CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – MINUTES

3120 Stonecrest Blvd., Stonecrest, GA 30038

Monday, July 27, 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 6:17pm.

II. ROLL CALL: Sonya Isom, City Clerk

All members were present with Councilmember Alecia Washington participating via zoom.

III. INVOCATION: Jeremy Reid, City of Stonecrest Communications Department

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: George Turner, District 4 Councilmember

V. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

There was a request:

1. Move item *b.* from Old Business to the next Work Session
2. Move item *e.* from Old Business to the next Work Session
3. Move the Executive Session before the Public Hearing and following Public Comments

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to approve the agenda with the stated changes. Second by Councilmember Karmesha Smith.
Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 being vacant.

VI. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Approval of Meeting Minutes - Special Called Meeting, June 8, 2026

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to approve the 11:30am Special Called Meeting Minutes from June 8, 2026, with attendance verification. Second by Councilmember Karmesha Smith.
Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 being vacant.

b. Approval of Meeting Minutes - Work Session, June 8, 2026

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to approve the 6:00pm Work Session Meeting Minutes from June 8, 2026. Second by Councilmember Karmesha Smith.
Motion passed 4-0 with District 2 being vacant.

c. Approval of Meeting Minutes - City Council Meeting, June 22, 2026

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to defer the June 22, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes to the next city council meeting. Second by Councilmember Karmesha Smith.
Motion passed 3-1 with Mayor Pro Tem T. Graves voting Nay and District 2 being vacant.

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.

Chandra Cates – Has concerns about a neighbor with cars on his front yard that has not been moved in years, as well as other issues and she is asking what can be done about this situation.

Deborah Tayliam – Has concerns about the house next door to her which has been vacant for about 8 years. There is excessive growth of grass, trees, and poison ivy, in addition to other issues. Code Enforcement has come to the house and fined the owner, but after paying the fines, the house remains the same.

Dave Marcus – Spoke of his restoration of confidence in financing, stating council is moving towards a responsible government. He also made comments on past audits as well as the break-in that took place at City Hall, stating he would like facts on the incident.

Angella Green – Stated she lives next door to a hoarder, and has concerns about her health, safety, and property value. She provided photos of a collapsed deck, remnants on the front porch and 2 broken-down cars and she is asking for help.

Bernard Knight – Thanked the council for voting to create the CID and reported that on June 23rd, the CID held its first elections and board meeting. At that meeting, 5 members were elected to serve, including Mr. Knight. A month ago, the CID submitted their draft cooperation agreement as the first step in negotiating the terms of the agreement to the council and assistant city attorney Alicia Thompson and are looking forward to receiving a response.

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 - RZ 26-004 7224 & 7226 Maddox Road - *Shawanna Qawiy, Division Director Community Development*

The presentation was given by Director Qawiy stating this is a city-initiated application requesting the rezoning and future land use of approximately 92.19 acres from M-Light Industrial to M2- Heavy Industrial to allow various heavy industrial uses. There was review of the background, public participation, zoning map, future land use map, property location map, aerial map and site photos. By way of legal, the staff recommendation is neither approval nor denial and should be left up to the council's discretion. There is no recommendation from staff.

Motion – made by Councilmember Karmesha Smith to open public hearing for RZ 26-004 7224 & 7226 Maddox Road. Second by Councilmember George Turner.
Motion passed 3-0 with District 2 being vacant and Councilmember A. Washington being absent during the vote.

There was additional review and background information shared by the applicant stating the requested information has been provided to staff and is in the agenda packet. It was stated the Planning Commission no longer recommends denial. There was an additional review of the rezoning factors, economic use under the current zoning and the benefits, stating it is not a landfill.

<u>In Favor</u>
None
<u>In Opposition</u>
Linda Miller
Dave Marcus
Renee Cail – Email
Jennifer Wilson – Email
Pyper Bunch - Email

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to close public hearing for RZ 26-004 7224 & 7226 Maddox Road. Second by Councilmember Karmesha Smith.
Motion passed 3-0 with District 2 being vacant and Councilmember A. Washington being absent during the vote.

To have a rezoning, the city will need an amendment to the comprehensive plan. It was stated there will be no burning on site and the uses will be confined within three parcels, in which special use applications have been submitted for both parcels.

b. **For Decision** - Ordinance for RZ 26-004 7224 & 7226 Maddox Road - *Shawanna Qawiy, Division Director Community Development*

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to approve the Ordinance for RZ 26-004 7224 & 7226 Maddox Road. Second by Mayor Pro Tem Tara Graves.
Motion tied 2-2 with Mayor Pro Tem T. Graves and Councilmember K. Smith voting Nay and District 2 being vacant. Mayor Cobble abstained from casting a vote as the tie breaker due to the council legislative authority to make decisions.
The motion failed.

Motion – made by Mayor Pro Tem Tara Graves to defer RZ 26-004 7224 7 7226 Maddox Road to the next council meeting. Second by Councilmember George Turner.
Motion tied 2-2 with Mayor Pro Tem T. Graves and Councilmember A. Washington voting Nay and District 2 being vacant. Mayor Cobble cast a vote as the tie breaker, voting Yay for the deferral.
Motion passed.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

X. APPOINTMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

XI. REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

XII. OLD BUSINESS

a. **For Discussion** - Supplemental Pay Policy - *Robin Jackson, HR Generalist*

The presentation was led by Ms. Jackson of HR, responding to each question asked by Councilmember Smith at a previous meeting. There were also some examples given in regard to city positions that have received supplemental pay. It was stated the percentage of the supplemental pay is based on the level of responsibility. It was suggested this item is discussed at another council meeting.

b. **For Decision** - Resolution for the Matrix Fee Study - *Shawanna Qawiy, Division Director Community Development & Keisha Franklin, Finance Director*

Moved to the August Work Session.

c. **For Decision** - Ordinance to Amend Section 2-180 - Authority to Execute Checks, Written Orders and Financial Instruments, 2nd Read - *Tara Graves, Mayor Pro Tem & Alicia Thompson, City Attorney*

An overview was given by Attorney Thompson stating this is the second read for the ordinance to amend section 2-180 that will remove the Deputy City Manager and Deputy Finance Director from the list of individuals who are authorized to execute checks and written orders.

The preamble was read by the City Clerk as the 2nd Read.

Attorney Thompson stated check signing is duty assigned to the City Manager and council has the authority to assign to others in the city. Checks over $25,000 should have two signatures.

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to defer the Ordinance to Amend Section 2-180 – Authority to execute Checks, Written Orders and Financial Instruments, 2nd Read to allow for a meeting with legal. Second by Councilmember Karmesha Smith. **Motion passed 3-0 with District 2 being vacant and Councilmember A. Washington being absent during the vote.**

d. For Decision - Contract for Auditor Services - *Catherine Turner, City Manager & Keisha Franklin, Finance Director*

A presentation was given by City Manager Turner stating the contract for Mauldin & Jenkins has already been approved and submitted with the mayor signing the first version. There were changes from the vendor after the mayor signed. It was stated the contract in the packet does reflect the noted changes by Mauldin & Jenkins. The timelines have been provided, and Mauldin & Jenkins is ready for engagement.

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to approve the Contract for Auditor Services as outlined in the packet. Second by Councilmember Karmesha Smith. **Motion passed 3-0 with District 2 being vacant and Councilmember A. Washington being absent during the vote.**

e. For Decision - Cooperation Agreement with SLIP CID - *George Turner, District 4 Councilmember*

Moved to the August Work Session.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

a. For Discussion - Stonecrest Development Authority (SDA) Update - *Mayor Jazzmin Cobble*

Mayor Cobble stated she will get with the Economic Development Director to prepare and present for this item at a future meeting.
This item will be moved to the August Work Session.

b. For Discussion - Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) Update - *Mayor Jazzmin Cobble*

This item will be moved to the August Work Session.

c. For Decision - Contract for Vendor Recommendation for Pour-In-Place Playground Surface Project - *Tanisha Boynton, Procurement Manager and Hari Karikaran, City Engineer*

The presentation was given by Director Karikaran stating that the scope of work for this project is to replace the existing Fairington Park play area. The Procurement Division solicited bids from vendors and received 5 responses and recommended Lanier Plans Inc.

dba KorKat to be awarded $76,037 along with a program grant for $134,940. The grant money will fund this project. Once approved, a notice to proceed will be issued. It was confirmed that wood chips will be replaced with upgraded material. Construction should take approximately three days.

Motion – made by Councilmember Karmesha Smith to approve the Contract for Vendor Recommendation for Pour-In-Place Playground Surface Project. Second by Councilmember George Turner.
Motion passed 3-0 with District 2 being vacant and Councilmember A. Washington being absent during the vote.

d. For Decision - Purchase and Installation of Safety Equipment for City Hall - *Tanisha Boynton, Procurement Manager and Reginald Powell, Facilities Operations Manager*

The presentation was given by Mr. Powell stating City Hall is in need of two metal detectors and x-ray machines to enhance the security currently in place. The request is for approval to purchase the detectors, machines and accessories from Mallory Safety and Supply, Inc. through a cooperative purchase under Omnia Contract No. 159498. The city is receiving a discount on the safety equipment which includes installation, training, state required certification and a 4-year warranty. The total for the safety equipment is $95,044.84. The funding account is 100-1565-542500 – Other Equipment and Facilities.

When asked if this item needs to be on a future URA meeting agenda, Attorney Thompson stated only if the equipment impacts the building or causes need for renovation. She was asked to follow up and let the URA know if the agreement has been reviewed and require landlord approval. It was stated there is a need to review the URA and city's IGA. It was also stated there is a need for a URA meeting.

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to approve the Purchase and Installation of Safety Equipment for City Hall with amendments to verify the fund source. Second by Councilmember Karmesha Smith.
Motion withdrawn.

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to approve the Purchase and Installation of Safety Equipment for City Hall. Second by Councilmember Karmesha Smith.
Motion passed 3-0 with District 2 being vacant and Councilmember A. Washington being absent during the vote.

e. For Decision - Resolution for Mid-Year Budget Adjustment - *Keisha Franklin, Finance Director*

The presentation was given by Director Franklin stating there were amendments made to the original budget that was submitted. There is zero impact from this amendment. There was also an adjustment made to the FICA account. There was a review of the original spreadsheet, including reasons for amendments, fund balance use by fund and the effect of the changes from the two items mentioned. It was stated council has the presentation without two changes that were made.

The preamble was read by the City Clerk.

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to approve the Resolution for Mid-Year Budget Adjustment with the stated changes and updated documents. Second by Councilmember Karmesha Smith.
Motion passed 3-0 with District 2 being vacant and Councilmember A. Washington being absent during the vote.

XIV. CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS

No Comments

XV. CITY MANAGER UPDATE

The City Manager stated that the leadership team updates have been sent to council prior to this meeting. There was recognition given to Myrlene Thomas, Human Resources Analyst as Employee of the Month, stating her professionalism, dedication and collaborating spirit have had a meaningful impact, and her positive energy is contagious.

XVI. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Jazzmin Cobble – No comments

District 1 – Mayor Pro Tem Tara Graves – No Comments

District 3 – Alecia Washington – Absent

District 4 – George Turner – Mentioned streets that are getting paved in District 4, a gazebo at Salem Park, and improvements at Browns Mill. Also, Fairington Park looks really good. There have been some calls on the feral hogs. The feral hog program is down to trapping but can only be put on public property. The city has been working with DeKalb County to help accelerate this.

District 5 – Karmesha Smith – Thank you to the staff who stayed late with us this evening. Would like to highlight paving currently going on in District 5 and also give kudos to the staff for who assisted with the Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway.

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

Moved to take place before the Public Hearing section of the agenda.

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to enter Executive Session for Personnel, Litigation, Real Estate and Cyber Security. Second by Councilmember Karmesha Smith.
Motion passed 3-0 with District 2 being vacant and Councilmember A. Washington being absent during the vote.

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to exit Executive Session and return to the regular scheduled meeting. Second by Councilmember Karmesha Smith.

Motion passed 3-0 with District 2 being vacant and Councilmember A. Washington being absent during the vote.

Motion – made by Councilmember George Turner to approve the minutes from Executive Session. Second by Councilmember Karmesha Smith.
Motion passed 3-0 with District 2 being vacant and Councilmember A. Washington being absent during the vote.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:26pm.

<u>*Americans with Disabilities Act*</u>

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.