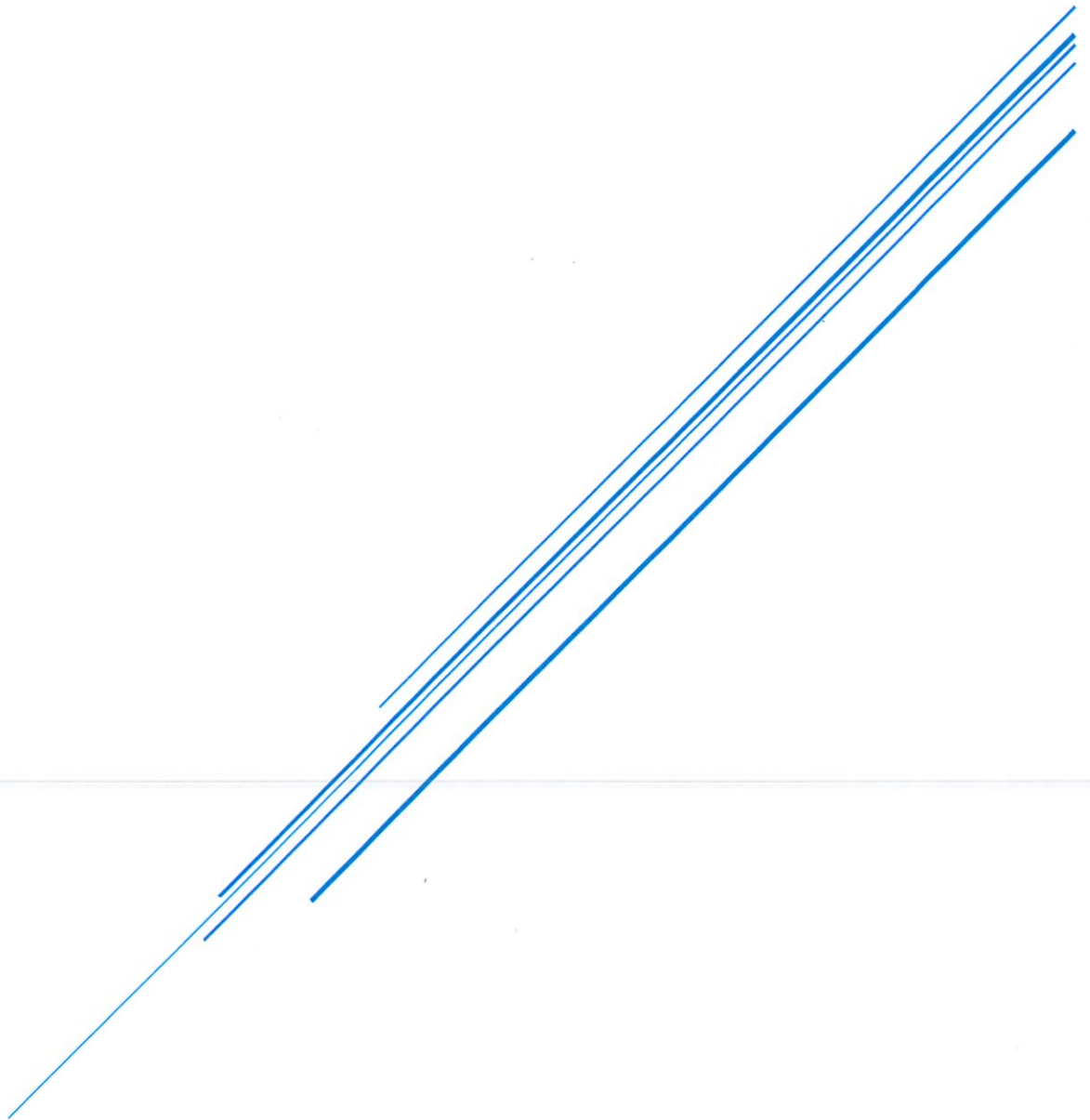


# STONECREST BUDGET RETREAT

June 20, 2024



CITY OF STONECREST  
BUDGET RETREAT  
JUNE 20, 2024

The Stonecrest Mayor and Council met on June 20, 2024, for a budget retreat for an update of the city's current workplan and discuss new ideas for future projects for inclusion in the city's CIP and 2025 annual operating budget. The meeting took place at the Brice Hotel in Savannah, Georgia.

Attending: Mayor Jazzmin Cobble

Councilmembers: Tara Graves, Terry Fye, Alecia Washington, George Turner, and Tammy Grimes

Others: City Manager Gia Scruggs and City Attorney Winston Denmark

Facilitators: Terrell Jacobs and Pam Helton, GMA

### **Introduction**

The day opened with a review of the agenda and ice breaker followed by reports from the city manager on current workplan initiatives. (Agenda and presentation attached)

### **Public Works**

Previous action items include:

- The council will submit questions on the CVIOG study and review responses before determining if public works will be provided in-house.

Update to action item:

- Stonecrest will not move forward with transitioning Public Works

The City Manager reported no questions were submitted and the CVIOG report provides the information should the council wish to offer public works services in-house. After discussing the pros and cons of bringing the public works service in-house, the consensus was to strengthen the IGA with the county and hold them accountable.

**Action Item:** Meet with County to review the IGA and follow-up on stormwater drainage issues in the city. The council suggested a report be prepared from the meeting and submitted to council.

Street lighting was discussed, and it was noted that there are standards for placing streetlights. If there are outages, it should be reported to Ga Power immediately. The Transportation Plan addresses additional streetlights and traffic signals in the new improvement areas.

### **Public Safety**

Previous action item included:

- Submit proposed job description to council for review

Update to action item:

- First review of applications scheduled for August 22, 2024

City Manager reported the Public Safety position was part of the budget and Sumter Consulting was used to for the search. After some discussion on the title for this position, it was agreed that it should be Public Safety Director. The City Manager will send an updated position search and job description to the council.

A Public Information meeting was held, and the consultant placed surveys on the website and social media outlet for public input.

A meeting was held with county officials and Public Safety management explaining the city's intentions of hiring a public safety director. The IGA was discussed and provisions in the IGA need to be followed. The council would like to be notified of significant events that happen in Stonecrest.

Before the job offer is made to a candidate, the council would like to meet with the candidate.

### **Budget Staffing Update**

City Manager reviewed current budget and status of open positions. It was suggested to have department directors attend work sessions and provide a report to the council. Discussion followed on code enforcement working on weekends, but current staffing levels prohibit this. Meeting with staff and giving clear expectations will hopefully address work expectations and consequences for non-productive staff.

Update: Deputy City Manager position advertised and additional officer will be requested at August meeting.

### **Charter Review Commission**

Action item from previous retreat:

- Appoint Charter Review Commission and create objectives for the commission.

The City Attorney explained the charter provision of the Charter Review Commission and the need for some directives for the commission. A scope of the work by the commission will need to be created to help the members understand their role.

Mayor Cobble asked that the following provisions be reviewed:

Section 2.10: Quorum for voting – mayor is not counted as quorum

- Mayor veto powers
- Elect Mayor Pro Tem
- Presiding Officer
- Review all changes that were previously made to charter to determine if they were necessary
- Review Sections 2 & 3 – Administrative
- Clarify chairing and powers
- Balance the city manager's duties and mayor's duties
- Review Chief Executive Officer vs. Chief Administrative Officer



The City Attorney will schedule a meeting to develop a scope of work and outline the areas of review by the commission.

#### **Budget 24FY and 25FY Request**

The city attorney reported the bonds have been validated and SPLOST funds can now be utilized on capital projects.

The city manager provided an update on all park improvements and scheduled future projects. The 2025 travel budget was discussed and the process for special events. The gratuities law in the Constitution was reviewed with council. Information can be found in GMA's *Handbook for Mayors and Councilmembers, Sources and Limits of Power* section of the publication.

Other recommendations for the FY25 budget included:

- Additional street lighting
- Reflectors
- Trash receptacles
- Pothole repairs
- R/W maintenance – more frequently
- Fund additional code enforcement officers
- Sidewalk extensions
- Blight Tax Ordinance
- 3% longevity raises
- Additional contract for beautification & gateway signs
- No truck signs

The City Manager provided an update on the CIP projects and request were noted for:

- Panola Rd Exit Improvements
- Potholes on Hwy 212 and 155
- Hillville Rd improvements toward Covington Hwy
- Everett Park Improvements
- Salem Park – restrooms, gazebo – trail connector and w/s infrastructure improvements
- Farington Park – community center

Work will continue on the existing CIP projects.

#### **Conclusion**

Budget retreats play a pivotal role in the planning and execution of successful projects for the city. The retreat provided valuable insights into the financial resources of the city and helped to clarify the steps needed to address current challenges. City Council is committed to enhancing its image and financial stability by continuing to move forward with improvement plans across the city in the various arenas.

Once the city has fully transitioned to the new software and accurate financial reports can be given to the council each month, the reports should be used as a financial management tool with a budget review made by the Finance Director.

GMA appreciates the opportunity to serve the city and appreciates the contributions of all participants and their time and effort in shaping the budget strategy for the city.

Pam Helton, Director, Member Services Consultant

Terrell Jacobs, Member Services Consultant

City of Stonecrest  
Mayor & Council  
Budget Retreat  
June 20, 2024



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## AGENDA

Agenda Overview & Ice Breaker	Terrell & Pam
Charter Review Commission	City Attorney
• Charge/Responsibilities	
• Recommendations	
Public Works Update	City Manager
Public Safety Update	City Manager
FY24 Budget Review	City Manager
Group Exercise	
Lunch	
FY25 Budget Recommendations	City Manager
SPLOST II Project Request	
Group Capital Budget Exercise -	
Adjourn	



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Fairington Park Renovation & Upgrade	2.1 g							400,000	200,000			400,000
Park studies and design												-
Parking Lot Paving								200,000	200,000	100,000	100,000	300,000
Fencing Improvement								100,000	100,000			100,000
Salem Park - Outdoor Exercise equipment	2.5 d							80,000	80,000			80,000
Park Furniture								80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	160,000
Basketball court upgrades								60,000	60,000			60,000
Salem Park Walking Path Upgrades	2.5 d							44,000	33,007			44,000
4 Granite stone walls at Salem Park								30,000	30,000			30,000
Building Upgrades										100,000	100,000	100,000
Light Upgrades										300,000	300,000	200,000
Other Parks Projects from Parks Master Plan								500,000				500,000
<b>TFD Projects</b>												
Park & Gateway Monuments								75,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	350,000
Park & Gateway Monument, bridge & streetscape, wayfinding signs Design								25,000				
Festive lights & banners									75,000	75,000	75,000	350,000
Bridgescape & Streetscape								30,000	30,000	50,000		100,000
Wayfinding & Other Signage												
<b>Total Expenditure</b>												
<b>Balance Forward</b>												

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## FY 25 Budget Request

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## SPLOST Projects

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## Impact (Things to Consider)

- Social
  - Community Well-being
  - Equity & Inclusion
  - Public Services
  - Safety & Security
- Economic
  - Job Creation
  - Local Economy
  - Property Values
  - Tax Revenue



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## Impact (Things to Consider)

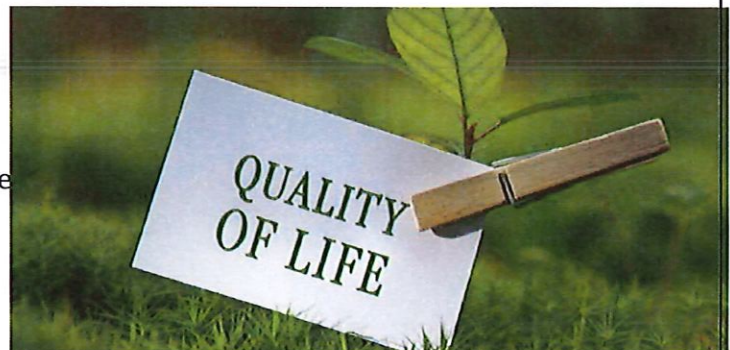
- Cultural
  - Heritage
  - Identity
  - Arts
- Infrastructure & Services
  - Existing Infrastructure
  - Service Capacity



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## Impact (Things to Consider)

- Public Health
- Quality of Life
  - Recreation & Leisure
- Risk Assessment
  - Potential Risks if Nothing is Done
  - Mitigation Strategies
- Long-term Impact
  - Longevity
  - Maintenance
  - Adaptability



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## Do-Ability (Things to Consider)

- Relevance
- Supportable
- Budget
- Funding Sources
- Level of Expertise Needed
- Technology Needed
- Sustainable
- Benefits to the Community



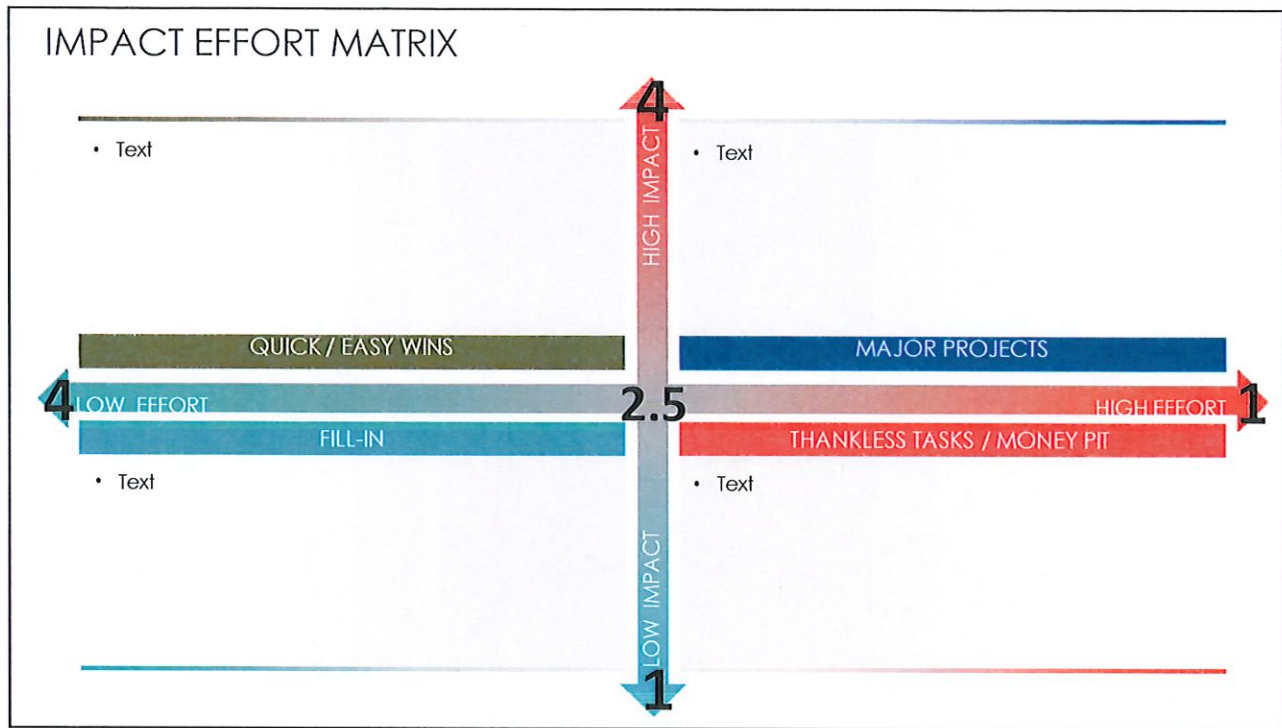
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## Impact & Do-Ability

- Impact (if we did this, what favorable impact would it have on fulfilling our objective? 1=Low impact, 4=High impact)
- Do-ability (how easy would this be to do? 1=Hard – high effort, 4=Easy – low effort)

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## Exercise 2

Review the Hi-Impact/Hi Do-ability Items as a Group

1. Prioritize Top Level Projects
2. Develop a High-Level Work Plan to Implement

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Capital Project	Proposed Capital	Funding Source	Description	Impact

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Capital Project	Proposed Capital	Funding Source	Description	Impact

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Capital Project	Proposed Capital	Funding Source	Description	Impact

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# THANK YOU!

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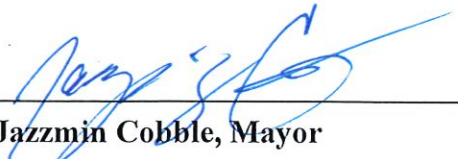
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[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]




As approved on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024

CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jazzmin Cobble, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sonya Isom, City Clerk