CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – MINUTES

3120 Stonecrest Blvd., Stonecrest, GA 30038

Monday, October 26, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Mayor Jazzmin Cobble

Mayor Pro Tem Tara Graves - District 1 ***Vacant - District 2***

Council Member Alecia Washington - District 3 ***Council Member George Turner - District 4***

Council Member Karmesha W. Smith - District 5

Citizen Access: Stonecrest YouTube Live Channel

I. CALL TO ORDER: Tara Graves, Mayor Pro-Tem

The meeting began at 6:38pm.

II. ROLL CALL: Tierra Lawrence, Deputy City Clerk

All members were present.

III. INVOCATION: Dr. Korey Tucker, Transformational Worship Church

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

V. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

There was a request to remove items a-d from Section VI - Review and Approval of Minutes to be placed on the next council meeting agenda.

Motion – made by Councilmember Karmesha Smith to approve the agenda with the stated changes to remove items a-d from Section VI to the next council meeting. Second by Councilmember Alecia Washington.
Motion passed 3-1 with Councilmember G. Turner voting Nay and District 2 being vacant.

VI. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Approval of Meeting Minutes - Special Called Meeting, July 2, 2026

b. Approval of Meeting Minutes - City Council Meeting, July 27, 2026

c. Approval of Meeting Minutes - City Council Meeting - August 24, 2026

d. Approval of Meeting Minutes - City Council Meeting - September 28, 2026

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

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

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

When it is your turn to speak, please state your name, address and relationship to the case.. There is a ten (10) minute time limit for each item per side during all public hearings. Only the applicant may reserve time for rebuttal.

a. **Public Hearing** - ZM 26-002 1455 Rogers Lake Road - *Shawanna Qawiy, Division Director Community Development*

The presentation was given by Director Qawiy stating that the applicant is seeking to amend conditions 4, 5a, 5b, and 7 for the property to be constructed as a single-family residential community. There was a review of the background, the request to modify, decision letter for RZ25-001, public participation, future land use map, aerial maps, submitted site plans, site photos and staff recommendations with the recommended amended conditions.

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to open the public hearing for ZM 26-002 1455 Rogers Lake Road. Second by Councilmember Alecia Washington.
Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 being vacant.

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to close public hearing for ZM 26-002 1455 Rogers Lake Road. Second by Councilmember Alecia Washington.
Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 being vacant.

b. **For Decision** - Ordinance for ZM 26-002 1455 Rogers Lake Road - *Shawanna Qawiy, Division Director Community Development*

The preamble was read by the Deputy City Clerk

Motion – made by Councilmember Karmesha Smith to approve the Ordinance for ZM 26-002 1455 Rogers Lake Road with the stated conditions and amendments to #4 and to add condition #8. Second by Councilmember George Turner.
Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 being vacant.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

X. APPOINTMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

XI. REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

XII. OLD BUSINESS

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

a. For Discussion - August Monthly Financial Update - *Keisha Franklin, Finance Director*

Motion – made by Mayor Pro Tem Tara Graves to defer the August Monthly Financial Update to the next work session. Second by Councilmember George Turner.
Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 being vacant.

b. For Discussion - FY27 Proposed Budget - *Cathy Turner, City Manager*

The presentation was given by City Manager Turner stating this is an overview of the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2027 for the City of Stonecrest. There was a review of the budget book that could be reviewed through the city website and in person by visiting city hall. The budget book includes a focused table of contents, transmittal letter, departmental accomplishments and goals, updates on payroll and financial audits, along with a strategic outlook for the future of Stonecrest. The FY27 Proposed Budget includes the general fund financial summary, general fund-revenue account detail, insurance premium tax, business & operational tax, franchise fees, license & permit fees, municipal court revenue, funded & unfunded positions, hotel/motel tax, tree fund, SPLOST, capital & enhancement services, city calendars and a 5-year financial forecast. There was a list of revisions made by mayor and council that will be added and/or amended and presented to council at the November Work Session.

c. For Decision - 2027 Flexible Spending Account (FSA) Benefit - *Myrlene Thomas, HR Analyst & Ericka McKeever, Relations Insurance Services*

The presentation was given by Ms. Thomas and Ms. McKeever, stating this is a request to add a flexible spending account for city employees for the year 2027. This will be another way to help employees save money on healthcare and dependent care expenses. The FSA will allow employees to put money aside from their paychecks before taxes are taken out. There are two options available: one helps with healthcare expenses, and the other helps with dependent expenses and daycare. Employees could also save money on their taxes, deciding how much they would like to contribute for the year and that amount would be deducted from their paychecks before taxes. The full annual amount can be used upfront although a percentage would be deducted monthly. This amount can be used for doctors' visits, co-pays, prescriptions, dental & vision expenses, dependent and daycare expenses. In some cases, employees may be required to provide receipts to show eligible purchases.

Motion – made by Mayor Pro Tem Tara Graves to approve the 2027 Flexible Spending Account Benefit with MedCom, subject to attorney review. Second by Councilmember George Turner.
Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 being vacant.

d. **For Decision** - Resolution and Agreement for Lighting Up Turner Hill - *Reginald Powell, Facilities Operations Manager*

The presentation was given by Mr. Powell stating this agreement is with Georgia Power to light up Turner Hill Road, one of the busiest roads with businesses in need of better lighting as the holiday season is approaching. Georgia Power will install 8 new light poles starting at the first entrance of the mall and ending at the second entrance of the mall. After assessments, this will provide better lit lots for businesses and prevent thief. The agreement is on a month-to-month basis with the city paying $92,000 in upfront costs and a monthly cost of $296.00.

Motion – made by Councilmember Karmesha Smith to defer the Resolution and Agreement for Lighting up Turner Hill until a later date for discussion. Second by Councilmember George Turner.
Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 being vacant.

e. **For Discussion** - Intersection Improvement Design Update - *Hari Karikaran, City Engineer*

Motion – made by Councilmember Karmesha Smith to enter a 5-minute recess. Second by Councilmember George Turner.
Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 being vacant.

Motion – made by Councilmember Karmesha Smith to return from the 5-minute recess to our regular scheduled meeting. Second by Councilmember Alecia Washington.
Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 being vacant.

The presentation was given by Mr. Karikaran stating this is to give an update on all intersection improvement projects. Council has approved four intersection improvement projects: Klondike Road & S. Goddard Road, Turner Hill Road & Hayden Quarry Road, Miller Road & Thompson Mill Road and Hayden Quarry Road Extension. All projects are being funded by ARPA and are planned to be completed by December 31, 2026. Mr. Karikaran gave status updates on all four intersections. There was a review of layout designs of all four intersections along with diagrams of the intersections to show the paved roads, temporary easements, right away final plans, roundabouts and added sidewalks.

f. **For Discussion** - Sidewalk Design and Construction Update - *Hari KariKaran, City Engineer*

The presentation was given by Mr. Karikaran stating that council has been funding sidewalk designs every year such as those on Iris Drive, Phillips Road, Salem Road, Fairington Road in 2025 and Fairington Drive, Chupp Way, Panola Road and Klondike Road in 2026. The ARPA funded sidewalks are Evans Mill Road, Turner Hill Road, Rock Springs Road, Fairington Parkway, Chupp Road, Ottawa Trail, Fairington Park and Panola

Road. There was a review of site photos of construction phases, road maps and sidewalk diagrams to show uncompleted and completed projects.

g. **For Decision** - Vendor Recommendation for 2026 Sidewalk Design Services - *Hari Karikaran, City Engineer & Cheryl Davis, Procurement Manager*

The presentation was given by Mr. Karikaran and Ms. Davis stating the sidewalk on Chupp Way will include a new signal from south of the bridge through Fairington Drive to Athena Lane in District 3. There will be a sidewalk from Chupp Way/Fairington Drive Intersection to Trent Walk Drive, connecting two major complexes on Fairington Drive, giving them a safer route. The third section is Panola Road, South of Shirewick Drive and North of Shirewick Drive to Lou Walker. The last sidewalk will connect Klondike, from Klondike River Road to Everette Park connecting two major subdivisions. These were picked from the Bicycle Pedestrian Trail Plan, and recommended by councilmembers. This was completed as RFP- 000926, Sidewalk Design Services. It was advertised through Bidnet on July 6, 2026, and went out to 1103 vendors, with the proposals closing on August 19th. The city received 10 proposals with 3 unresponsive and a total of seven evaluated. Staff recommend Axis Infrastructure for an intent to award on September 2, 2026, in the amount of $212,500.

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to approve the Vendor Recommendation for 2026 Sidewalk Design Services with Axis Infrastructure in the amount of $212,500. Second by Councilmember Karmesha Smith.
Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 being vacant.

h. **For Decision** - Vendor Recommendation for Everett Park Parking Lot Improvements - *Hari Karikaran, City Engineer & Cheryl Davis, Procurement Manager*

The presentation was given by Mr. Karikaran and Ms. Davis stating this is a long-term project of Everett Park. The scope of work is to rebuild the parking lot along with a kayak takeout structure. The City of Stonecrest has its own stream buffer variants, Georgia EPD Permit and Core of Engineers Permit. This will improve the drainage and provide parking for the park. This was an intent to bid for 0011-26 Everett Park Parking Lot Improvement and Installation of Kayak Launch Deck. The bid was submitted to Bidnet on June 22, 2026, and broadcasted to 247 vendors. The city received 7 bids for this project with 3 unresponsive. Staff recommended Tajrishi General Contracting, LLC to be awarded in the amount of $503,876.85.

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to approve the Vendor Recommendation for Everett Park Parking Lot Improvements in the amount of $503,876.85. Second by Councilmember Karmesha Smith.
Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 being vacant.

XIV. CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Traffic is much better with the I-20 Construction. Thank you.

XV. CITY MANAGER UPDATE

Council has received the monthly report with notes to move forward with the trapping for the feral hogs. Contract details are being worked out with hopes of beginning trapping hogs in no time.

XVI. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Cobble – No comment

District 1 – Mayor Pro Tem Tara Graves – No comment

District 2 – Vacant

District 3 – Councilmember Alecia Washington – On October 31, 2026, we will host an annual Trunk or Treat at Fairington Park, 2831 West Fairington Parkway, from 5pm-8pm. There will be a contest for the best trunk decoration, along with face painting and candy for the kids. Public safety is very important. The first recruitment of our Youth Citizens Academy was a success. 12 students participated and we would like to thank Nicholas Ivey and Madysen Hampton who oversees the event, helping to educate our young leaders. Registration is still open for high school students. Please contact City Hall and speak with the Constituent Services Representative for more information.

District 4 – Councilmember George Turner – I will be working with Salem Middle School next week for their Halloween event, passing out candy to the children. I am back from the great country of Ghana. If you would like a full report, I will gladly give you a CD. My new name is Kofi after returning from the motherland.

District 5 – Councilmember Karmesha Smith –I would like to thank all of the staff that put on a nice fall festival this past Saturday. My family and I enjoyed the festival. I would also like to take my hat off to New Birth, who put on a health fair event Saturday, offering many different services and screenings for citizens. Reminded everyone to vote, as it is your responsibility. October 30, 2026, marks the last day for early voting. I am wearing a watered-down red today, which is also known as pink in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness. Please get your screenings done and encourage anyone in your life to get screenings.

XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to enter executive session for personnel, litigation, real estate and cyber security. Second by Councilmember Alecia Washington.
Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 being vacant.

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to exit executive session and return to our regular scheduled meeting. Second by Councilmember Karmesha Smith.
Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 being vacant.

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to approve the executive session minutes. Second by Councilmember Karmesha Smith.
Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 being vacant.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to adjourn this meeting. Second by Councilmember Karmesha Smith.
Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 being vacant.

Meeting adjourned at 11:32pm.

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.