



## **CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA**

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### **CITY COUNCIL MEETING – MINUTES**

**3120 Stonecrest Blvd., Stonecrest, GA 30038**

**Monday, February 28, 2022 at 6:00 PM**

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*Council Member Tara Graves – District 1      Council Member Rob Turner – District 2*

*Council Member Jazzmin Cobble – District 3      Mayor Pro Tem George Turner – District 4*

*Council Member Tammy Grimes – District 5*

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

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

Council Meeting began at 6:04 p.m.

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

All members present.

**III. INVOCATION**

**IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**V. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Before the agenda was approved, Mayor Pro Tem George Turner commented on the Ugandan art exhibit displayed in New Black Wall Street. The Council's contribution to Black History Month was reciting the Negro Anthem "Lift Your Voice and Sing". Each district read part of the song in honor of Black History Month.

Mayor Pro Tem George Turner suggested Item B under appointments and Item I under New Business be moved to the end, as those items require Council to go into Executive Session.

Councilmember Jazzmin Cobble suggested moving Agenda Item XI - MARTA Update after Public Comments.

**Motion** - Made by Councilmember Jazzmin Cobble to approve the agenda as updated.  
Seconded by Councilmember Rob Turner.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**VI. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**a. Approval** – of January 24, 2022 Meeting Minutes

**Motion** - Made by Councilmember Rob Turner to approve January 24, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Councilmember Jazzmin Cobble.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**b. Approval** – of January 26, 2022 Special Called Meeting Minutes

**Motion** - Made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to approve January 26, 2022 Special Called Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

**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. Brigitte D. Hill - Opposing warehouses and annexations and CID Member conflicts
2. Pyper Bunch - Opposing warehouses and annexations and CID Member conflicts
3. Jared D. Howard - Opposing warehouses and annexations and CID Member conflicts
4. Jennifer Wilson - Opposing Warehouses and annexations and CID Member conflicts
5. A. Sabrena Farmer - Opposing warehouses and annexations and CID Member conflicts; Shorter meetings
6. Cathy Glass - Pollution; Opposing warehouses
7. Jacqueline Bryant, Windsor Down Communities - CID Member conflicts
8. Roderick Ringstaff - AX-21-003; Property Taxes
9. Faye Coffield - Crime; Quality of New Businesses in City of Stonecrest; Public Comment length

Mayor Pro Tem George Turner explained that the CID Committee is a mechanism to create dialogue, not the deciding party for the City developments. The CID Committee is not necessary to create Lithonia Industrial Park. Mayor Pro Tem George Turner also responded to a comment about the misuse of COVID funds. He clarified the efforts of the Council during that time to right the misuse of funds.

Councilmember Tammy Grimes clarified that all public comments should be sent to [cityclerk@stonecrestga.gov](mailto:cityclerk@stonecrestga.gov), not to the City Clerk Sonya Isom's individual email. Councilmember Tammy Grimes asked that another public comment be read into the record.

10. Renee Cail - 1724 Rogers Lake Road Project

Councilmember Rob Turner stated that it is welcomed that citizens express themselves, but they need to do so in a respectful and professional manner.

## **VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

*This meeting will be conducted virtually. Citizens wishing to participate and comment during the public hearing portion of the meeting, please submit your request including your full name, address, position on the agenda item you are commenting on via email at [cityclerk@stonecrestga.gov](mailto:cityclerk@stonecrestga.gov) by 2 pm the day of the Hearing. A zoom link for the meeting will be sent to you. 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 with the option to speak again if time permits within the ten (10) minute limit per side.*

### **a. TMOD-22-001 - Jim Summerbell**

Jim Summerbell provided an overview.

**Motion 1** - Made by Councilmember Rob Turner to go into Public Hearing for TMOD-22-001. Seconded by Councilmember Jazzmin Cobble.

**Motion 1 passed unanimously.**

In Favor - Bernard Knight - Asked a date be clarified for Gravel Parking Lots

Opposition - Faye Coffield - Asked that the item be deferred.

**Motion 2** - Made by Councilmember Jazzmin Cobble to close Public Hearing on TMOD-22-001. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

**Motion 2 passed unanimously.**

Councilmember Jazzmin Cobble stated the date that Mr. Knight brought up should be 2022. Mayor Pro Tem George Turner suggested to defer item to Planning Commission as it is a 400 page document.

**Motion 3** - Made by Councilmember Jazzmin Cobble to defer TMOD-22-001 back to the Planning Commission. Seconded by Councilmember Rob Turner.

**Motion 3 passed unanimously.**

### **b. AX-21-003 - Keedra Jackson**

Keedra Jackson provided an overview.

**Motion 1** - Made by Councilmember Rob Turner to go into Public Hearing for AX-21-003. Seconded by Councilmember Jazzmin Cobble.

**Motion 1 passed unanimously.**

The Applicant, Michele Battle, gave a presentation on the proposed campus.

In Favor - Faye Coffield

Opposition - None.

**Motion 2** - Made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to close Public Hearing AX-21-003. Seconded by Councilmember Jazzmin Cobble.

**Motion 2 passed unanimously.**

**Motion 3** - Made by Councilmember Rob Turner to approve AX-21-003. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

**Motion 3 passed unanimously.**

## **IX. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. SLUP-21-005 Withdrawal - *Keedra Jackson*

Keedra Jackson provided an overview.

**Motion** - Made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to accept SLUP-21-005 withdrawal. Seconded by Councilmember Rob Turner.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

## **X. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

## **XI. REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS**

- a. MARTA Update, *Rob Frierson, MARTA Board Member*

Councilmember Jazzmin Cobble introduced Mr. Roderick Frierson as a guest who will give updates on MARTA and how this transit relates to the City of Stonecrest. Mr. Frierson provided an overview of his role and his work. Mr. Grady Smith provided information on the MARTA Transit Hub that is expected to be delivered by 2023.

## **XII. APPOINTMENTS**

- a. Appointment to Planning Commission - *Councilmember Tara Graves*

Councilmember Tara Graves stated that the appointee's name should be spelled as follows: Stefanie Brown.

**Motion** - Made by Councilmember Tara Graves to appoint Stefanie Brown to represent District 1 in the Planning Commission. Seconded by Councilmember Jazzmin Cobble.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- b. Appointment of Chief Judge of Municipal Court - *Mayor Pro Tem George Turner*

This matter was discussed in the Executive Session.

**Motion** - Mayor Pro Tem George Turner recommends Curtis Miller as Chief Judge effective March 14th. Seconded by Councilmember Tammy Grimes.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- c. Appointments to Zoning Board of Appeals - *CM Tara Graves & CM Tammy Grimes*

**Motion 1** - Made by Councilmember Tara Graves to appoint Kelly Ross to represent District 1 in the Zoning Board of Appeals. Seconded by Councilmember Rob Turner.

**Motion 1 passed unanimously.**

**Motion 2** - Made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to appoint Calvin Lawrence to represent District 5 in the Zoning Board of Appeals. Seconded by Councilmember Jazzmin Cobble.

**Motion 2 passed unanimously.**

### **XIII. OLD BUSINESS**

### **XIV. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **For Decision** - TMOD-22-001 - *Jim Summerbell*

- **Deferred in Public Hearing**

- b. **For Decision** - AX-21-003 - *Keedra Jackson*

- **Approved in Public Hearing**

- c. **For Decision** - Creation of a Transportation Committee - *Alicia Thompson*

Attorney Alicia Thompson provided an overview. The duties of this committee are to research city matters of interest related to transportation and make transportation recommendations to City Council. All forms of topics include heavy rail, light rail, bus rapid transit, and any other mobility distribution strategies. Mayor Pro Tem George Turner stated members: Erica Williams (Chair), Alan Burdett, Bernard Knight, Mayor Pro Tem George Turner, Councilmember Tammy Grimes, Kendra Price, Jake W. Eady, Daniel Senior, City Manager or Designee. The Transportation Committee is open for additional members. Council clarified that persons not living within City of Stonecrest limits are able to chair the advisory committees. Being a City resident is not necessary.

**Motion** - Made by Councilmember Rob Turner to approve the creation of the Transportation Committee for the City of Stonecrest. Seconded by Councilmember Jazzmin Cobble.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- d. **For Decision** - 2022 Paving Program - *Tom Udell and Hari Karikaran*

Hari Karikaran provided an overview.

**Motion** - Made by Councilmember Jazzmin Cobble to approve the road paving list for 2022. Seconded by Councilmember Tammy Grimes.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- e. **For Decision** - Panola Road Study IGA with DeKalb County - *Tom Udell and Hari Karikaran*

City Manager Janice Allen Jackson stated that the IGA was not reviewed by the legal team.

**Motion** - Made by Councilmember Rob Turner to defer the Panola Road Study to a Special Called Meeting held before the next Work Session. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- f. **For Decision** - Travel Policy Amendment - *Gia Scruggs*

Finance Director Gia Scruggs provided an overview. The most substantial changes to this policy include the following: clarification of incurring expenses on behalf of the City, authorizations for travel for employees and elected officials, removal of language that references the issuance of City charge cards, and the addition of language to address disciplinary actions for elected officials and employees.

**Motion** - Made by Councilmember Jazzmin Cobble to approve the updates to the Travel Policy as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Rob Turner.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- g. **For Decision** - Purchasing Card Policy Amendment - *Gia Scruggs*

Finance Director Gia Scruggs provided a brief overview. The most substantial changes to this policy include the following: deletion of the Purchasing Policy components, leaving applicable definitions for the policy, the removal of the Accounting Manager title for the list of officials authorized to be issued a purchasing card, and update the language to reflect state law that pertains to employees instead of elected officials.

**Motion** - Made by Councilmember Jazzmin Cobble to approve the updates to the Purchasing Card Policy Amendment as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Tammy Grimes.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- h. **For Decision** - Affordable Interior Solutions Quote Approval - *Gia Scruggs*

Finance Director Gia Scruggs provided an overview of the details pertaining to the approved expansion of the City Hall lease at 3120 Stonecrest Boulevard. The quote that Mrs. Scruggs provided of \$122,351.02 includes delivery and setup costs associated with assembly. The funding for this will come from General Fund – Facilities and Buildings – Furniture and Fixtures.

**Motion** - Made by Councilmember Jazzmin Cobble to approve the request for the quote of Affordable Interior Solutions. Seconded by Councilmember Tammy Grimes.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**i. For Decision** - Group Lacasse LLC Quote Approval - *Gia Scruggs*

Finance Director Gia Scruggs provided an overview quote for office furniture for various departments including City Council, support staff, Planning and Zoning, Code Enforcement, and City Engineer. The quote provided was for \$44,258.18 and includes assembly and setup. The funding from this will come from General Fund – Facilities & Buildings – Furniture and Fixtures.

**Motion** - Made by Councilmember Rob Turner to approve the Group Lacasse LLC quote. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**j. For Decision** - Setting Number of Municipal Court Judges - *Mayor Pro Tem George Turner*

This matter was discussed in the Executive Session.

Mayor Pro Tem George Turner recommends the number of judges to be set at four for the City of Stonecrest. This was a first read only and did not require a vote.

**XV. CITY MANAGER UPDATE**

**a. COVID Update**

The City Manager stated that there are 96 cases per 100,000 over the last seven days. The numbers are steadily decreasing, and this is the lowest number since mid-December. With the decline in numbers, there can be a discussion to reopening City Hall. Councilmember Jazzmin Cobble suggested that there be hybrid or virtual options made available for people who are uncomfortable attending meetings in person.

**b. Staffing Update**

Many staffing changes have occurred. The Director of Planning and Zoning, Jim Summerbell, is moving to a consulting only role. Keedra Jackson has moved into Acting Director role of Planning and Zoning. Today was Tom Udell's last day as City Engineer. Hari Karikaran has moved into the role of City Engineer. Aisha Harris was selected as the Deputy City Clerk in the City Clerk's Office. The top two positions are now filled, and the City Clerk will be fulfilling two Administrative positions. Keidra Harris, who has acted as Office Manager, will also be leaving.

**XVI. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

District 1 - Roger Crossing HOA is having a Zoom meeting with IDI, speaking about the proposed warehouse.

District 2 - Stay safe.

District 3 - 1. On Wednesday at 6:30 pm please join the Town Hall Meeting on public safety. 2. On Saturday, Councilmember Jazzmin Cobble and the DeKalb County Commissioner are hosting their third food distribution at Ousley United Methodist Church. The parties will be there at 10 am. 3. If you miss this distribution, DeKalb County will be hosting one at Big Miller Grove.

District 5 - Asked for prayers for the security guard and 4 year old that were killed in the Publix parking lot. 2. Salem Middle School girls basketball team is phenomenal. They are the champions for the DeKalb County School District. They will need another proclamation.

Attorney Winston Denmark - A new attorney will be joining the firm.

District 4 - Congratulated Aisha Harris as the new Deputy City Clerk. Asked citizens to contact State Representatives to limit city's or county's ability to regulate rental housing. Let them know of your opinion. The senseless killing is out of control. Solutions need to be found.

## **XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**Motion 1** - Made by Councilmember Jazzmin Cobble to go into executive session to discuss personnel and real estate matters. Seconded by Councilmember Tammy Grimes.

**Motion 1 passed unanimously.**

**Motion 2** - Made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to leave executive session and return to the regular council meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

**Motion 2 passed unanimously.**

## **XVIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** - Made by Councilmember Jazzmin Cobble to adjourn. Seconded by Councilmember Tara Graves.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

Council Meeting adjourned at 9:42 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.*