



## CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA

### CITY COUNCIL MEETING – MINUTES

3120 Stonecrest Blvd., Stonecrest, GA 30038

Monday, September 23, 2024 at 6:00 PM

*Mayor Jazzmin Cobble*

*Council Member Tara Graves - District 1    Council Member Terry Fye - District 2*

*Council Member Alecia Washington - District 3    Mayor Pro Tem George Turner - District 4*

*Council Member Tammy Grimes - District 5*

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** George Turner, Mayor Pro-Tem

The meeting began at 6:09pm.

**II. ROLL CALL:** Sonya Isom, City Clerk

All members were present with Councilmember Tammy Grimes absent.

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Tara Graves to excuse Councilmember Tammy Grimes from the September 23, 2024, Council Meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Terry Fye.  
**Motion passed 4-0 with Councilmember Tammy Grimes being excused.**

**III. INVOCATION:** Juanita Sheppard, Co-Pastor of Shepherd’s Community Care Outreach Ministry

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

**V. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Terry Fye to approve the agenda for the September 23, 2024, City Council Meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.  
**Motion passed 4-0 with Councilmember Tammy Grimes being excused.**

**VI. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**a.** Approval of Meeting Minutes - City Council Meeting, July 22, 2024

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Tara Graves to approve the meeting minutes from the July 22, 2024, City Council Meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Terry Fye.

**Motion passed 4-0 with Councilmember Tammy Grimes being excused.**

- b. Approval of Meeting Minutes - Work Session, August 12, 2024

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Alecia Washington to approve the meeting minutes from the August 12, 2024, Work Session. Seconded by Councilmember Terry Fye.

**Motion passed 4-0 with Councilmember Tammy Grimes being excused.**

- c. Approval of Meeting Minutes - City Council Meeting, August 26, 2024

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Terry Fye to approve the meeting minutes from the August 26, 2024, City Council Meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

**Motion passed 4-0 with Councilmember Tammy Grimes being excused.**

## VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

*Citizens wishing to make a public comment may do so in person. Citizens may also submit public comments via email to [cityclerk@stonecrestga.gov](mailto:cityclerk@stonecrestga.gov) by 2 pm on the day of the meeting to be read by the City Clerk.*

*All members of the public wishing to address the City Council shall submit their name and the topic of their comments to the city clerk prior to the start of any meeting held by the City Council. There is a three (3) minute time limit for each speaker submitting or reading a public comment. Individuals will be held to established time limits.*

Faye Coffield - Thanked Councilwomen Graves and Washington for New Black Wallstreet Event. She would like to implement Artscape in the community. She also has concerns about air conditioning in the building and metal plates on the road on Evans Mill and Panola Rd.

Vivian Hudson - Concerned about developers controlling the narratives and would like to encourage responsible development in the city. She stated developers are not maintaining proper tree buffer requirements and asked that the city not give them authority.

Adolf Thompson – Concerned about property in Hillvale Commons being livable and that issues are not being resolved within a timely fashion.

Emails were also received from Jennifer Wilson, Pyper Bunch and Renee Cail in regard to Metro Green’s facility releasing harmful chemicals affecting air quality in the community.

There were comments from Mayor Cobble addressing some of the public comments, stating contractors will begin Thursday evening or Friday morning and there will be a delayed opening of City Hall on Friday for this reason. She also stated Sam’s Club has been leased to the DeKalb Election Office and is currently not available.

## VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

*Citizens wishing to participate and comment during the public hearing portion of the meeting may comment in person. You may also submit your request including your full name, address, position on the agenda item you are commenting on (for or against) via email to [cityclerk@stonecrestga.gov](mailto:cityclerk@stonecrestga.gov) by 2 pm the day of the Public Hearing to be read into the record at the meeting. A zoom link for the meeting will be sent to you.*

When it is your turn to speak, please state your name, address and relationship to the case..

There is a ten (10) minute time limit for each item per side during all public hearings. Only the applicant may reserve time for rebuttal.

**a. Public Hearing** - Ordinance for Blight Property, 2nd Read - *Terry Fye, District 2 Councilman*

There was an overview of this item by Councilmember Terry Fye stating this ordinance would hold property owners accountable for the upkeep of properties. The property owners must stay within the code. This ordinance will provide a classification of a blight tax on properties that fall under the circumstances of the ordinance until the property or specific area is complete.

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Terry Fye to open public hearing for the Ordinance for Blight Property. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

**Motion passed 4-0 with Councilmember Tammy Grimes being excused.**

In Favor

Juanita Sheppard  
Faye Coffield  
Cheryl Moore-Mathis (Emailed)  
Vivian Hudson  
Adolf Farley-Thompson

In Opposition

None

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Terry Fye to close public hearing for the Ordinance for Blight Property. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

**Motion passed 4-0 with Councilmember Tammy Grimes being excused.**

**b. For Decision** - Ordinance for Blight Property, 2nd Read - *Terry Fye, District 2 Councilman*

Per Attorney Thompson, in order for property to be considered, it must meet one of the criteria, such as being an abandoned property. The Blight Ordinance is the city's way of trying to work with a property owner. If deemed as blighted, the ad valorem tax will go up.

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Terry Fye to approve the Ordinance for Blight Property. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

**Motion passed 4-0 with Councilmember Tammy Grimes being excused.**

The preamble was read by the City Clerk.

**c. Public Hearing** - Ordinance for Public Nuisance, 2nd Read - *Terry Fye, District 2 Councilman*

There was an overview by Councilmember Fye stating this ordinance would allow the City of Stonecrest the ability to place liens on properties that have continued issues, not resolved by the property owner within a set timeframe. The city will place a lien on properties that are a

threat to public safety. Citizens will be able to report these issues and take active steps for a resolution.

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Terry Fye to open public hearing for the Ordinance for Public Nuisance. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

**Motion passed 4-0 with Councilmember Tammy Grimes being excused.**

In Favor

Juanita Sheppard  
Faye Coffield  
Cheryl Moore-Mathis (Emailed)  
Adolf Farley-Thompson  
Vivian Hudson - Question

In Opposition

None

Councilman Fye addressed some questions that were posed. Mayor Pro Tem confirmed the noise ordinance has been in place and this is a matter of trying to enforce the law. Attorney Thompson stated this ordinance is a tool box to use for code enforcement to address and will come into play when violations are extreme.

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Terry Fye to close public hearing for the Ordinance for Public Nuisance. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

**Motion passed 4-0 with Councilmember Tammy Grimes being excused.**

- d. **For Decision** - Ordinance for Public Nuisance, 2nd Read - *Terry Fye, District 2 Councilman*

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Terry Fye to approve the Ordinance for Public Nuisance. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

**Motion passed 4-0 with Councilmember Tammy Grimes being excused.**

The preamble was read by the City Clerk.

**IX. CONSENT AGENDA**

**X. APPOINTMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**XI. REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS**

**XII. OLD BUSINESS**

**XIII. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **For Decision** - Grounds Maintenance Purchase Machinery Purchase Request - *Kelly Ledbetter, Director of Parks & Recreation*

Presentation by Director Ledbetter requesting approval of John Deere tractor to help maintain the ball/athletic fields within the city limits. This purchase will be under state contract in the amount of \$58,266.00. This is a budgeted item.

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Tara Graves to approve the Grounds Maintenance Purchase Machinery Purchase Request. Seconded by Councilmember Terry Fye.  
**Motion passed 4-0 with Councilmember Tammy Grimes being excused.**

**b. For Decision** - Construction Administration Agreement - *Hari Karikaran, City Engineer*

Presentation by City Engineer Karikaran discussing the previously awarded contract for the construction of the Panola Shoals Riverbank Stabilization and Kayak launch construction. The contractors have finished the designs and are ready to break ground. Engineer Karikaran is requesting approval of the contract which will allow the firm to do so.

**Motion** – made by Mayor Pro Tem George Turner to approve the Construction Administration Agreement. Seconded by Councilmember Terry Fye.  
**Motion passed 4-0 with Councilmember Tammy Grimes being excused.**

**XIV. CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

City Attorney Alicia Thompson made corrections to a previously stated comment in regard to Blight Property. If the home is occupied, it will not be considered Blight Property.

**XV. CITY MANAGER UPDATE**

N/A

**XVI. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Mayor Cobble** – N/A

**District 1 – Tara Graves** – Would like to thank everyone for coming out to events over the weekend.

**District 2 – Terry Fye** – Would like to give a special thanks to citizens who came out to support this evening. Thanks to the council members who hosted events, city staff that worked on the events and the city’s legal team.

**District 3 – Alecia Washington** – Would like to thank New Black Wall Street for the partnership and Derrick Boazman with “Let Us Make Men.” Every Wednesday there is a food giveaway at Fairington Park, starting at 2pm. Transforming Faith Church is hosting a clothing giveaway on September 29th from 10am-1pm. Everyone have a great weekend.

**District 4 – Mayor Pro Tem George Turner** – Encouraged citizens to visit the City of Stonecrest website for up-to-date information and events within the city. Browns Mill Recreation Center has been closed for renovations to the roof and the reopening date will be listed on the website. Salem Park looks tremendous. There will be upcoming work done on other parks within the city. Stay updated and become a participant on what’s going on in Stonecrest.

**District 5 – Tammy Grimes** N/A

**XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*(When an executive session is required, one will be called for the following issues: 1) Personnel, 2) Litigation, 3) Real Estate, 4) Cyber Security*

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Terry Fye to enter Executive Session for personnel, litigation, real estate and cyber security. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.  
**Motion passed 4-0 with Councilmember Tammy Grimes being excused.**

**Motion** – made by Mayor Pro Tem George Turner to exit Executive Session and return to the scheduled meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Terry Fye.  
**Motion passed 4-0 with Councilmember Tammy Grimes being excused.**

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Terry Fye to approve the minutes from Executive Session. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.  
**Motion passed 4-0 with Councilmember Tammy Grimes being excused.**

## **XVIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Terry Fye to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.  
**Motion passed 4-0 with Councilmember Tammy Grimes being excused.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

### *Americans with Disabilities Act*

*The City of Stonecrest does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its programs, services, activities and employment practices.*

*If you need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication (such as a sign language interpreter, an assistive listening device or print material in digital format) or reasonable modification to programs, services or activities contact the ADA Coordinator, Sonya Isom, as soon as possible, preferably 2 days before the activity or event.*