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## CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA

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### CITY COUNCIL MEETING – MINUTES

3120 Stonecrest Blvd., Stonecrest, GA 30038

Tuesday, December 27, 2022 at 6:00 PM

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*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*

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

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

The meeting began at 6:04pm

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

All members present.

Mayor Pro Tem George Turner stated protocol is that the public is not permitted to approach the Council by coming past the podium. If there are items that need to be given to the City Clerk, Acting City Manager, or Council, they should be given to security.

**III. INVOCATION**

Lead by Councilmember Rob Turner.

**IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**V. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Motion** - made by Councilmember Rob Turner to approve the December 27, 2022 meeting agenda. Councilmember Tara Graves seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**VI. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Approval - of October 10, 2022 Special Called Meeting Minutes

**Motion** - made by Councilmember Tara Graves to approve the October 10, 2022 meeting minutes. Councilmember Tammy Grimes seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- b. Approval - of October 24, 2022 City Council Meeting Minutes

Mayor Pro Tem stated that in the Public Hearing section, it was addressed who was in favor but not who was in opposition. In the future, he would like staff to be sure to include both.

Mayor Cobble stated that the spelling of Mrs. Zickert's name needs to be corrected in item D.

**Motion** - made by Councilmember Rob Turner to approve the October 24, 2022 meeting minutes with stated corrections. Councilmember Tammy Grimes seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- c. Approval - of November 7, 2022 Special Called Meeting Minutes

Mayor Pro Tem questioned if the meeting adjournment was before Council's comments. He stated this was a note and not a correction.

**Motion** - made by Councilmember Rob Turner to approve the November 7, 2022 meeting minutes. Councilmember Tara Graves seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- d. Approval - of November 14, 2022 Special Called Meeting Minutes

Mayor Pro Tem George Turner stated item 3a should be changed from constitute services to constituent services.

**Motion** - by Councilmember Tara Graves to approve the November 14, 2022 meeting minutes with stated corrections. Councilmember Rob Turner seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- e. Approval - of November 28, 2022 City Council Meeting Minutes

**Motion** - made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to approve the November 28, 2022 meeting minutes. Councilmember Tara Graves seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

## 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](mailto: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.*

One in person comment:

Faye Coffield - Concerns about the meeting start time as some people who work will have difficulty attending. Concerns about two minutes for public comments. Concerns about the development at Klondike and Mall Parkway and questioned if there is a new rule stating they can only have one point of entry/exit. Concerns about the city not having a tree ordinance even though many have asked for one. Questioned what is being built on Rock Springs and suggested there needs to be a look at the existing zoning to ensure it is compatible with what is already there. Residents south of I-20 want to remain a strong residential area. The city has failed to have a comprehensive development plan. Issue with zip code extension and still being listed as the City of Lithonia. Will there be changes to the way things are done with developers coming in or will it be business as usual?

There was one public comment submitted online by Malaika Wells and read by the City Clerk. Mrs. Wells gave details relating to Kwanzaa. She asked Council to reflect on the seven principles of Kwanzaa as we head into the New Year, using them to contribute to Stonecrest through leadership and service.

## **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.*

*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.*

## **IX. CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Pro Tem provided an explanation of Consent Agenda and how it will be used and voted on by Council.

Councilmember Tara Graves asked to remove items c and d for further discussion.

**Motion** - made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to approve the Consent Agenda items a, b, & e. Councilmember Rob Turner seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**a. For Decision** - Bike, Pedestrian, and Path Study Recommendation - *Gia Scruggs*

- b. **For Decision** - Economic Development Plan Recommendation - *Gia Scruggs*
- c. **For Decision** - ARPA Shade Structure Recommendation - *Gia Scruggs*

**X. APPOINTMENTS**

- a. Appointment to URA - Alecia Washington

**Motion** - made by Councilmember Rob Turner to approve the appointment of Alecia Washington to the Urban Redevelopment Agency. Councilmember Tara Graves seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**XI. REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS**

**XII. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. **For Decision** - Public Works Study Recommendation - *Gia Scruggs*

Gia Scruggs, Acting City Manager, gave an overview. She stated that Council previously requested a public works study be done to determine the feasibility of the city bringing in services from DeKalb County. She stated the Carl Vinson Institute of Government received the highest score and they have a cost of \$20,600.00. She also stated that the funding source would be the Engineering, General Fund and Professional Services.

Councilmember Tara Graves asked if the city is ready to take on Public Works with all of the other things the city has on its plate. Councilmember Graves stated there should be closure or things finalized before starting anything additional. She also asked the time frame of the study itself. Ms. Scruggs explained that it would take 4 to 6 months before entering into any type of agreement with DeKalb County to bring those Services over and that we would have to give lead time to DeKalb County, which would be 12 or 24 months. Ms. Scruggs also stated that even though the study is complete, that does not start the clock for the city to bring those services. She explained that this has been mentioned in several public sessions and was something Council directed Staff to bring up.

Mayor Pro Tem stated that it has been mentioned by the public and members of staff that the city could provide Public Works. He stated this study would answer some of those questions and help make a decision. He clarified that even if the study determines that the city can provide Public Works, the Council is not bound to do it unless they feel that the time is right.

Mayor Cobble stated that in 2021, while in preparation for the 2022 budget, one of the council's priorities was Public Works. She also explained the timeline of events that lead to the recommendation coming back before council. Mayor Cobble stated the study would be done in part to fill the request of the citizens who feel like those services could be better handled by the city. She also stated staff has been asked to go back and renegotiate the IGA with the county to see if we can enhance the level of service while deciding whether it is feasible or not to move forward. There is a meeting scheduled in January to tackle the IGA.

**Motion** - made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to approve the Public Works study recommendation presented to council from the Carl Vinson Institute. Councilmember Rob

Turner seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**b. For Decision - Leisure Services Equipment Recommendation - *Gia Scruggs***

Gia Scruggs, Acting City Manager, gave an overview. Ms. Scruggs stated that as a part of the FY23 budget approval, there was an in-house transition of services for right-of-way maintenance as well as janitorial service contracts. She stated that while multiple positions are being advertised by the Parks staff, staff wanted to ensure that they had the equipment they would need to perform these services. The city would no longer have to rent this equipment and it would be readily available to help with right-of-way maintenance as well as special events. Ms. Scruggs stated the cost is \$143,102.16 and the funding would be from Parks Equipment in the FY23 budget.

Councilmember Tara Graves asked if the Parks Department is currently doing right of way maintenance. Ms Scruggs confirmed that we are currently outsourcing the right -of-way maintenance but through the budget process for FY23, council approved transition of those services to be performed in house. Councilmember Graves asked about Council approving Kitson to take over right-of-way maintenance. Ms. Scruggs confirmed the approval was for the vendor to take over landscape maintenance for the Parks Department, including Browns Mill fields and parks mowing and field maintenance, stating Op-Tech has been providing the right-of-way maintenance throughout 2022. Councilmember Graves asked about the contract with Op-Tech. Ms. Scruggs explained that we are looking to transition those services in house. Councilmember Graves asked where the equipment would be stored. Ms. Scruggs explained most of them will be stored at Southeast complex and some in other places and staff would make sure the items would be secure. She stated the quicker the equipment is ordered; the quicker staff can begin transitioning that service and we will see a significant cost savings.

Mayor Pro Tem asked once we take over the right-of-way maintenance, will we be uniformed. Ms. Scruggs stated yes and confirmed she is currently working with Parks staff. She stated that could potentially be the next item that comes back before council depending on the costs.

**Motion** - made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to proceed with the Leisure Services recommendation that has been presented. Councilmember Rob Turner seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**XIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. For Decision - Film Permit Text Amendment, 1st Read - *William Smith***

William Smith, Economic Development Director, gave a brief presentation.

City Clerk, Sonya Isom, read the preamble.

**This was a First Read.**

**b. For Decision - Summaries from Committees - *Mayor Pro Tem George Turner***

Mayor Pro Tem George Turner gave a presentation.

City Clerk, Sonya Isom, read the SPLOST committee's 2022 yearend report.

**Motion** - made by Councilmember Rob Turner to reconstitute the SPLOST committee in 2023. Councilmember Tammy Grimes seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

Mayor Pro Tem George Turner stated that membership names will not be announced until the January 9, 2023 Work Session.

City Clerk, Sonya Isom, read the Transportation Committee's 2022 yearend report.

**Motion** - by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to reconstitute the Transportation Committee for 2023. Councilmember Rob Turner seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

City Clerk, Sonya Isom, read the CID 2022 yearend report.

**Motion** - made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to reconstitute the CID Advisory Committee for 2023. Councilmember Rob Turner seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

City Clerk, Sonya Isom, read the Parks and Recreation Committee 2022 yearend report.

**Motion** - made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to reconstitute the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee for 2023. Councilmember Tara Graves seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

Mayor Cobble gave a 2022 yearend report for the Finance Oversight Committee. She recommended reconstituting the committee for 2023 and agrees to meet quarterly instead of monthly.

**Motion** - made by Councilmember Rob Turner to reconstitute the Finance Oversight Committee for 2023. Councilmember Tara Graves seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**c. For Decision** - City Hall Hours & Council Chamber Capacity - *Gia Scruggs*

Gia Scruggs, Acting City Manager, gave a presentation. She stated she would like approval to adjust the hours of operation from 9:00am to 4:30pm to 8:30 am to 4:30 pm and to keep masks mandatory instead of optional.

**Motion** - made by Councilmember Rob Turner to change city hall hours to 8:30am to 4:30 pm. Councilmember Tammy Grimes seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**d. For Decision** - SDP-22-000015 The Enclave at Arabia Mountain - *Ray White*

Ray White, Planning and Zoning Director, gave a presentation and stated that staff is recommending a deferral of this item.

Councilmember Tammy Grimes inquired about the timeframe of the deferral and whether it is a 30-day cycle. Director White referred to the City's Attorneys. Winston Denmark, City Attorney, confirmed that it could be a 30-day deferral or longer if needed.

Councilmember Tammy Grimes asked if this would come back before Council at a council meeting or at a work session. She stated she wanted to ensure that every developer understands what is said and that Council will stand on what is said, when they come and want to develop in the Arabia Mountain Overlay.

**Motion** - made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes that SDP 22-000015 The Enclave at Arabia Mountain be deferred for 60 days. Councilmember Rob Turner seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **XIV. 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 go into Executive Session for personnel matters. Councilmember Tara Graves seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion** - made by Councilmember Rob Turner to return to the regular scheduled council meeting. Councilmember Tara Graves seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion** - made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to approve minutes from the Executive Session. Councilmember Rob Turner seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion** - made by Councilmember Tammy Grimes to approve the discussed personnel action from the Executive Session. Councilmember Rob Turner seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **XV. CITY MANAGER UPDATE**

Gia Scruggs, acting City Manager, thanked City employees for all of the hard work done this calendar year. She stated the year began with 26 employees and we currently have 40 fulltime employees, with more pending. She invited everyone out to the MLK parade scheduled in January.

Mayor Pro Tem asked if we are closer to solving the flock camera situation. Ms. Scruggs stated that we are closer to a resolution on the camera situation and will make a public

statement on that soon.

City Attorney, Winston Denmark, wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated to be safe.

**XVI. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

District 1, Councilmember Tara Graves - This is the last meeting of this year. Happy New Year! It's been an honor to serve as District 1 representative. Thank you and be safe.

District 2, Councilmember Rob Turner - Wishes everyone a Happy New Year and a very safe new year! 2023 will be the greatest year of your entire life!

District 3, Alecia Washington - Happy New Year. Looking forward to working and making Stonecrest a better city.

District 5, Tammy Grimes - Greetings from District 5! She is sure everyone had a Merry Christmas and wishing everyone a Happy Hanukkah as well as a Happy Kwanza. Make sure you listen and obey the principles of Kwanza and we will see you in the new year. Be Safe.

Mayor Jazzmin Cobble – Wishing everyone a great New Year. Thank you to staff for all the hard work throughout the year and thank you to all who have served on a Board and/or Committee or Commission. Stay engaged and there are some exciting things coming to the City of Stonecrest. Happy New Year. Buckle Up.

District 4, George Turner - Looking forward to 2023 with great things in the City of Stonecrest! Thank you for your time, attendance and contributions to Stonecrest.

**XVII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** - made by Councilmember Rob Turner to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Tammy Grimes seconded.

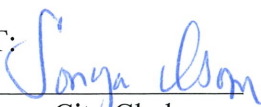
**Motion passed unanimously.**

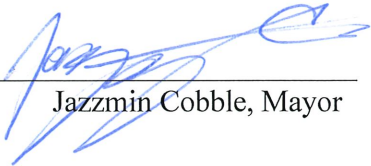
The meeting ended at 8:16pm.

As approved on the 23rd day of January, 2023.

CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA

ATTEST:

  
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Sonya Isom, City Clerk

  
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Jazzmin Cobble, Mayor

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.*