



CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – MINUTES

3120 Stonecrest Blvd., Stonecrest, GA 30038

Monday, January 23, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Mayor Jazzmin Cobble

Council Member Tara Graves - District 1 Council Member Rob Turner - 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 6:07 pm.

II. ROLL CALL: Sonya Isom, City Clerk

All members present.

III. INVOCATION

Lead by Councilmember Rob Turner.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem George Turner requested the Parks LED Lighting Vendor Recommendation item be moved from Consent Agenda and placed under New Business, item C.

He also added a presentation by Mayor Jazzmin Cobble under Reports and Presentations.

Mayor Cobble asked that Executive Session be moved up, after Public Comments.

Motion - made by Councilmember Rob Turner to approve the agenda with the stated changes and modifications. Councilmember Tammy Grimes seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

VI. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Approval of Meeting Minutes - December 27, 2022

Motion - made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to approve the December 27, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. Councilmember Rob Turner seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

VII. REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Jazzmin Cobble presented Councilmember Rob Turner with a Certificate of Achievement from GMA. This certificate was for successfully completing requirements through the Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute and also completing 72 hours of continuing education as an elected official.

VIII. 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 two (2) minute time limit for each speaker submitting or reading a public comment. Individuals will be held to established time limits.

Cynthia Chambry – Introduced herself as a new city resident and business owner of the Early Literacy Development Agency located in New Black Wall Street.

Malaika Wells – Mrs. Wells is President of the Stonecrest Citizens Coalition. She thanked council for the robust discussion at the January 9, 2023 Work Session, specifically Councilmembers Rob Turner and Alecia Washington for comments regarding Extended Stay Facilities. She asked that committee meetings continue to be broadcast and streamed and she expressed concerns about ARPA funds being given to DeKalb County School District, suggesting funds would be better used by local and county non-profits. Mrs. Wells stated she supports option one (1) in regard to the Ethics Board and that she is disappointed the Charter Review Commission is not on tonight's agenda and would like confirmation on when members will be appointed. Mrs. Wells also asked that URA facts be published on the city's website and that the public comment time be extended to three (3) minutes.

Charles Harper – The beginning of Mr. Harper's statement was not captured as the microphone was not on. He mentioned concerns regarding rental assistance and small businesses getting grant money. Mr. Harper stated he would like rental assistance.

Faye Coffield – Mrs. Coffield is concerned about ARPA funds going to the Board of Education. She would like the city to set up CPR training and would also like to see signs that indicate where AED machines are located. Mrs. Coffield is also concerned about ARPA money going to Piedmont College and would like to know what this money would be used for. Mrs. Coffield asked that the city hire off duty police officers to patrol.

Patricia Avery – Mrs. Avery has a business in the City of Stonecrest and wanted to introduce

herself. She appreciates the New Black Wall Street being in Stonecrest.

Mayor Pro Tem George Turner gave a brief response to the public comments.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Motion – made by Councilmember Rob Turner to move into Executive Session for litigation and personnel matters. Councilmember Tammy Grimes seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion – made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to exit Executive Session and return to the scheduled Council Meeting. Councilmember Tara Graves seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion – made by Councilmember Rob Turner to approve the minutes from Executive Session. Councilmember Tara Graves seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

X. 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.

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 - SLUP-22-007 6505 Charter Way - Keedra Jackson

Keedra Jackson, Deputy Planning and Zoning Director, gave a presentation. The applicant is Tonette Spencer. A SLUP is recommended to operate a short-term rental. Ms. Jackson gave a review of the supplemental regulations, including measurements of the home. Staff's recommendation was approval with conditions. Conditions are listed in the packet and were read at the meeting.

Motion – made by Councilmember Rob Turner to open public hearing on SLUP 22-007, 6505 Charter Way. Councilmember Tammy Grimes seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

The applicant, Tonette Spencer, thanked Council for the opportunity to help those in need and explained some features of the short-term rental property.
No one spoke in opposition to this item.

No one spoke in favor of this item.

Motion – made by Councilmember Rob Turner to close the public hearing on SLUP 22-007, 6505 Charter Way. Councilmember Tammy Grimes seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

b. For Decision- SLUP-22-007 6505 Charter Way - *Keedra T. Jackson*

Councilmember Tammy Grimes questioned plans to secure the cracked pavement, as well as the number of cars that can park in the driveway. Ms. Spencer confirmed she has attempted to fill the cracks, but they have reappeared. She also stated there is enough parking for three or four cars on the parking slab and that there is no parking on the grass. Councilmember Tammy Grimes asked the owner to remain committed to repairing the parking slab.

Mayor Pro Tem George Turner stated the home has two (2) bedrooms and the number of occupants for an overnight stay is no more than four (4) adults. The applicant added there is a bonus room on the property located on the lower level that is used for a sitting area. The restrictive hours are 10pm - 7am.

Motion – made by Councilmember Tara Graves to approve SLUP 22-007 6505 Charter Way with stated conditions. Councilmember Rob Turner seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

c. Public Hearing - SLUP 22-008 3434 Bleckley Drive - *Keedra Jackson*

Keedra Jackson, Deputy Planning and Zoning Director, gave a presentation. The applicant is Charmaine Hancock. Staff recommends approval with conditions, as listed in the packet. It was approved by the Planning Commission on November 8, 2022. There was a review of supplemental regulations, zoning conditions and staff recommendations.

Motion – made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to open public hearing on SLUP 22-008 3434 Bleckley Drive. Councilmember Tara Graves seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

The applicant was not present.
No one spoke in favor of the item.
No one spoke in opposition of the item.

Councilmember Tammy Grimes requested condition number ten get read into the record. Mayor Cobble asked if the applicant was required to renew annually. Deputy Director Jackson stated if there is no violation, the applicant may continue with the SLUP. If a violation occurs in the 1st year, the SLUP is voided, and the applicant must reapply after one year.

Motion – made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to close public hearing on SLUP 22-008 3434 Bleckley Drive. Councilmember Rob Turner seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

d. For Decision - SLUP-22-008 3434 Bleckley Drive - *Keedra T. Jackson*

Deputy Director Jackson stated that she spoke with the applicant and confirmed the meeting date and time but unfortunately, the applicant is not in attendance.

Councilmember Tammy Grimes stated she did not hear condition number ten (10) read by Ms. Jackson into the record. Ms. Jackson read condition number ten (10) into the record.

Mayor Cobble asked about a sentence in the staff report stating there shall be one year for a special land use duration due to the historical nature of this use in the residential setting. Keedra Jackson provided background and history of the subdivision. Staff is comfortable with the conditions they have recommended. Mayor Cobble asked if the use of historical nature in this context means past activity. Ms. Jackson stated that was correct and that it means past and/or frequent activity.

Motion – made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to approve SLUP 22-008 3434 Bleckley Drive with staff recommended conditions. Councilmember Tara Graves seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

e. Public Hearing - SLUP 22-009 1805 Springhill Cove - *Keedra Jackson*

Keedra Jackson, Deputy Planning and Zoning Director, gave a presentation. The applicants are Beris and Mevetta Henry. The applicants are seeking a SLUP to operate a Personal Care Home. The Planning Commission approved this item November 8, 2022. Deputy Director Jackson gave a review of the Personal Care Home regulations and general requirements. Staff recommends approval with conditions, as read at the meeting, and listed in the packet.

Motion – made by Councilmember Tara Graves to open public hearing for SLUP 22-009 1805 Springhill Cove. Councilmember Rob Turner seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Applicant, Beris Henry, spoke and stated Mrs. Mevetta Henry was working and could not attend the meeting. He stated that his wife, himself, and their daughter, who is a nurse, all work together to provide a service and have a passion for people.

No one spoke in favor of this item.

No one spoke in opposition of this item.

Motion – made by Councilmember Tara Graves to close the public hearing on SLUP 22-009 1805 Springhill Cove. Councilmember Rob Turner seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

f. For Decision- SLUP-22-009 1805 Spring Hill Cove - *Keedra Jackson*

Councilmember Tammy Grimes asked for clarification on which subdivision the property is located in. The applicant confirmed the home is located in Rogers Crossing Subdivision.

Mayor Cobble asked for clarification on condition number six (6). Ms. Jackson stated she was unsure why the condition was included and offered an apology. She stated the goal was to make sure the applicant had secured all of the necessary certifications to operate this use. Mayor Cobble would like to ensure the requirement is related to the state certification as they will get a certification based on the number of occupants or patients. Ms. Jackson confirmed the certification is for four (4) applicants. She also discussed the condition and read it into record as "the applicant shall secure the necessary certification by the State of Georgia and the necessary business license, building permits and certification of occupancy". Ms. Jackson will amend number six (6) to end at certification of occupancy.

Councilmember Tammy Grimes asked if the residents will be seniors with disabilities and if they will be mobile and going in and out of the property. Mr. Henry stated yes. Councilmember Tammy Grimes asked if the yard is fenced and if there will be a need for van assistance or transportation. Mr. Henry stated no to both questions.

Motion – made by Councilmember Rob Turner to approve SLUP 22-009 1805 Springhill Cove with conditions stated, as well as number six (6). Councilmember Tara Graves seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

g. Public Hearing - SLUP-22-012 7173 Covington Highway - *Keedra T. Jackson*

Keedra Jackson, Deputy Planning and Zoning Director, gave a presentation. The applicant is Dion Robinson and she is requesting a SLUP to operate as a late-night establishment. Ms. Jackson stated that due to the number of community members that attended the Planning Commission meeting on January 3, 2023, there was concern by the Commissioners that the item needed to return to staff, as well as to the CPIM. She stated the applicant did attend the previous meeting on last Thursday. Because of the concerns, staff is asking for a full cycle deferral.

Motion – made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to support a full cycle deferral and hold the public hearing at this time. Councilmember Rob Turner seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

h. For Decision - SLUP-22-012 7173 Covington Highway - *Keedra T. Jackson*

Full Cycle Deferral.

i. Public Hearing - TMOD-22-012 Sea Quest - *Keedra T. Jackson*

Keedra Jackson, Deputy Planning and Zoning Director, gave a presentation. Ms. Jackson stated the establishment has requested to extend the number of animals or the type of animals in the establishment and that there was concern the operation may not comply. After meetings with the City Manager and Sea Quest, staff felt it was necessary to write a text amendment to bring the establishment into compliance. Ms. Jackson outlined the staff's recommendations in the text amendment and clarified that this item was presented by staff and there is no applicant. She also stated staff's recommendation is approval of this item.

Motion – made by Councilmember Tara Graves to open public hearing on SLUP 22-012 7173 Covington Highway. Councilmember Tammy Grimes seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

No one spoke in favor of this item.

Those in opposition of this item are as follows:

Julie Robertson

Dana Davis

Christopher Eubanks

Faye Coffield

Motion – made by Councilmember Rob Turner to close the public hearing on SLUP 22-012 Sea Quest. Councilmember Tara Graves seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

j. For Decision - TMOD-22-012 Sea Quest - *Keedra T. Jackson*

Mayor Pro Tem George Turner inquired about the name of the item being TMOD 22-012 Sea Quest and stated that the text amendment would apply to anyone with an animal exhibition within the bounds of Stonecrest, therefore the item could have moved forward without the name Sea Quest. Ms. Jackson agreed and stated it was staff's decision to put that name in reference to the discussion that had been going back and forth with the attorney's office and city manager. Mayor Pro Tem Turner clarified Sea Quest is what triggered the item but it is for the proper zoning.

Mayor Pro Tem George Turner stated that any violations of the rules they put in place belong to another area and not in this arena, on this evening, and will be dealt with in another manner.

Councilmember Rob Turner asked if there are any other businesses looking to bring indoor or outdoor animal exhibitions to this area. Ms. Jackson stated that staff has not been contacted with such desires. Councilmember Turner asked what kinds of regulations are being utilized to secure safety or health issues for our citizens visiting these exhibitions at Sea Quest. Ms. Jackson stated that the State of Georgia has regulations that businesses such as this would have to follow and that they are enforcing those regulations on this type of use. She also stated that they have the wildlife animal ordinance that is regulated by the State of Georgia that Stonecrest will adhere to or follow. Councilmember Rob Turner asked if Staff had received any reports from those organizations. Ms. Jackson stated that she had not. Ms Jackson also asked to respond to Faye Coffield's questions and named the type of animals that are there. She clarified that the State of Georgia also has a list of animals that are permitted at any indoor animal exhibition, and she will share that document with council.

Mayor Cobble asked for clarity in the ordinance on the supplemental regulation pertaining to outdoor animal exhibitions and what staff is requesting written permissions for. Ms. Jackson agreed to make clarifications. Ray White, Planning and Zoning Director, stated that permission has to come from the owner to the city, to operate an animal exhibition if the exhibitor is not the owner.

Councilmember Tammy Grimes asked for confirmation that council is dealing with two different issues, with one being the TMOD and the other would be the business. She asked if it was council's business to deal with the TMOD. Ms. Jackson stated she was correct.

Motion – made by councilmember Tara Graves to defer TMOD 22-012 Sea Quest to the February 27th council meeting for decision only. Councilmember Tammy Grimes seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

XI. CONSENT AGENDA

XII. APPOINTMENTS

- a. For Decision** - URA Appointments, District 5 and Office of Mayor - *Mayor Pro Tem George Turner*

Recommending members for District 5 and Office of Mayor be replaced or reappointed. Mayor Cobble gave clarity that council is appointing citizens and not council members.

Attorney Thompson confirmed terms are for three (3) years, beginning January 2023 and ending December 2025. Preamble was also read by Attorney Alicia Thompson.

Motion – made by Councilmember Rob Turner to approve the appointment of two members: District 5, Tammy Grimes and office of the Mayor, Jazzmin Cobble to the URA. Councilmember Tara Graves seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

- b. For Decision** - Committees, Boards, Commissions and Agency Membership - *Mayor Pro Tem George Turner*

Mayor Pro Tem George Turner gave an introduction of the item and discussed membership. He stated resolutions will be completed by adding the member names. There was also a review of each Committee/Board.

Motion – made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to reappoint Harden Lark to the Construction Board of Appeals. Councilmember Rob Turner seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion – made by Councilmember Rob Turner to approve stated members to the SPLOST committee. Councilmember Tara Graves seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem stated committees should be chaired by a Councilmember, who can appoint someone else. Councilmember Rob Turner will take the lead on the SPLOST committee.

Motion – made by Councilmember Rob Turner to accept the stated members to the CID committee. Councilmember Tara Graves seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Tara Graves will take the lead on the CID committee and call the 1st meeting to order.

Motion – made by Councilmember Tara Graves to accept the stated members of the Parks and Recreation committee with replacement member Omari Barrow. Councilmember Tammy Grimes seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Alecia Washington will call the 1st Parks and Recreation meeting to order and elect officers.

Motion - made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to approve the stated members of the Finance Oversight Committee. Councilmember Tara Graves seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem George Turner will call the 1st meeting to order and elect officers.

Motion – made by Councilmember Rob Turner to approve the Transportation Committee members that have been reappointed and replaced. Councilmember Tammy Grimes seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Tara Graves requested Darien Senior be removed from this committee. Councilmember Tammy Grimes will call this meeting to order and elect officers.

Motion – made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to reappoint the slate of Zoning Board of Appeals members. Councilmember Tara Graves seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion – made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to accept the slate of Planning Commission appointees. Councilmember Tara Graves seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion – made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to defer the final constitution of the Economic Development Committee to the Special Called meeting on January 31, 2023. Councilmember Tara Graves seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Economic Development Director William Smith hopes to have a kickoff meeting in February. Attorney Alicia Thompson confirmed all city committees should have two council members. Council will later consider the Ethics Board, Alcohol Review Board, and Film and Entertainment Committees.

Attorney Thompson stated that per title 66 from URA law, it is stated that the Mayor or Board can designate a Chair for the committee.

Mayor Pro Tem George Turner confirmed committees are required to meet quarterly and it is not mandatory for the meetings to be broadcast.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

a. For Decision - Film Permit Text Amendment - 2nd Read - *William Smith*

Second read of the preamble was completed by the City Clerk.

Motion – made by Councilmember Rob Turner to approve the Film Permit Text Amendment. Councilmember Tammy Grimes seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

a. For Decision - Resolution Appointing DeKalb County to Conduct the City of Stonecrest General Election - *Sonya Isom*

Sonya Isom, City Clerk, introduced the item and read the preamble.

Motion – made by Councilmember Rob Turner to approve the resolution appointing DeKalb County to conduct the City of Stonecrest General Election. Councilmember Tara Graves seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

b. For Decision - Resolution to Set Qualifying Dates and Fees for the November 7, 2023 General Election - *Sonya Isom*

Sonya Isom, City Clerk, gave an introduction of the item and read the preamble of the resolution.

Motion – made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to accept the resolution to set qualifying dates and fees for the November 7, 2023, General Election. Councilmember Rob Turner seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

c. For Decision - Parks LED Lighting Vendor Recommendation - *Gia Scruggs*

Gia Scruggs gave an introduction of the item. Leisure Services identified a need for LED lighting. Musco Sports Lighting is the vendor recommendation. The total cost is \$374,211.00 and the fund source is ARPA funds. Ms. Scruggs is recommending approval.

Councilmember Tara Graves asked if additional funds were allocated to Parks and Rec on top of what is already been discussed. Ms. Scruggs confirmed that this is a portion of the funds already allocated.

Motion – made by Councilmember Rob Turner to approve the Parks LED Lighting vendor recommendation. Councilmember Tara Graves seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

XV. CITY MANAGER UPDATE

Gia Scruggs, Acting City Manager, stated she was excited to get started on FY23 budget and all that is in store. She will be bringing additional recommendations for ARPA spending to council soon based on survey results and staff recommendations. She encouraged everyone to visit the City of Stonecrest website for job opportunities and upcoming city events. She stated as of the beginning of January, the city has a total of 47 employees.

XVI. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

District 1 Tara Graves - no additional comments

District 2 Rob Turner - Happy New Year and he's excited about the direction we are moving in as a city. He stated this will be our best year yet.

District 3 Alecia Washington - Very excited about moving forward in 2023!

District 5 Tammy Grimes - To all educators in Stonecrest and in general, hang in there! We're going to get to the finish line in May. She stated educators are gearing up for Georgia Milestones in April, so she needs all students, parents, guardians, stakeholders, everybody who has a child or supports a child to understand what goes on in the schoolhouse. She asked that you come and give your support and make sure that your students know how to write.

Mayor Cobble - Reminder to the residents of Stonecrest that County Commissioner Marita Davis Johnson is hosting a legislative Town Hall tomorrow with legislators and invited everyone out to participate tomorrow at 6 pm, Lou Walker Center in the City of Stonecrest.

Mayor Pro Tem George Turner - We are having a Special Called Meeting January 31, 2023, at 6:00 pm.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion – made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to adjourn. Councilmember Rob Turner seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting ended at 9:21 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.