C. USER BASED FEES AND CHARGES ~~(Exchange Revenue)~~

The level of user fee cost recovery should consider the community-wide versus special service nature of the program or activity. The use of general-purpose revenues is appropriate for community-wide services, while user fees are appropriate for services that are of special benefit to easily identified individuals or groups. The City will strive to keep the revenue system simple for the taxpayer or service recipient and to decrease the occurrence of avoidance to pay. The City's revenue system will strive to maintain equity in its structure. That is, the City will seek to minimize or eliminate all forms for subsidization between entities, funds, services, utilities, and customers. However, it is recognized that public policy decisions may lead to subsidies in certain circumstances (e.g., senior citizen partial tax abatement). Fees will be reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis to ensure that they keep pace with changes in the cost-of-living as well as changes in methods or levels of service delivery. The Finance Department will forward any proposed changes to the City Council for approval. For services associated with a user fee or charge, a fee shall offset the costs of that service, where possible. Costs of services include direct and indirect costs such as operating and maintenance costs, administrative costs, and charges for the use of capital (e.g., depreciation and/or debt service).

D. ALTERNATIVE REVENUE SOURCES

The City shall seek alternative funding sources whenever possible to reduce the required revenue from non-exchange transactions (e.g., fines). Such alternative sources include private and public grants, federal or state assistance, and public and private contributions.

E. REVENUE COLLECTION

The City will follow a thorough policy of collecting revenues, consistent with state and federal laws. This policy includes charging of penalties and interest, revoking City licenses, and providing for the transferring and assignment of tax executions.

F. RATES AND CHARGES

The City Council shall approve annually, a fee schedule which includes all revenue rates, charges, and processes in association with receipted funds that are deposited by the City, in accordance with the Code of Ordinances.

**CASH AND INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT**

The objective of the cash and investment management policy is to maximize interest earnings within an environment that strongly emphasizes legal compliance and safety while providing cash flow liquidity to meet the City's financial obligations.

A. SCOPE



## City of Stonecrest Financial Management Policy

This investment policy applies to all cash and investments, both short and long-term, which are the responsibility, and under the management of the City of Peachtree Corners Department of Finance.

### B. POOLED CASH/INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

Except for cash in certain restricted and specialized funds, the City will consolidate cash balances from all funds to maximize investment earnings (if applicable). Investment income will be allocated to the various funds based upon their respective participation and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

### C. GENERAL OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of investment activities shall be as follows:

#### 1. Safety

Safety of principal is the foremost objective of the investment program. Investments shall be undertaken in a manner that seeks to ensure the preservation of capital in the overall portfolio. The objective will be to mitigate credit risk and interest rate risk.

##### i. Credit Risk

The City will minimize credit risk, the risk of loss due to the failure of the security issuer or backer, by:

- Limiting investments to the safest types of securities (primarily obligations of the U.S. government or obligations explicitly guaranteed by the U.S. government)
- Requiring a credit rating of "A3" or better from Moody's rating agency and "A-" from Standard & Poor's.
- Pre-qualifying the financial institutions, brokers/dealers, intermediaries, and advisers with which the City will do business
- Diversifying the investment portfolio so that potential losses on individual securities will be minimized.

##### ii. Custodial Risk

Custodial risk, that is the risk associated with uninsured deposits, uninsured securities, or securities not registered in the City's name shall be minimized by,

- Collateralization in alignment with State of Georgia legislation equal to 110% of the deposit held in the City's name (see section F, Safekeeping and Custody, subsection 2, Collateralization);
- Securities shall be held in the City's name.

##### iii. Interest Rate Risk

## City of Stonecrest Financial Management Policy

The City will minimize the risk that the market value of securities in the portfolio will fall due to changes in general interest rates, by:

- Structuring the investment portfolio so that securities mature to meet cash requirements for ongoing operations, thereby avoiding the need to sell securities on the open market prior to maturity
- Investing operating funds primarily in shorter-term securities, money market mutual funds, or similar investment pools.

### iv. Concentration Risk

The risk associated with a high concentration of government funds which are not diversified shall be reduced by:

- Limiting investments to any one issuer to less than 5% of the investment portfolio.
- Investments explicitly guaranteed by the U.S. government and investments in mutual funds, external investment pools, and other pooled investments are excluded from this requirement.

### v. Foreign Currency Risk

The City will negate all foreign currency risk through investment only in instruments where exchange rates do not apply.

## 2. Liquidity

The investment portfolio shall remain sufficiently liquid to meet all operating requirements that may be reasonably anticipated. This is accomplished by structuring the portfolio so that securities mature concurrent with cash needs to meet anticipated demands (static liquidity). Furthermore, since all possible cash demands cannot be anticipated, the portfolio should consist of securities with active secondary or resale markets (dynamic liquidity). A portion of the portfolio also may be placed in instruments offering same-day liquidity for short-term funds.

## 3. Yield

The investment portfolio shall be designed with the objective of attaining a market rate of return throughout budgetary and economic cycles, taking into account the investment risk constraints and liquidity needs. Return on investment is of secondary importance compared to the safety and liquidity objectives described above. The core of investments are limited to relatively low risk securities in anticipation of earning a fair return relative to the risk being assumed. Securities shall not be sold prior to maturity with the following exceptions:

- A security with declining credit may be sold early to minimize loss of principal or to reduce any eminent risk as identified under Section 1, "Safety" of this policy
- A security swap which improves the quality, yield, or target duration in the portfolio
- Liquidity needs of the portfolio require that the security be sold.

#### D. STANDARDS OF CARE

##### 1. Prudence

The standard of prudence to be used by investment officials shall be the “prudent person” standard and shall be applied in the context of managing an overall portfolio. Investment officer(s) acting in accordance with written procedures and this investment policy and exercising due diligence shall be relieved of personal responsibility of an individual security’s credit risk or market price changes, provided deviations from expectations are reported in a timely fashion and the liquidity and the sale of securities are carried out in accordance with the terms of this policy. Investments shall be made with judgment and care, under circumstances then prevailing, which persons of prudence, discretion and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not for speculation, but for investment, considering the probable safety of their capital as well as the ~~probably~~ probable income to be derived.

##### 2. Ethics and Conflicts of Interest

Officers and employees involved in the investment process shall refrain from personal business activity that could conflict with the proper execution and management of the investment program, or that could impair their ability to make impartial decisions. Employees and investment officials shall disclose any material interests in financial institutions which they conduct business. They shall further disclose any personal financial/investment positions that could be related to the performance of the investment portfolio. Employees and officers shall refrain from undertaking personal investment transactions with the same individual with whom business is conducted on behalf of the City.

##### 3. Delegation of Authority

Authority to manage the investment program is granted to the Director of Finance, referred to as the investment officer in this policy. Responsibility for the operation of the investment program is hereby delegated to the investment officer, who shall act in accordance with the established written procedures and internal controls for the operation of the investment program consistent with this investment policy. Procedures should include references to: safekeeping, delivery vs. payment, investment accounting, repurchase agreements, wire transfer agreements, and collateral/depository agreements. No person may engage in an investment transaction except as provided under the terms of this policy and the procedures established by the investment officer. The investment officer shall be responsible for all transactions undertaken and shall establish a system of controls to regulate the activities of subordinate officials.

#### E. SAFEKEEPING AND CUSTODY

##### 1. Authorized Financial Dealers and Institutions

A list will be maintained of financial institutions authorized to provide investment services. In addition, a list also will be maintained of approved security broker/dealers selected by creditworthiness (e.g., a

## City of Stonecrest Financial Management Policy

minimum capital requirement of \$10,000,000 and at least five years of operation). These may include “primary” dealers or regional dealers that qualify under Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Rule 15C3-1 (uniform net capital rule). All financial institutions and broker/dealers who desire to become qualified for investment transactions must supply the following as appropriate:

- Audited financial statements
- Proof of National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD) certification
- Proof of state registration
- Completed broker/dealer questionnaire
- Certification of having read and understood and agreeing to comply with the City’s investment policy.

An annual review of the financial condition and registration of qualified financial institutions and broker/dealers will be conducted by the investment officer.

From time to time, the investment officer may choose to invest in instruments offered by minority and community financial institutions. In such situations, all criteria identified under above shall apply. All terms and relationships will be fully disclosed prior to purchase and will be reported to the appropriate entity on a consistent basis and should be consistent with state and local law. These types of investment purchases should be approved by the City Council in advance of their purchase.

### 2. Internal Controls

The City Manager is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure designed to ensure that the assets of the City are protected from loss, theft, or misuse. The internal control structure shall be designed to provide reasonable assurance that these objectives are met.

The concept of reasonable assurance recognizes that (1) the cost of a control should not exceed the benefits likely to be derived and (2) the valuation of costs and benefits requires estimates and judgments by management.

Accordingly, the investment officer shall establish a process for an annual independent review by an external auditor to assure compliance with regulatory policies and procedures including Generally Accepted Governmental Auditing Standards.

### 3. Delivery vs. Payment

All trades where applicable will be executed by delivery vs. payment (DVP) to ensure that securities are deposited in an eligible financial institution prior to the release of funds. Securities will be held by a third-party custodian in the City’s name, as evidenced by safekeeping receipts.

## F. SAFEKEEPING AND CUSTODY

### 1. Investment Types

## City of Stonecrest Financial Management Policy

Investments (other than bond proceeds) shall be made in instruments permitted by the State of Georgia for local governments, regulated under Georgia Code, O.C.G.A. 36-83-4. Such instruments include:

- Obligations issued by the U.S. government,
  - Obligations fully insured or guaranteed by the U.S. government or by a government agency of the United States,
- Obligations of any corporation of the U.S. government;
- Prime bankers' acceptances,
- The Georgia local government investment pool (i.e., Georgia Fund I)
- Repurchase agreements, and
- Obligations of other political subdivisions of the state

In accordance with O.C.G.A. 36-82-7, investments made with unexpended bond proceeds shall be limited to:

- Bonds or obligations of the governmental entities and/or political subdivisions of the state,
- Bonds or obligations of the U.S. government which are fully guaranteed,
- Obligations of agencies of the U.S. government, bonds or other obligations of public housing agencies or municipal corporations in the United States,
- Certificates of deposit of national or state banks insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation;
- Certificates of deposit of Federal Saving and Loan Associations; and
- The Georgia local government investment pool (Georgia Fund I)

### 2. Collateralization

City shall require pledges of collateral from the depository institution covering at least 110% of the cash/investment. This requirement is in accordance with O.C.G.A. 36-83-5; 45-8-12; 50-17-59; and 45-8-13. Deposit-type securities (i.e., certificates of deposit) shall be collateralized at 110% of the face value. Other investments shall be collateralized by the actual security held in safekeeping by the primary agent.

### 3. Repurchase Agreements/Derivatives

Repurchase agreements shall be consistent with GFOA Recommended Practices on Repurchase Agreements. Investments in derivatives of the above instruments shall require authorization by the City Council and be consistent with GFOA Recommended Practices on the "Use of Derivatives by State and Local Governments".

### G. USING GEORGIA FUND I

The City will utilize the State of Georgia local government investment pool (i.e., Georgia Fund I) anytime this investment tool is deemed to be in the best interest of the City. Criteria used to determine the use of this investment pool will be the same as any other investment purchase.

### H. INVESTMENT PARAMETERS

## City of Stonecrest Financial Management Policy

### 1. Diversification

The investments shall be diversified by:

- Limiting investments to avoid over concentration in securities from a specific issuer or business sector (excluding U.S. Treasury securities)
- Limiting investment in securities that have higher credit risks
- Investing in securities with varying maturities, and
- Continuously investing a portion of the portfolio in readily available funds such as a the Georgia Local Government Investment Pool, money market funds or overnight repurchase agreements to ensure that appropriate liquidity is maintained in order to meet ongoing obligations.

### 2. Maximum Maturities

To the extent possible, the City shall attempt to match its investments with anticipated cash flow requirements. Unless matched to a specific cash flow, the City will not directly invest in securities maturing more than five (5) years from the date of purchase. The City shall adopt weighted average maturity limitations ranging from 90 days to 5 years, consistent with the investment objectives.

Reserve funds and other funds with longer-term investment horizons may be invested in securities exceeding five (5) years if the maturities of such investments are made to coincide as nearly as practicable with the expected use of funds. The intent to invest in securities with longer maturities shall be disclosed in writing to the City Council.

## I. REPORTING

### 1. Methods

The investment officer shall prepare an investment report monthly which shall be included in the Department of Finance Financial Update Report. Information provided will include a management summary that provides an analysis of the status of the current investment portfolio and transactions made over the last month. This management summary will be prepared in a manner which will allow the City to ascertain whether investment activities during the reporting period have conformed to the investment policy. The report will be transmitted to the City Council via a consent item placed on a City Council Meeting Agenda. At a minimum, the report will include the following:

- Listing of individual securities held at the end of the reporting period with maturity dates
- Realized and unrealized gains or losses resulting from appreciation or depreciation by listing the cost and market value of securities over one-year duration that are not intended to be held until maturity
- Average weighted yield to maturity of portfolio on investments as compared to applicable benchmarks
- Percentage of the total portfolio which each type of investment represents.

## City of Stonecrest Financial Management Policy

### 2. Performance Standards

The investment portfolio will be managed in accordance with the parameters specified within this policy. The portfolio should obtain a market average rate of return during a market/economic environment of stable interest rates. A series of appropriate benchmarks shall be established against which the portfolio performance shall be compared on a regular basis.

### 3. Marking to Market

The market value of the portfolio shall be calculated at least monthly and a statement of the market value of the portfolio shall be issued at least monthly.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board References:

Statement No. 3, Deposits with Financial Institutions, Investments, and Reverse

Repurchase Agreements

Statement No. 28, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Securities Lending

Transactions

Statement No. 31, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Certain Investments and for External Investment Pools

Statement No. 40, Deposit and Investment Risk Disclosures

### **GRANT MANAGEMENT**

This policy provides direction in the application, acceptance and administration of funds awarded through grants to the City from other local governments, the state or federal government, nonprofit agencies, philanthropic organizations and the private sector.

#### A. GRANT APPLICATIONS

The City Manager and/or his/her designee is/are responsible for the submission of all grant applications on behalf of the City of Stonecrest. Departments who wish to submit grant applications must work in conjunction with the City Manager and/or his/her designee. Once a grant opportunity has been identified, the City Manager and/or his/her designee must notify the Department of Finance of the application, the financial reporting requirements, and any required matching funds or other City resources needed to meet the grant requirements. Prior to the acceptance of the grant, the Finance Department, in cooperation with the submitting/receiving department shall complete an analysis of financial requirements to ensure the City can meet the grant program's financial requirements and the City can fulfill the applicable obligations required by the grant. All grant revenues and expenditures, including matching requirements, must be appropriated, either in the current budget or included for appropriation in the subsequent budget. The City Manager shall approve grant applications and

## City of Stonecrest Management Policy

submissions that allow both the submission of the grant application and the acceptance of the grant award.

### B. GRANT ADMINISTRATION

The City Manager and/or his/her designee is/are responsible for fulfilling the financial reporting and accountability requirements of each grant the City accepts. The City Manager and/or his/her designee and receiving departments are responsible for adhering to the grant program requirements and tracking all applicable expenditures for reporting purposes. The Department of Finance is responsible for accounting for grant transactions according to the Accounting, Auditing, and Financial Reporting Policy and in compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). The City Manager and/or his/her designee is/are responsible for maintaining the following records for each grant award.

- a. Copy of Grant Application
- b. Resolutions authorizing application **and acceptance of Grants**
- c. Notification of Grant Award
- d. Financial reporting and accounting requirements
- e. Schedule of funding needs
- f. Programmatic Reporting**
- g. Other documentation related to expenditures related to the Grant**

### C. AUDITING

The Finance Department shall comply with all local, state, and federal requirements with respect to the auditing of information as they pertain to the acceptance of grant funds. This includes the Single Audit Act with any future revisions or additional that may be applicable to City Grant Projects.

## SECTION III. EXPENDITURE

This section provides guidance on authorized expenditures for all departments under the authority of the Mayor and City Council. This section shall cover those costs incurred for normal business operations. Operating guidelines and procedures for procuring goods and services shall be issued under separate cover(s) as they do not constitute nor necessitate the City Council approval.

### A. APPROPRIATION

In conjunction with the annual budget process, the City Council shall authorize departments appropriations consistent with the annual adopted operating and capital budgets. Departments shall not incur expenditures unless an appropriation is available.

### B. EXPENDITURE APPROVAL





## City of Stonecrest Financial Management Policy

All expenditures relating to City operations shall be processed consistent with procurement/purchasing guidelines. Once the Finance Department receives the proper documentation from the incurring departments, the execution of payment shall occur. The Finance Department shall only process transactions for payment based upon the proper approval for the dollar amount of the expenditure, including adequate documentation, received either electronically or in writing.

### C. SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE

The Department of Finance shall review expenditure documents for compliance and appropriateness with all City policies and procedures. Expenditure documents that are not in compliance with these policies and procedures shall be returned to the originating department with Finance Department recommendations for changes (e.g., travel issues, cellular phone use). In the event the department does not agree with the Finance Department's recommendations, the City Manager shall make the final decision.

### D. ELECTED OFFICIALS ALLOCATION

During the annual budget process, an appropriation will be allocated to each elected official to be used at his/her discretion for the benefit of the City (e.g., travel costs incurred at the annual GMA conference). The amount appropriated will be dependent upon the approval during the budget process.

### E. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Professional services are those services considered to be "professional" in nature, i.e. technical or unique functions performed by independent contractors or consultants whose occupation is the rendering of such services. Examples include but are not limited to, Architects, Attorneys, Engineers, Accountants, Appraisers, etc... These types of services are awarded based on open competitive negotiations and demonstrated competence and qualifications for the type of services required at a fair and reasonable price rather than on "low-bid". When federal assistance or funding is being utilized all professional services awards shall be conducted in accordance with any mandatory applicable federal law or regulation (**refer to the Procurement Policy**). ~~The City follows the policies of the Brooks Act and procures all consultant professional services using the Qualification Based Selection (QBS) Process as required by the Brooks Act with regards to Federal Contracts~~

## **TRAVEL AND MEAL EXPENDITURE POLICIES**

This section provides guidance on authorized expenditures for all departments under the authority of the Mayor and City Council. This section shall cover those costs incurred for travel and meal expenses by any elected official, City employee, or board member who travels on City related business. Operating

## City of Stonecrest Financial Management Policy

guidelines and procedures for procuring travel and meal expenses shall be issued under separate cover(s) as they do not constitute nor necessitate City Council approval (**refer to the Travel Policy**).

### A. APPROPRIATION

In conjunction with the annual budget process, the City Council shall authorize department appropriations for travel and meal expenses consistent with the annual adopted operating budgets. Departments shall (**refer to the Travel Policy**) ~~not incur travel expenditures unless an appropriation is available, or budget amendment has been completed.~~

### B. EXPENDITURE APPROVAL

All expenditures relating to travel and meals shall be processed consistent with procurement/purchasing guidelines (**refer to the Travel Policy**). ~~Once the Finance Department receives the proper documentation from the incurring departments, the execution of payment shall occur. The Finance Department shall only process transactions for payment based upon the proper approval for the dollar amount of the expenditure, including adequate documentation, received either electronically or in writing.~~

### C. SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTED REIMBURSEMENT CLAIMS

The Department of Finance shall review expenditure documents for compliance and appropriateness with all City policies and procedures. Expenditure reimbursement requests that are not in compliance with these policies and procedures shall be returned to the originating department with Finance Department recommendations for changes (e.g., travel issues, cellular phone use). In the event the department does not agree with the Finance Department's recommendations, the City Manager shall make the final decision regarding whether to authorize the reimbursement.

### D. TRAVEL EXPENSES

#### **Refer to the Travel Policy**

~~The City shall reimburse/pay expenses incurred by elected officials and employees for travel relating to official City business. Official business shall be deemed that which has been approved prior to the expenditure being incurred.~~

~~1. Lodging: hotel/motel charges shall qualify for reimbursement when they exceed a 50 mile radius of the employee's place of work. All traveling personnel shall minimize the expense associated with hotel/motel costs by procuring a government rate for qualified stays. Lodging expense shall be benchmarked against the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) approved per diem rate of reimbursement. When the GSA rate is exceeded by 20% or more, additional justification shall be required from the traveler. When traveling in the State of Georgia, all travelers must use the hotel/motel tax exempt status form. Sales and occupancy taxes charged for lodging within the State of Georgia do not qualify as eligible reimbursable travel expenses under this policy. Per diem rates can be found in the personnel policy adopted by the Mayor and City Council. Hotel accommodations for travel less than a 50 mile radius from Stonecrest must be approved by the employee's direct supervisor. Elected officials, the City Manager, Department Directors, and members of Management of~~



## City of Stonecrest Financial Management Policy

~~the City shall be allowed hotel accommodations for travel less than a 50-mile radius from Stonecrest, based upon meeting schedules and attendance needs.~~

~~2. Transportation: approved modes of transportation include vehicle, air, rail, or taxi and public transportation. The method selected by the traveler shall be subject to the most economically feasible, taking into consideration the value of time. If a City vehicle is available, it should be used in lieu of a personal vehicle. Generally, the City will not reimburse for the use of a personal vehicle within 10 miles of an employee's official headquarters and/or residence.~~

~~i. Mileage: miles traveled in personal vehicles shall be reimbursed at the rate designed by the Internal Revenue Service. Mileage shall be calculated using the employee's place of work as the origination point, so long as the employee reported to work prior to departing to the destination. In the event the employee does not report to work prior to traveling to the destination, mileage shall be reimbursed from the employee's origin, less their normal commute to the workplace. Expenses associated with employee's vehicles such as fuel, oil, tires, etc. (deemed normal wear and tear) shall not be subject to reimbursement and will be the responsibility of the traveler. Miles traveled in City owned vehicles shall not be subject to reimbursement to the traveler. However, expenses associated with the travel in City vehicles such as fuel, oil, tires, etc. shall be the responsibility of the City, and necessary purchases should follow the guidelines administered by the City Manager.~~

~~ii. Rental Cars: Expenses associated with rental cars, i.e. rental expense and fuel will be paid at cost, with receipts provided. Employees shall rent mid-size or smaller vehicles, or an appropriate vehicle size based upon the number of employees needing transportation. Expenses associated with exceeding this car class will be the responsibility of the traveler. Employees should decline additional insurance coverage offered by rental car companies since the City's insurance coverage is applicable to car rentals.~~

~~iii. Air/Rail: transportation provided by major airlines or railroads shall be paid at cost to the traveler. Travel will be limited to coach/economy classes of service. In the event the traveler chooses a class higher than coach/economy (business or first class), the difference of the expense shall be the responsibility of the traveler.~~

~~iv. Taxi/Shuttle: expenses associated with local transportation will be deemed eligible expenses as long as receipts are provided with point to point explanations for this mode of transportation. Such documentation should accompany receipts.~~

~~3. Meals/incidentals: expenses associated with meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) and incidentals (snacks, tips, miscellaneous) shall be administered on a per diem basis by city. Per diem amounts will be derived from the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), which can be found at <http://policyworks.gov/org/main/mt/homepage/mtt/perdiem>. Per diem will be advanced to the employee prior to travel and therefore, the City's procurement cards should not be used to pay for meal or incidental expenses. Receipts will not be required on incidental or meal expenses. Overages of meal expenses will be the responsibility of the employee, while any savings may be retained by the employee. Alcoholic beverages are not allowable reimbursable expenses, and will not be reimbursed pursuant to~~

## ~~City of Stonecrest Financial Management Policy~~

~~the City's Drug and Alcohol Policy. Expenses incurred for meals when travel has not included overnight stay shall be reimbursed under Section E of this policy. Refer to the Travel Policy~~

~~4. Program/Seminar/Conference Fees: charges relating to the traveler's attendance to the particular event (training, conference, seminar, etc) shall be paid by the corresponding department, subject to the provisions identified for expenditures in the City's Expenditure and Purchasing Policies.~~

~~5. Telephone/Long Distance: telephone, fax, long distance, Internet, and communication expenses (including postage) shall be reimbursed when relating to the traveler's employment. Expenses for business communication shall be limited to \$10.00 per day.~~

### E. NON-TRAVEL MEALS

Expenses related to the furnishing of meals, snacks, or food should be limited to the following circumstances:

1. Meetings hosted by the City Council or City Manager;
2. A meeting during regularly scheduled business hours required by law or authorized by a department director which is anticipated to last more than two (2) hours and which, is scheduled through normal meal times;
3. A business meal with someone other than another City official or employee in order to discuss a specific item of City business;
4. Meals that are an integral part of a scheduled meeting at which the individual is required to attend;
5. A business meal with another City employee or official in order to discuss City business as called by an elected official, the City Manager, a Department Director, or management of the City or other persons to be reasonably determined by the City Manager, Department Director, or Management of the City. Receipts provided for meals within this category should detail the nature of the meeting and the people who were present for discussion.

### F. SUBMISSION OF EXPENSES

All expenses relating to travel shall be submitted to the Finance Department no later than 10 days after return from the trip. Non-travel meals shall be submitted no later than 7 days from the date of occurrence **(refer to the Travel Policy)**.

### G. EMPLOYEE BREAK ROOMS

City facilities equipped with break rooms shall be furnished with portable water, coffee, tea, hot cocoa, creamer, sugar, and cups/stirrers at the expense of the City.

## H. EXCEPTIONS

Reasonable business expenses associated with an employee's travel, not to exceed \$1,000.00, shall be reimbursable upon approval by the City Manager.

Expenses exceeding \$1,000.00 will require Mayor and City Council approval.

## PURCHASING AND CREDIT CARDS

### A. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set requirements and standards for the City of Stonecrest Purchasing/Credit Card Program. The policy is not intended to replace current State of Georgia statutes but is intended to comply with such state laws and establish more efficient guidelines for elected officials and employees of the City using such purchasing and credit cards. At no time should a city issued purchasing card or credit card be used for personal purchases regardless of the circumstances. Utilizing the purchasing card or credit card for personal use or for any item or service not directly related to such official's public duty may result in disciplinary action including, but not limited to, felony criminal prosecution. All purchases utilizing a government purchasing card or government credit card must be in accordance with these guidelines and with state law.

### B. Public Inspection

In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 36-80-24(b) any documents related to purchases using government purchasing cards or government credit cards incurred by elected officials shall be available for public inspection.

### C. Transaction Limits

Transaction limits are hereby established to insure compliance with state purchasing laws, maintain proper budgetary controls, and to minimize excessive use of any individual credit line. Individual monthly card limits cannot exceed those established by the municipal governing authority. The established single transaction limit for each card must be less than \$1,000.00. Any single purchase above \$1,000.00 must be approved by the City Manager. The established monthly card limit is based upon the city's budgetary constraints and is not to exceed \$10,000 per month. Any exceptions to the standardized limits must have express written approval by the municipal governing authority and must be added to this policy by amendment or addendum.

### F. Purchasing Restrictions

1. Elected Officials and employees of the City may not use a government purchasing card or government credit card for the following (**refer to the Purchasing Card Policy**)

~~a. Any purchases of items for personal use.~~

~~b. Cash refunds or advances.~~

- ~~c. Any transaction amount greater than the transaction limits set for by this policy.~~
  - ~~d. Items specifically restricted by this policy, unless a special exemption is granted by the municipal governing authority.~~
  - ~~e. Purchases or transactions made with the intent to circumvent the city purchasing policy, transactional limits, or state law.~~
- ~~2. Elected Officials and employees of the City may use government purchasing cards or government credit cards to purchase goods and/or services not prohibited by this policy or state law. Such purchases include, but are not limited to:~~
- ~~a. Purchases of items for official city use which fall within the transactional restrictions of this policy.~~
  - ~~b. Purchase of fuel, food, education and training materials while on city business and all items described in the travel and meal expenditure policy.~~
  - ~~c. Emergency purchases necessary to protect city property.~~

**G. Administrator**

~~The city designates the office of Finance, as the program administrator of government purchasing cards or government credit cards. Such administrator shall: (refer to the Procurement Policy)~~

- ~~1. Serve as a liaison between the city's cardholders and the issuers of such cards.~~
- ~~2. Maintain the cardholder agreement for all cardholders.~~
- ~~3. Provide instruction, training, and assistance to cardholders~~
- ~~4. Maintain account information and secure all cardholder information.~~
- ~~5. Keep cardholders up to date on new or changing information~~
- ~~6. Upon receipt of information indicating fraudulent use or lost/stolen cards immediately report it to appropriate parties, including the issuer.~~
- ~~7. Ensure all card accounts are being utilized properly as set forth by state law and this policy.~~
- ~~8. Define the city's policy and procedures for proper documentation and storage of receipts, logs, and approvals required under this policy.~~



~~9. Identify any changes to named persons authorized to use a government purchasing card or government credit card.~~

~~10. Any other duties assigned by the municipal governing authority.~~

~~11. Maintain a log for a general credit card that may be used by staff. The log must contain the staff members name, date of use, description of item(s) being purchased, and amount of item(s). Staff must follow all policy requirements when using the general credit card.~~

## **H. Accounting and Auditing**

The Administrator, in an effort to ensure compliance with city policy and state law, will conduct monthly/quarterly reviews and audits of all government purchasing card or government credit card transactions. The review is designed to ensure compliance, identify non-compliance issues and misuse, and through corrective measures assist the city with improving compliance. The monthly/quarterly review and audit should happen within 15 days of the start of a new month/quarter. After completing the monthly/quarterly audit the Administrator shall notify cardholders of any violations or questions the Administrator has that occurred within that previous month/quarter. Depending on the severity of the violation, the Administrator may suspend or revoke the use of the government purchasing card or government credit card after notification to the cardholder and to the municipal governing authority, but only after consultation with the city attorney. Any unresolved violations should be reported to the municipal governing authority and the city attorney in writing within 15 business days.

## **I. Violations**

The use of a government purchasing card or government credit card may be suspended or revoked when the Administrator, after consultation with the city attorney, determines that the cardholder has violated the approved policies or state law regarding the use of the government purchasing card or government credit card. The government purchasing card or government credit card shall be revoked whenever a cardholder is removed from office with the city and shall be suspended if such elected official has been suspended from office.

## **DEBT ISSUANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The goal of the City's debt policy is to maintain a sound fiscal position; thereby only utilizing long term debt to provide resources to finance needed capital improvements, buildings and equipment while accumulating adequate resources to repay the debt. In addition, it is the City's goal to maintain and improve its credit rating through strong financial administration. The City acknowledges that failure to meet the demands of growth may inhibit its continued economic viability, but also realizes that excess outstanding debt may have detrimental effects on the ability of the City to meet its continuing operational needs.

## City of Stonecrest Financial Management Policy

Issuing debt commits the City's revenues several years into the future, and may limit its flexibility to respond to changing service priorities, revenue inflows, or cost structures. Adherence to this debt policy helps ensure that the City issues and manages its debt prudently in order to maintain a sound financial position and protect its credit rating.

Credit ratings are the rating agencies' assessment of the City's ability and willingness to repay debt on a timely basis. Credit ratings are an important indicator in the credit markets and can influence interest rates a borrower must pay. Each of the rating agencies believes that debt management is a positive factor in evaluating issuers and assigning credit ratings. Therefore, implementing debt management practices will be viewed positively by the rating agencies and could influence the City's credit rating and ultimately lower borrowing costs.

### A. CONDITIONS FOR ISSUING LONG-TERM DEBT

Debt financing for capital improvements, buildings, and equipment will be generally used when at least one of the following conditions exist:

1. When one-time, non-continuous projects (those not requiring annual appropriations) are desired;
2. When the City determines that future users will receive a benefit from the capital improvement that the debt financed;
3. When the project is necessary to provide basic services to the City residents;
4. When total debt, including debt issued by overlapping governments (e.g., the county), does not constitute an unreasonable burden to the taxpayers; and
5. Exhaustion of the use of all other possible revenue sources provides no alternative funding for capital projects.

The City will limit its short-term borrowing to cover cash flow shortages through the issuance of tax anticipation notes.

### B. SOUND FINANCING OF DEBT

When the City utilizes debt financing, the following will occur to ensure that the debt is soundly financed:

1. Analysis of the financial impact, both short-term and long-term, of issuing the debt;
2. Conservatively projecting the revenue sources that the City will use to repay the debt;
3. Insuring that the term of any long-term debt the City incurs shall not exceed the expected useful life of the asset the debt financed;

## City of Stonecrest Financial Management Policy

4. Maintaining a debt service coverage ratio (i.e., for revenue secured debt) that ensures that the revenues pledged for the repayment of the outstanding debt will be adequate to make the required debt service payments.

### C. DEBT RETIREMENT

Generally, borrowings by the City should be of a duration that does not exceed the economic life of the capital improvement, building, or equipment that it finances and where feasible, should be shorter than the projected economic life. To the extent possible, the City should design the repayment of debt so as to recapture rapidly its credit capacity for future use.

### D. DISCLOSURE

The City shall follow a policy of full disclosure in financial reporting and with the preparation of a bond prospectus.

### E. LEGAL COMPLIANCE

When issuing debt, the City shall comply with all legal and regulatory commission requirements, including the continuing disclosure requirements. This compliance includes adherence to local, state and federal legislation and bond covenants.

More specifically, the Director of Finance is responsible for maintaining a system of record keeping and reporting to meet the arbitrage rebate compliance requirements of the federal tax code. This effort includes tracking investment earnings on bond proceeds, calculating rebate payments in compliance with tax law, and remitting any rebate able earnings to the federal government in a timely manner in order to preserve the tax exempt status of the City's outstanding debt issues. Additionally, general financial reporting and certification requirements embodied in bond covenants are monitored to ensure that all covenants are complied with.

The City will comply with Amended SEC Rule 15c2-12 (the "Rule") by providing secondary market disclosure for all long-term debt obligations, which are subject to the Rule. As required, the City will submit annual financial information to all nationally recognized municipal securities repositories.

### F. CREDIT RATINGS

The City Manager and Director of Finance are responsible for maintaining relationships with the rating agencies that assign ratings to the City's various debt obligations. This effort includes providing periodic updates on the City's general financial condition along with coordinating meetings and presentations in conjunction with a new debt issuance.

### G. DEBT SERVICE COVERAGE RATIO

To assure the City follows sound financing of debt, the City may not exceed a twenty-five percent (25%) debt service coverage ratio of operating funds of the City and its component units for each fiscal year.

## H. OTHER POLICIES

All bond issue requests shall be coordinated by the Department of Finance. Requests for new bonds must be identified during the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) process. Opportunities for refunding outstanding bonds shall be communicated by the Department of Finance.

Annual budget appropriations shall include debt service payments (interest and principal) and reserve requirements for all debt currently outstanding.

Long-term borrowing shall be incorporated into the City's capital improvement plan (see above).

## PURCHASING POLICIES

Purchasing Code of Ethics (**refer to the Procurement Policy**)

~~The public must have confidence in the integrity of its government. The purpose of this purchasing policy is to give guidance to all City employees so that they may conduct themselves in a manner that will be compatible with the best interest of the City.~~

~~Proper purchasing procedure requires that:~~

- ~~• Actions of City employees be impartial and fair.~~
- ~~• Government decisions and policies are made in the proper channels of government structure.~~
- ~~• Public employment is not to be used for personal gain. City employees may not solicit, accept, or agree to accept any gratuity for themselves, their families or other that would or could result in personal gain. Purchasing decisions must be made impartially. The following are examples of items not considered gratuities:~~
  - ~~Discounts or concessions realistically available to the general population;~~
  - ~~Items received that do not result in personal gain;~~
  - ~~Samples to the City used for general City use.~~

~~The City of Stonecrest is a Georgia-certified City of Ethics under the Georgia Municipal Association City of Ethics Program. Whereas the governing authority of the City of Stonecrest, Georgia, adopted the ethics principles approved by the GMA Board and conducts the City's affairs in accordance with the City's Ethics Ordinance.~~

### A. SYSTEM ESTABLISHED

~~The City has established a centralized purchasing system to be used for all purchases of goods and procurements of services by the municipal government.~~

### B. ROLES OF THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE

## City of Stonecrest Financial Management Policy

~~The City Manager shall be responsible for ensuring adherence to all rules and regulations for the centralized purchasing system. The Finance Director or his designee shall oversee the day to day processing of all purchases and procurements made through the system.~~

### ~~C. INITIATING PURCHASES; REQUIRED FORM~~

~~In order to initiate a purchase, an employee must submit in writing a purchase request form. The completed purchase request form must include a cost for each product or service noted on the form; where the exact cost is not known, estimates may be provided. The purchase request form must be signed by the department head and submitted to the Finance Department for approval. The department head must identify and annotate the accounting code (budget line item) for this expenditure as part of the request. In determining where to purchase products and services based on competitive prices and costs incurred in obtaining the purchase, the City shall purchase locally when all of these requirements are equal.~~

### ~~D. DEPARTMENTAL LIMITS ON PURCHASES~~

~~Should the cost or estimated cost of the requested good or service being processed in accordance with paragraph C above be at least \$500.00, but below \$10,000, the department head must submit the purchase request to the Finance Director accompanied by at least two (2) quotes from vendors providing the good or service being ordered. These quotes may be in the form of verbal, phone or email quotes, but nevertheless, be identified by the department head in writing and attached to the request. If the department head chooses to use the more expensive of the quotes obtained, he or she must attach a brief statement to the requisition form justifying that decision. The Finance Director shall then process such requests in accordance with all other requirements of the centralized purchasing system.~~

~~Should the cost or estimated cost of the requested good or service being processed in accordance with paragraph 2.3 above be at least \$10,000.00, but not more than \$50,000.00, the department head must submit the request directly to the City Manager's office accompanied by at least three (3) written quotes from vendors providing the good or service being requested. The City Manager shall review the request and quotes and determine whether or not the request should be approved. The City Manager shall typically approve such requests, but may issue a denial where he or she determines; a) that additional vendor quotes should be obtained; b) the good or service being requested does not reasonable relate to the line item identified by the department head; c) the cash flow in the fund from which the purchase would be made is low or otherwise inadequate; or d) a bona fide problem exists in the management of the requesting department's budget. This section shall not apply to professional services.~~

### ~~E. PURCHASES EXCEEDING THE CITY MANAGER'S SPENDING LIMITS~~

~~Should the cost or estimated cost of the requested good or service being processed in accordance with paragraph C above be more than \$50,000.00, the City Manager shall ensure that: a) at least three (3) written quotes from vendors have been obtained are attached to the request; b) the request is accompanied by a written determination of whether the request was anticipated in the budget;~~

## City of Stonecrest Financial Management Policy

~~e) compliance with Section I of this policy has been met in the case of the non-budgeted requests; and d) the need for a budget amendment does or does not exist. This section shall not apply to professional services.~~

### ~~F. PURCHASES EXCEEDING \$50,000~~

~~All purchases with an estimated total cost exceeding \$50,000 require formal approval by the Mayor and City Council. This section shall not apply to professional services.~~

### ~~G. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES~~

~~All purchases for professional services including, but not limited to architects, engineers, and other professional services require the approval of the City Manager and must be appropriated in the budget.~~

## **EMERGENCY PURCHASES**

### **A. PROCESS**

~~There are certain functions and purchases that may be performed without prior Mayor and Council approval. The emergency repair of city infrastructure and clearing of blocked streets and roads resulting from washouts or similar natural or man-made disasters. However, if such exceeds the \$50,000.00 City Manager limitation, the City Manager shall report the situation to the Mayor and Council within 48 hours following such repairs.~~

## **SECTION IV. INTERNAL CONTROLS**

The City shall maintain a system of financial monitoring, control, and reporting for all operations and funds in order to provide an effective means of ensuring that financial integrity is not compromised. In addition, such practices shall provide City officials with the necessary resources in order to make sound financial decisions.

### **A. SCOPE**

This policy applies to all accounting records that are the responsibility and under the management of the City's Department of Finance. **The scope of internal controls include the following components and principles:**

**Control of Environment**

**Risk Assessment**

**Control Activities**

**Information and Communication**

**Monitoring**

**Charge Controls**

**Audit Trails**

### **B. GENERALLY ACCEPTED ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES (GAAP)**

The City will establish and maintain a high standard of accounting practices. Accounting standards will conform to generally accepted accounting principles of the United States as promulgated by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). The City also will follow the Financial Accounting Standards Board's pronouncements, as applicable.

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## C. FUND STRUCTURE

The City will maintain the minimum number of funds consistent with legal compliance and sound financial administration. The City will adhere to the mandatory fund structure included in the Georgia

## City of Stonecrest Financial Management Policy

Department of Community Affairs' (DCA) chart of accounts (see below). Funds shall be classified in conformity with GAAP. Further, all funds shall be reported within the annual financial statements.

### D. CHART OF ACCOUNTS

The Georgia General Assembly passed the Local Government Uniform Chart of Accounts and Reporting act in 1997 (House Bill 491). This law requires the DCA to prepare and issue a standardized chart of accounts for Georgia governments. It shall be the policy of the City to implement and utilize the account classifications as the chart of accounts prescribes.

### **CASH MANAGEMENT POLICY**

#### A. Procedures for Cash Collection Points

The following list of procedures is required for the operation of cash collection points:

- All cash received must be recorded through a computerized accounting system with computer generated official City receipts or official City temporary cash receipts. When a cash collection point with a computerized accounting system uses temporary cash receipts, those temporary receipts must be converted over to computerized receipts as soon as possible. If the conversion cannot be accomplished within 48 hours, the cash should be deposited into the department's primary operating account and tracked in detail until it is recorded on the computerized accounting system. The customer must be presented an official City receipt form with a duplicate record being retained by the receiving department. All numbered receipts must be accounted for, including the original of voided receipts.
- The cash collection point must maintain a clear separation of duties. An individual should not have responsibility for more than one of the cash handling components: collecting, depositing, disbursement, and reconciling.
- The funds received must be reconciled to the computerized accounting system cash report or to the total of the temporary receipts at the end of the day or at the end of each shift. Cash must be reconciled separately from checks, credit cards, and money orders by comparing actual cash received to the cash total from the cash report or to the sum of the cash sales from the manual receipts.
- All cash must be protected immediately by using a cash drawer, safe or other secure place until they are deposited. A secure area for processing and safeguarding funds received is to be provided and restricted to authorized personnel.
- Checks must be made payable to City of Stonecrest, and must be endorsed promptly with a restrictive endorsement stamp payable to City of Stonecrest. The endorsement stamps must be ordered through the Finance Department.
- Checks or credit card transactions will not be cashed or written for more than the amount of purchase.
- Collections must be deposited to the City Depository within 24 hours.



## City of Stonecrest Financial Management Policy

- All cash must be deposited intact and not intermingled or substituted with other cash.
- Refunds or expenditures must be paid through the appropriate City bank account on a signature City generated check.
- Each Department will use only depository issued deposit slips for reconciliation of the supporting documentation to the deposit and to the monthly statements of account.

### B. Cash received in person

- A receipt must be issued for each payment received. At a minimum, manual prenumbered receipts must include the date, mode of payment (cash, check or credit card), and the identification of the department and the person issuing the receipt. Machine generated receipts must contain all information required by the accounting system to properly credit and track the payment.
- All checks must be endorsed immediately with a restrictive endorsement stamp payable to City of Stonecrest.
- All voided transactions are to be approved and initialed by the area supervisor.
- Only one cashier is allowed access to a specific cash drawer during a single shift.
- Cash must be kept in a safe or a secure place.

### C. Cash received Through the Mail

- The mail must be opened with two people present and all checks must be endorsed immediately with a restrictive endorsement stamp. All cash must be listed on a "Daily Mail Collection Report".
- If the cash is not credited directly into the appropriate City account or receipted through a computerized accounting system, a list of the checks, credit card transactions and or cash should be prepared in duplicate. The list should include the customer's name, amount received, check number and any other information available that may assist in proper allocation of the funds. The envelope should also be retained as part of the records. An official City temporary receipt should be prepared, the original going to the customer, one copy should be kept in the area, one should accompany any deposit processed thru the Finance Department, and a copy left intact in the receipt book and returned to the Finance Department.
- Cash must be stored in a safe or other secure place approved by the Auditor's Office until it is deposited.
- Unidentified receipts must be deposited to a depository account approved for such. All reasonable attempts should be made to identify the correct account and transfer the funds.

### D. Balancing of Cash Receipts

## City of Stonecrest Financial Management Policy

- All funds collected must be balanced daily, by mode of payment, by comparing the total of the cash, checks and credit cards to the computerized accounting reports, to the pre-numbered receipts totals, and to the totals of the money received by mail.
- Over/short amounts must be separately recorded, and investigated and resolved to the extent possible as set out in the over/short portion of this policy.

### E. Preparation of Deposits

- Checks must be made payable to City of Stonecrest, A double calculator tape of the checks should be included with the checks bundled together.
- Cash must be recorded on the deposit slip in the appropriate space.
- Attach a copy of the Transmittal Batch showing transaction totals for credit card receipts.
- Only Depository issued deposit slips including the appropriate account number(s) and sub-code(s) are to be used.
- Someone not involved with collecting the cash, opening the mail or reconciling the deposit must verify the deposit.
- The deposit must be delivered to the Depository by way of Code Enforcement.
- Locking deposit bags are available at the Depository.

### E. Reconciliation of Cash Collected

- Balance all cash receipts daily to the accounting system and supporting documentation (daily deposit slip, system receipts, and system reports) and resolve all discrepancies.
- Balance the total monthly receipts to the monthly bank account statements and accounting system monthly reports and resolve all discrepancies.

### F. PRE-NUMBERED RECEIPTS

Official City temporary pre-numbered receipt books are issued by the Finance Department

### G. EXCEPTIONS

The City Manager must approve any exception to these procedures. For example, in cases where there is not enough staff available to maintain complete separation of duties, an alternate process to safeguard City funds must be established and approved by the City Manager.

## City of Stonecrest Financial Management Policy

### G. RECORD RETENTION

All cash receipts and related documents must be maintained in accordance with Record Retention schedules. Accounting reports, deposit slips, credit card receipts, copies of manual cash receipts, etc. should be kept for seven years.

### AUDITING

Georgia Law on Local Government Audits, O.C.G.A. Section 36-81-7, requires an independent annual audit for the City. The annual independent audit shall be conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards (GAAS) and generally accepted governmental auditing standards (GAGAS). In addition, the City shall comply with the requirements of the General Accounting Office (GAO) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) when audits are conducted relating to federal funding, consistent with the 1996 (and any future) amendments to the Single Audit Act.

#### A. SCOPE

**The scope of auditing involves several key components, including objectives, materiality, timing, coverage, and resources. Government audits play a crucial role in ensuring transparency, accountability, and efficiency within public sector operations.** This policy applies to all funds that are the responsibility and under the management of the City of Stonecrest and its Department of Finance..

#### B. AUDITOR QUALIFICATIONS

~~A properly licensed Georgia independent public accounting firm shall conduct the audit~~ **Independent Auditors should perform their audits in accordance with the audit standards promulgated in the U.S. Government Accountability Office's Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS), provide a higher level of assurance with regard to internal control than Generally Accepted Audit Standards (GAAS), which are fully incorporated into GAGAS.**

#### C. CHOOSING THE AUDIT FIRM

When necessary, the City will issue a request for proposal to choose an audit firm for a period of five years with two five year renewal options. The City will request two proposals from qualified public accounting firms. One proposal shall contain the firm's costs and a second will contain the firm's qualifications. The cost proposals shall only be opened after three qualified firms are determined. When awarding the contract for the independent audit, not less than 70% of the decision will be based upon technical qualifications rather than cost.

#### D. AUDITING AGREEMENT

The agreement between the independent auditor and the City shall be in **the** form of a written contract or an engagement letter. The contract or engagement letter shall include the request for proposal as an appendix to the written document and all issues addressed in the request for proposal shall be required as part of the contract or engagement letter.

#### E. INTERNAL AUDIT

The City shall work towards developing and maintaining a strong internal audit function, whereby applying financial practices and policies to transactions. The City shall develop accounting practices and

City of Stonecrest Financial Management Policy  
procedures, which will be documented for use in internal control evaluation.

#### F. MALFEASANCE AND EMBEZZLEMENT

Any employee will be prosecuted to the **fullest** extent of the law in any instance where the employee is proven to have committed an illegal act such as theft.

### FINANCIAL REPORTING

The Department of Finance shall develop and maintain an ongoing system of financial reporting to meet the information needs of the government, authorities, and regulatory agencies. In addition, the City Manager, Mayor, Council, Department Heads and the public shall have access to reports to allow them to monitor, regulate, and to use as a basis for future financial decisions.

#### A. ~~COMPREHENSIVE~~ ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT

In conjunction with the annual independent audit, the City shall work towards preparing and publishing a ~~Comprehensive~~ Annual **Comprehensive** Financial Report (~~CAFR~~ **ACFR**). The City shall prepare the ~~CAFR~~ **ACFR** in conformity with GAAP and the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) program requirements. Annually, the City will submit its ~~CAFR~~ **ACFR** to the GFOA to determine its eligibility to receive the GFOA's "Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting." The City shall make this report available to the elected officials, bond rating agencies, creditors and citizens. All financial statements and schedules contained within the ~~CAFR~~ **ACFR** shall be audited, with the purpose to effectively communicate the complete financial affairs of the City to all interested readers.

#### B. ANNUAL BUDGET DOCUMENT

The City shall prepare and publish an annual budget document in accordance with the policies contained within this document. This budget shall measure the annual funding and forecast the financial position of the City for the two subsequent fiscal years.

#### C. FINANCIAL REPORTING TO THE CITY COUNCIL

On a monthly basis, the Finance Department shall prepare and present a summarized "Statement of Revenues and Expenditures" to the City Council for all of the City's operating funds. This report shall detail prior year comparisons to provide data for analysis.

#### D. FINANCIAL REPORTING TO THE ADMINISTRATION

In addition to the external reporting detailed above, the Finance Department shall coordinate the reporting needs of each department in order to design and implement those reports which the departments need to make sound business decisions. At a minimum, departments will receive reports detailing monthly department financial activity including expenses, any personnel costs in excess of the approved budget, and recommended budget line-item reallocations.

## E. EXTERNAL FINANCIAL REPORTING

The City shall report in conformity with O.C.G.A Section 36-81-7. A copy of the City's annual audit (i.e., the ~~CAFR~~ **ACFR**) shall be submitted to the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts within 180 days of year- end, as required.

## INTERNAL AUDIT

Government managers are responsible for designing and implementing effective internal controls to ensure that assets are safeguarded; records are reliable; reports on operations are sufficient and fairly presented; fraud, waste, and abuse are deterred; and programs, functions, and activities are conducted economically, efficiently, and effectively. Audits help provide reasonable assurance that local governments are operating in accordance with laws, rules, regulations, and policies; responding to citizen needs; and functioning economically, efficiently, and effectively.

By independently reviewing and reporting on programs, functions, activities, and organizations, auditors provide the public, elected officials, and government managers with a fair, objective, and reliable assessment of local government performance.

### A. SCOPE

This policy applies to all departments, offices, boards, commissions, agencies, or other activities under the authority of the City Manager, Mayor and City Council. It applies to all internal operations of those entities or activities, as well as contracts, agreements, and all other transactions between the City and external entities (e.g., other federal, state, or local government entities and private sector entities).

### B. AUDIT SCHEDULE

Scheduling of audits will be a continuous and dynamic process and provide adequate coverage of the City's programs and operations. Managers are encouraged to work with the Finance Director or Independent Auditor ~~Contractor~~ by suggesting areas or programs for audit or requesting other assistance (e.g., reviewing proposed contract terms and conditions, analyzing alternative approaches, conducting investigative work). Potential audits or other requests will be prioritized based on potential risks, City management requests for coverage in specific areas, public interest in a particular area, and achieving an acceptable mix of audit coverage for all of the City's operations.

### C. ACCESS TO EMPLOYEES, RECORDS, AND PROPERTY

All officers and employees of the City shall furnish the Finance Director or Independent Auditor ~~Contractor~~ with unrestricted access to employees, information, and records (including automated data) within their custody regarding powers, duties, activities, organization, property, financial transactions, contracts, and methods of business needed to conduct an audit or otherwise perform audit duties. In addition, they shall provide access for the Finance Director or Independent Auditor ~~Contractor~~ to inspect all property, equipment, and facilities within their custody. In addition, all contracts, subcontracts, or other agreements between the City and any outside entity (public or private) shall provide for auditor

## City of Stonecrest Financial Management Policy

access to all revenue, expense, and other financial records; performance-related records; and property, equipment, or other purchases paid for in whole or in part with governmental funds and facilities.

### D. REPORTING

A final draft audit report will be forwarded to the audited department, office, board, commission, agency, or other activity and the City Manager for review and comment regarding factual content before it is released. The audited entity must respond in writing and specify agreement with audit findings and recommendations or reasons for disagreement with findings and/or recommendations, plans for implementing solutions to issues identified, and a timetable to complete such activities. The response must be forwarded to the Internal Auditor within 30 calendar days or as otherwise specified by the Finance Director or Independent Auditor ~~Contractor~~. The final report will include the audited entity's response. If no response is received, the final report will note that fact. Final audit reports, along with a report summary, will be transmitted to the Mayor and City Council and will be made available to the public upon request.

## EQUITY POLICY

### A. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The City will live within its means. All departments supported by the resources of this City must function within the limits of the financial resources identified or available specifically to them. A balance must be maintained between revenues and expenditures, so that the public can realize the benefits of a strong and stable government. It is important to understand that this policy is applied to budget entities over periods of time which extend beyond current appropriations. By law, budgets cannot exceed available resources, defined as revenues generated in the current period added to balances carried forward from prior years. Temporary shortages, or operating deficits, can and do occur, but they are not tolerated as extended trends. The City will not develop a legacy of shortages or a legacy of mixing one-time resources and expect the continued delivery of services, the very reason for which it exists.

### B. BUDGET STABILIZATION RESOURCES

~~The City shall establish a fund balance assignment in the General Fund for working capital purposes. The purposes of working capital is to eliminate cash flow issues, cover the cost of expenditures caused by unforeseen emergencies, cover shortfalls caused by revenue declines, and to eliminate any short term borrowing for cash flow purposes. This assignment shall accumulate and then be maintained at an amount, which represents the equivalent of approximately twenty five percent (25%) of operating and debt expenditures, including transfers to other funds (i.e. approximately 25% of budgeted General Fund expenditures). Refer to Section I~~

## SECTION V. FIXED ASSETS POLICY

### A. Fixed Asset Criteria

A fixed asset is defined as a financial resource meeting all of the following criteria:

## City of Stonecrest Financial Management Policy

1. It is tangible in nature.
2. It has a useful life of greater than two years.
3. It is not a repair part or supply item.
4. It has a value equal to, or greater than, the capitalization threshold of \$5,000.

Keeping an accurate record of the City's fixed assets is important for a myriad of reasons. Some of the most important reasons that the City needs to keep a good record of fixed assets are: for financial statement information, for insurable values, for control and accountability, for maintenance scheduling and cost analysis, for estimating and accounting for depreciation, for preparation of capital and operating budgets, and for debt management.

### B. General Policy

1. The Finance Department is responsible for the proper recording, acquisition, transfer, and disposal of all assets city wide. *City property may not be acquired, transferred, or disposed of without first providing proper documentation.* A fixed asset information form must accompany each step. Each Department Head is ultimately responsible for reporting all changes in a timely manner to the Finance Department.

### 2. Recording of Fixed Assets

Unless otherwise approved by the Finance Officer, all recordable fixed assets must be recorded within 30 calendar days after receipt and acceptance of the asset.

A fixed asset form must be attached to the purchase order before submitting request for payment.

Assets will be capitalized at acquisition cost, including expenses incurred in preparing the asset for use.

Donated assets shall be recorded at fair market value as determined by the Department Head. Fair market value may be defined as, but is not limited to, an average of documented prices for equivalent items from three separate vendors.

The City will recognize acquisition costs based on individual unit prices. Assets should not be grouped. For example, in acquiring equipment, if three pieces of identical equipment items were acquired simultaneously at \$5,000 each, this would not be an asset of \$15,000 consisting of 3 pieces of equipment. Instead, it would be 3 separate acquisitions of \$5,000. Each item would be recorded as a separate controllable item.

For equipment purchases, title is considered to pass at the date the equipment is received. Similarly, for donated assets, title is considered to pass when the asset is available for the agency's use and when the agency assumes responsibility for maintaining the asset.



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Constructed assets are transferred from the construction in progress account to the related building, improvements other than buildings, or equipment accounts when they become operational.

Constructed buildings, for example, are assumed to be operational when an authorization to occupy the building is issued, regardless of whether or not final payments have been made on all the construction contracts.

### 3. Acquisition of Fixed Assets

There are various methods by which assets can be acquired. The asset acquisition method determines the basis for valuing the asset. Fixed assets may be acquired in the following ways:

- New purchases
- Donations
- Transfers from other City departments
- City surplus
- Internal/external construction
- Lease purchases
- Trade-in
- Forfeiture or condemnation

### 4. Lease Purchases

Assets may be lease-purchased through installment purchases (an agreement in which title passes to the City) or through lease financing arrangements (an agreement in which title may or may not pass).

Departments considering a lease purchase must consult with the City Administrator.

### 5. Transfer of Fixed Assets

A transfer between departments will be treated as a transfer rather than sale. That is, the asset is recorded under the new Department with original acquired date and funding amount.

A fixed asset form must be sent to the Finance Department for all transfers.

### 6. Sale of Fixed Assets

Sale of fixed assets by a department must be to the highest, responsible bidder and must be conducted by sealed bid or by auction. The sale must be publicized in accordance with state laws.

### 7. Disposal of Fixed Assets

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When an asset is disposed of, its value is removed from the financial balances reported and from inventory reports; however, the asset record, including disposal information, remains on the master file for three years, in the City's Finance Department, after which time it is purged from the system according to general accepted accounting principles. This preserves an audit trail for disposed items, and facilitates departmental comparisons between actual or historical useful life information with useful life guidelines. Such comparisons permit a more precise definition of an asset's useful life than those provided by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or other guidelines initially used.

A disposal action is appropriate only when certain conditions occur resulting in an asset no longer being in the possession of the agency. Assets no longer in use, which remains in the possession of the department, are considered surplus property and not a disposal.

Fixed assets may be disposed of in any one of six ways:

- a. Sale or trade-in
- b. Abandonment/Retirement
- c. Lost or stolen
- d. Transfer
- e. Cannibalization (taking parts and employing them for like uses within the department, such as is often the practice in computer or vehicle maintenance).
- f. Casualty loss

Only when the asset is no longer in possession of the department, due to one of the six reasons listed above, is disposal action appropriate.

Assets are "abandoned" or "retired" when there is no longer any use for them in the Department, they are of no use to any other City department, and they cannot be repaired, transferred, cannibalized, sold, or traded-in. Thus meaning that, there is no safe and appropriate use for the abandoned goods to the City or for others.

Stolen items must be reported to the City Manager and a police report filed. A copy of this report must accompany the disposal record.

Casualty losses must be documented within 24 hours of loss and reported to the Finance Department immediately for follow-up with the City's insurance carrier.

Cannibalized items are considered surplus and are disposed of by noting cannibalization on the disposal record. Ideally, this method will allow departments to look at cannibalized items on the disposal report and assess what surplus parts may be available. Departments will send documentation of items cannibalized to the Finance Department, and all remaining costs and accumulated depreciation will be removed from appropriate asset accounts in the general fixed asset fund.

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All assets no longer in the possession of the department, due to one of these six qualifying conditions and after submission of all appropriate documentation to the Finance Department, will be removed from the master departmental asset file and considered disposed.

Department management is responsible for reviewing disposal reports, evaluating causes and trends leading to disposals, and implementing procedures to more effectively manage and control disposals when the dispositions represent problems, inefficiencies, and/or the incurrence of unnecessary cost.

The Peachtree Corners Public Works Department will not take City property for disposal without the accompaniment of proper documentation.

### 8. Physical Inventory

An annual physical inventory of all fixed assets will be performed by the Finance Department in conjunction with each department. The inventory will be conducted with the least amount of interruption possible to the department's daily operation. A full report of the results of the inventory will be sent, within 30 days of completion, to all departments for verification and acceptance.