



CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – MINUTES

3120 Stonecrest Blvd., Stonecrest, GA 30038

Monday, March 28, 2022 at 6:00 PM

Mayor - Vacant

Council Member Tara Graves - District 1 Council Member Rob Turner - District 2

District 3 - Vacant 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 Council Meeting began at 6:05 pm.

II. ROLL CALL: Sonya Isom, City Clerk

All members were present.

III. INVOCATION

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Councilmember Tammy Grimes asked that the Presentation for Salem Middle School Lions be moved up on the agenda. Mayor Pro Tem George Turner stated the Public Hearing should be moved to Item 12. City Manager Janice Allen Jackson stated the TMOD-22-002 is under further review by staff and should be removed from Public Hearing and New Business. City Manager Jackson also requested Item F under New Business be removed, and stated Item G would be presented by herself instead of the Finance Director, Gia Scruggs.

Motion - Made by Councilmember Rob Turner to approve the modified/updated agenda for March 28, 2022. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

Motion passed unanimously.

VI. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Approval – of the February 14, 2022 Special Called Meeting Minutes

Motion - Made by Councilmember Rob Turner to approve the February 14, 2022 Special Called Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Councilmember Tammy Grimes.

Motion passed unanimously.

b. Approval – of the February 22, 2022 Special Called Meeting Minutes

Motion - Made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to approve the February 22, 2022 Special Called Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

Motion passed unanimously.

c. Approval – of the February 28, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Motion - Made by Councilmember Rob Turner to approve the February 28, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

Motion passed unanimously.

d. Approval – of the March 14, 2022 Special Called Meeting Minutes

Motion - Made by Councilmember Tara Graves to approve the minutes for the Special Called Meeting on March 14, 2022. Seconded by Councilmember Rob Turner.

Motion passed unanimously.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

(This meeting will be conducted virtually, the public comments received via email by 2 pm on the day of the meeting will be read or played via voice memo or video into the minutes by the City Clerk)

There is a two (2) minute time limit for each speaker during public comment.

1. L. Wayne Revels: Commented on the exit leaving Amherst Forest Subdivision. Inquiring about study alleviating problem.

2. Faye Coffield: Concerned about Election date and proper representation for District 3. Opposing annexation for gravel parking lots. Asking to set minimum rental allotment for new subdivisions and townhouses that are built within City limits.

3. Tenika Kemp: Opposing warehouses and gravel parking lots in District 5

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

This meeting will be conducted virtually. Citizens wishing to participate and comment during the public hearing portion of the meeting are asked to 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 Hearing. 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. As an alternative, you can submit comments and questions to the same email address by the same deadline to be read into the record at the meeting.

There is a ten (10) minute time limit for each item per side during all public hearings. There is a two (2) minute time limit for each speaker. Only the applicant may reserve time for rebuttal. Supporting speakers may not request rebuttal or speak a second time unless called upon by the applicant during the reserved time.

a. TMOD-22-002 - *Keedra Jackson* - **Item removed from agenda**

b. TMOD-22-005 - *Keedra Jackson*

Keedra Jackson provided an overview on the text modification for towing and wreckage services.

Motion 1 - Made by Councilmember Rob Turner to go into Public Hearing for TMOD-22-005. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

Motion passed unanimously.

Public comments in favor - None.

Public comments in opposition - None.

Motion 2 - Made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to exit Public Hearing for TMOD-22-005. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion 3 - Made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to defer TMOD-22-005 for full cycle going back to the Planning Commission and bring back to Council for a vote. Seconded by Councilmember Rob Turner.

Motion passed unanimously.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

XI. REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

a. **Proclamation** - Salem Middle School Lions - *Mayor Pro Tem George Turner*

Councilmember Tammy Grimes read the Proclamation for Salem Middle School Lions, 7th grade girls. Head Coach Amber O'Kelly extended gratitude of assistance from Councilmember Tammy Grimes. Principal Terrence Harvey also extended his gratitude and stated Salem Middle School is honored to be in City of Stonecrest. Councilmember Rob Turner made a comment on behalf of his wife, Vickie Turner, and all other members of the Board of Education who wanted to extend their congratulations.

XII. APPOINTMENTS

The installation of Municipal Court Chief Judge, Curtis Miller was performed before other appointments. The official swearing in was conducted by Judge Stroud, Municipal Court Chief Judge in City of Decatur, Georgia.

- a. Appointment to Zoning Board of Appeals - *Councilwoman Tammy Grimes*

Motion - Made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to accept Shedrick Harris as the representative for the Zoning Board of Appeals for District 5. Seconded by Councilmember Rob Turner.

Motion passed unanimously.

- b. Appointment to Transportation Committee - *Councilwoman Tammy Grimes*

Motion - Made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes that Mr. Calvin Lawrence be the representative on the Transportation Advisory Committee for District 5. Seconded by Councilmember Rob Turner.

Mayor Pro Tem George Turner clarified that the Transportation Committee is not district specific.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem read the names of the following committees:

Parks and Recreation: Beverly Cooper, Karyl Clayton, Charnessa Grace, Ex-officio Arabia Mountain Executive Director, Councilmember Tara Graves, Mayor Pro Tem George Turner, Jamil Salem;

CID Committee: Renee Cail, Cornell McBride, Michael McClinton, Malaika Wells, Greg Wright, Councilmember Tara Graves, Councilmember Rob Turner, Ex-officio members Economic Development Director of the City of Stonecrest, and Executive Director of East Metro DeKalb CID;

Finance Committee: Michael Strong, Angela Ash, Lakesha Swanson, Dave Marcus, Nidia Farnum, At large member Jazzmin Cobble, Mayor Pro Tem George Turner, City Manager or Designee, Finance Director, and Internal Auditor;

SPLOST Committee: Darrell Taylor, Elijah Ajayi, Stephanie Shine, Verna Richelieu, Avena Louie, Donna Priest-Brown, Jeff Martin, Councilmember Tammy Grimes, Councilmember Rob Turner, Lemuel Hawkins, and Jessica Fields;

Transportation Committee: Erica Williams, Alan Burnette, Bernard Knight, Mayor Pro Tem George Turner, Councilmember Tammy Grimes, JW Eady, Daniel Senior, Ahli Moore, City Manager or Designee, and Calvin Lawrence.

Other names not listed that have come in will be read at the next hearing.

- c. Swearing in of New Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals Members
- *Mayor Pro Tem George Turner*

Chief Judge Miller conducted Swearing-In Ceremony of Kelly Ross, Gwendolyn Russell-Green, and Shedrick Harris into the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Chief Judge Miller also conducted Swearing-In Ceremony of Stefanie Brown to the Planning Commission.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

a. For Decision - Emergency Declaration - *Mayor Pro Tem George Turner*

Mayor Pro Tem George Turner suggested that the date of the Emergency Declaration be shortened. The Emergency Declaration was extended to June 24th at a previous meeting. The Health Department indicated it might be safe to return to in-person meetings. City Attorney Winston Denmark stated that there will not a complete elimination of COVID, as there will be resurges and variations that arise. He also stated he felt it was safe to move back to in-person meetings. Mayor Pro Tem George Turner stated that if the June 24, 2022 date is rescinded, April 25, 2022 will be the first in-person meeting.

Motion 1 - Made by Mayor Pro Tem George Turner to lift the State of Emergency Declaration on April 25, 2022. All meetings prior to that date will be held under the State of Emergency. Seconded by Councilmember Rob Turner.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion 2 - Made by Mayor Pro Tem George Turner to move the City Council meeting time to 7:00 pm effective April 25, 2022. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

Motion carries 3-1, with Councilmember Tammy Grimes voting nay.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

a. For Decision - TMOD-22-002 - *Keedra Jackson* - Item removed from agenda

b. For Decision - TMOD-22-005 - *Keedra Jackson*

- Deferred back to Planning Commission during Public Hearing

c. For Decision - Resolution for a Special Election to Authorize Dekalb County to run Stonecrest election 11/8/22 - *Alicia Thompson*

Resolution preamble read by City Clerk Sonya Isom.

Motion - Made by Councilmember Rob Turner to approve the Resolution for a Special Election to Authorize Dekalb County to run Stonecrest election 11/8/22. Seconded by Councilmember Tammy Grimes.

Motion passed unanimously.

d. For Decision - Resolution for the Special Election to be held on 11/8/22 to Set Qualifying Dates & Fees - *Alicia Thompson*

Resolution preamble read by City Clerk Sonya Isom.

Motion - Made by Councilmember Rob Turner to approve the Resolution for the Special Election to be held on 11/8/22 to Set Qualifying Dates & Fees. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

Motion passed unanimously.

Attorney Denmark clarified why the special election cannot be held prior to November. The deadlines that are necessary to meet would not be met. There is insufficient time to get on the ballot for a May election. By default, the election will be in November.

e. For Decision - 2021 Fiscal Year End Budget Adjustments - *Gia Scruggs*

Finance Director Gia Scruggs provided an overview of the FY2021 year end budget adjustments.

Motion - Made by Councilmember Rob Turner to approve the Resolution for the 2021 Fiscal Year End Budget Adjustments. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

Motion passed unanimously.

f. For Decision - Single Source Procurement - Chief Building Official - *Gia Scruggs*

- Item removed from agenda

g. For Decision - Position Requests - *Gia Scruggs*

City Manager Janice Allen Jackson provided an overview. It was noted that particular departments need additional or upgraded positions. The City Clerk's Office would like to upgrade the Administrative Assistant position to a Deputy City Clerk position. The Finance Department would like to add a Revenue Specialist II position to lead the Business License unit. The City can afford these adjustments and stay within revenue goals. Mayor Pro Tem George Turner also mentioned that in the future, the City will discuss acquiring more Code Enforcement officers.

City Manager made a formal request to create a Revenue Specialist II position in the Finance Department and to upgrade an Administrative Assistant position to Deputy City Clerk for the Clerk's Office.

Motion - Made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to approve the City Manager's request for the creation of Revenue Specialist II and the upgrade of one Administrative Assistant position to Deputy City Clerk. Seconded by Councilmember Rob Turner.

Motion passed unanimously.

h. For Decision - Final Jacobs Contract Extension - *Janice Allen Jackson*

City Manager Janice Allen Jackson provided an overview and reducing the need for Jacobs services. The Office Manager position previously held by Keidra Harris is not being fulfilled through Jacobs. Jacobs is providing back up support for Keedra Jackson, as she is holding both positions of City Planner and Acting Planning and Zoning Director.

City Manager made a formal request to approve the second and final Jacobs extension.

Motion - Made by Councilmember Rob Turner to approve the final extension for Jacobs Engineering. Seconded by Councilmember Tammy Grimes.

Motion passed unanimously.

XV. CITY MANAGER UPDATE

a. Volunteers for Boards and Committees

Interested citizens hoping to serve on a Committee or Board can go to www.stonecrestga.gov, look under Government, click on Committees and Boards. Citizens will select apply, complete the form, and submit. The forms go directly to the City Clerk's Office, who will share the application with Council.

b. COVID Update

The City Manager's Office will look out for the DeKalb County COVID numbers as they are released.

c. City Reopening

City Hall is doing a soft reopening this week. Staff is coming back into the office. If you are a resident and need to see a staff member in person, please make an appointment first. In addition, staff will continue wearing masks and practicing social distancing guidelines.

XVI. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Attorney Denmark - Be safe.

City Manager - None.

Councilmember Tara Graves (District 1) - On March 31st there will be a Zoom call for Women in Politics and Business.

Councilmember Rob Turner (District 2) - Congratulated Councilmember Graves on her position and the work she's doing. Even though the COVID numbers are decreasing, be safe.

Councilmember Tammy Grimes (District 5) - Be safe. Be cautious, careful, and considerate of others. Thank you for the Proclamation for the Lady Lions.

Mayor Pro Tem George Turner - There's so much senseless violence. People have got to find a way to curb anger and get along.

XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion - Made by Councilmember Tara Graves to adjourn. Seconded by Councilmember Rob Turner.

Motion passed unanimously.

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.

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.