Requested changes:

1. **Add: PREAMBLE** *(the following is adapted from the City of Brookhaven's current charter, with changes)* **(September 30, 2025, meeting)**

   We the people of Stonecrest, Georgia, continuously striving to ensure that our City represents our rich cultural heritage and diversity, under the constitution and laws of the state of Georgia, **in order to secure the benefits of local self-government and to provide for an honest and accountable Council-Manager government** have adopted this Charter and conferred upon the City the following powers, subject to the following restrictions, and prescribed by the following procedures and governmental structure. By this action, we secure the benefits of home rule and increased resident participation reflecting a welcoming environment, and to strive for equal opportunity among all those who call the City home by promoting social equity, improving efficiency and effectiveness, and providing for a responsive, responsible and cooperative government. We also recognize and aspire for a city where each individual shall have an equal opportunity to fully participate in the economic, cultural, and intellectual life of the city. We hold that the city will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender expression, marital status, military status, or physical or mental disability. Therefore, be it resolved that this Charter seeks to further a government that advances justice and equity, inspires confidence, and fosters responsibility.

   Commission recommends that a preamble be added that clearly and specifically states that Stonecrest, GA has a "Council-Manager" form of government, to permanently squash any references or assertions implying that the City has either a "strong-" or "weak-" mayor form of government.

2. **SECTION 1.03. Powers and construction. (June 4, 2025, meeting)**
   37) Taxes; ad valorem. To levy and provide for the assessment, valuation, revaluation, and collection of taxes on all property subject to taxation; provided, however, that:

   (A) The millage rate imposed for ad valorem taxes on real property shall not exceed 3.35 unless ~~either (i) the millage rate is increased above such amount by resolution of the city council without voter approval through its exercise of home rule powers, or (ii)~~ a higher limit is recommended by resolution of the city council and approved by a majority of the qualified electors of the City of

Stonecrest voting on the issue, provided that the amount of millage associated with general obligation bonds or the creation of special tax districts pursuant to Article IX, Section II, Paragraph VI of the Constitution of the State of Georgia shall not count as part of the 3.35 limit since such millage is 231 already subject to approval by the electors of the city in a separate referendum; millage is already subject to approval by the electors of the city in a separate referendum;

Commission recommends strike out of (37)(A)(i) to require referendum approval to increase the millage rate limit (cap).

3. **SECTION 5.07. Audits. (June 4, 2025, meeting)**

(a) There shall be an annual independent audit of all city accounts, funds, and financial transactions by a certified public accountant selected by the city council. The audit shall be conducted according to generally accepted accounting principles. Any audit of any funds by the state or federal government may be accepted as satisfying the requirements of this charter. Copies of all audit reports shall be available at printing cost to the public.

Commission recommends that the draft language include "No later than January 31, an audit firm must be selected, or the annual audit will be assigned to the Georgia Office of Audits & Accounts. Any outsourced contract for audits shall include a clear deadline imposed for completion and presentation of the audit that is within the state's required deadline."

*Currently, the provisions of O.C.G.A. §36-81-7 require the annual audit or agreed-upon procedures reports to be submitted to the DOAA within **180 days after the close of the local government's fiscal year**.*

4. **SECTION 5.08. Homestead exemption; freeze. (June 4, 2025, meeting)**

(b) Each resident of the City of Stonecrest is granted an exemption on that person's homestead from City of Stonecrest ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in an amount equal to the amount by which the current year assessed value of that homestead exceeds the base year assessed value of that homestead. This exemption shall not apply to taxes assessed on improvements to the homestead or additional land that is added to the homestead after January 1 of the base year. If any real property is added to or removed from the homestead, the base year assessed value shall be adjusted to reflect such addition or removal, and the exemption shall be recalculated accordingly. The value of that property in excess of such exempted amount shall remain subject to taxation.

~~(f) The exemption granted by subsection (b) of this section shall apply only to taxable years 1519 2017 through 2019. Unless renewed or extended by subsequent Act of the General 1520 Assembly, the exemption granted by subsection (b) of this section shall not apply to taxable 1521 year 2020 or any subsequent taxable year.~~

Commission recommends that subsection (f) be removed an any required language be added to allow for the reinstatement of the Homestead "valuation freeze" similar to what is available to Stonecrest residents for the DeKalb County portion of the annual property tax assessment & billing.

5. **SECTION 3.03. City manager; chief administrative officer; role delineation (June 4, 2025, meeting)**

   b) Based upon the firm belief that the proper, efficient, and effective administration and 304 operation of the city's council-manager form of government will be fostered by a clear definition of the roles and responsibilities of the city council, mayor pro tempore, mayor, and city manager, this section states the following principles, which are intended to be fully consistent with this article:

   (2) The city manager is the full-time chief ~~executive~~ administrative officer of the city, and, as such, all department heads, except those who are appointed by and report to the city council, shall report to the city manager. The mayor, mayor pro tempore, and councilmembers shall observe the management authority of the city manager;

   Commission recommends that language defining the role of the City Manager must be consistent throughout the Charter. The City Manager is designated as the Chief Administrative Officer of the City, and it should also be clear that the City has no "CEO" …the City Council <u>governs</u> and the City Manager <u>administers</u> the will of Council.

6. **ARTICLE III | EXECUTIVE BRANCH | SECTION 3.01. Powers and duties of the mayor. (September 30, 2025 & April 1, 2026 meetings)**

   (a) The mayor shall:

   (1) Preside over all meetings of the city council;

   (2) Set the agenda for meetings of the city council after receiving input from members of the city council, the city manager, and the public; provided, however, that ~~an~~ additional item~~s~~ shall be added to the agenda upon the written request of any two members of the city council;

   ~~(3) Serve as the ceremonial head of the city and as its official representative to federal, state, and local governmental bodies and officials;~~

~~(4) Sign all orders, checks, and warrants for payment of money within a level of authorization as established by the city council;~~
~~(5) Execute all contracts, deeds, and other obligations of the city within a level of authorization as established by the city council;~~
~~(6) Vote in all matters before the city council as provided in subsection (a) of Section 2.10 of this charter;~~
~~(7) Make all appointments of city officers as provided by this charter, subject to confirmation by the city council;~~
~~(8) Provide supervision and guidance to the city manager;~~
~~(9) Establish oversight and policy committees of the city council and appoint no less than two council members, exclusive of the mayor, to serve thereon, subject to the direction and supervision of the mayor;~~
~~(10) Serve and be compensated accordingly; and~~
~~(11) Perform any other duties and exercise any other powers required by state or federal law or authorized by a duly adopted ordinance that is not in conflict with this charter.~~

~~(b) The mayor shall have the authority to transfer appropriations within a department, fund, service, strategy, or organizational unit, but only with approval of the city council.~~

~~(c) The mayor shall have the authority to certify that a supplemental appropriation is possible if revenue increases in excess of the amount budgeted, but only with approval of the city council.~~

~~(d) The mayor shall have all of the powers specifically granted to the mayor elsewhere in this charter regardless of whether such powers are enumerated in this section of this charter.~~

~~(e) The mayor may designate the official legal organ of the city subject to confirmation by the city council.~~

Commission recommends that language from SB 208 (original Charter) be added to Section 3.01 Powers and duties of mayor as edited above, while retaining all Section 3.01 language from SB 21 (amended charter), renumbering as follows:

1. **SB 208 language as presented above**
2. **SB 208 language as edited above**
3. **SB 21 Item 2 language**
4. **SB 21 Item 3 language**
5. **SB 21 Item 4 language**
6. **SB 21 Item 5 language**
7. **SB 21 Item 6 language**
8. **SB 21 Item 7 language**

Retain Item (b) in SB 21 Revised charter

Items 2 through 8 comprise of SB 21 Revised charter language specifically intended to limit Mayoral power provided in the SB 208 Original charter language or retained original SB 208 language and therefore should remain unchanged.