

Proposed government structure of the consolidated Municipality of Whitestown

1. Representation – Legislative body

- a. The consolidated municipality shall be governed by a municipal council. The council shall be comprised of seven (7) members, all elected on an at-large basis.
- b. Of the seven:
- Three (3) shall be elected from within the boundaries of the corporate district;
 - Three (3) shall be elected from the rural district; and
 - One (1) shall be elected from the combined boundaries of the entire municipality.

(For the purposes of the reorganization, “corporate district” means all of the area contained within the incorporated boundaries of the Town of Whitestown, as well as any area the municipal council decides to govern as corporate under subsection (f), below. “Rural district” means those areas outside of the corporate boundaries.)

c. The municipal council shall have all of the rights and responsibilities of a town council as outlined in IC 36-5-2, including the election of a president from within its membership. The president of the council shall act as the leader of the council, but shall not have the authority of the executive.

d. All ordinances, except those specifically exempted by the reorganization plan, are passed with the affirmative vote of four (4) of the seven (7) members of the council, except as outlined in subsection (e), below.

e. The municipal council shall have the authority to adopt ordinances independently affecting:

- The corporate district;
- The rural district; or
- The entire consolidated municipality.

Any ordinance, however, that independently affects a single district must have at least one (1) affirmative vote from a council member residing in that district.

f. The legislative body may, by vote of five (5) or more members, decide, by ordinance, to expand or contract the boundaries of the corporate district.

2. Representation – Executive

a. The offices of the town council president (as defined by IC 36-5-2), town clerk-treasurer, and township trustee shall be consolidated into one office. This office shall be

known as the office of the municipal trustee and shall serve as the executive of the consolidated municipality.

b. Upon adoption of the reorganization plan, the trustee shall have all of the fiscal and administrative responsibilities of the town clerk-treasurer as outlined in IC 36-5-6. In addition, the trustee shall also have the following powers:

- Appointment of one non-voting advisory member to all municipal boards and commissions, including but not limited to: police board, fire board, redevelopment commission; board of zoning appeals, are planning commission; parks commission.
- Veto power over any ordinance adopted by the municipal council. This veto may be overridden by vote of five (5) of the seven (7) members of the board.
- In the event of a tie vote by the municipal council, the trustee shall cast the tiebreaking vote.

3. Municipal management – Phase I

a. Upon ratification of the reorganization plan, the consolidated municipality shall be managed by a municipal manager. The manager shall be appointed by the municipal council and serves at the pleasure of the council.

b. The manager shall be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the municipality as outlined by 36-5-5, as well as all of the administrative functions of the township trustee.

4. Municipal management – Phase II

a. Two (2) years after the reorganization plan goes into effect and at any time thereafter, the municipal council may, by ordinance adopted by five (5) of seven (7) members, elect to have the municipal trustee take on the responsibilities of the municipal manager.

b. Upon consolidation of the offices of manager and trustee, the trustee shall have the statutory duties of:

- The city executive, as outlined in 36-4-5;
- The city clerk and fiscal officer, as outlined in 36-4-10; and
- Any administrative responsibilities of the office of the township trustee.

c. In the event the municipal council elects this change, either the municipal manager or the trustee shall administer the responsibilities of the office of the manager until the next general election.

d. The municipal council may adopt an ordinance at any time to allow the trustee to hire a municipal controller to administer the duties outlined in 36-4-10-4.5.

5. Elections

- a. The municipal trustee and the first municipal council shall be elected in the November 2014 general election, and shall take office on noon of January 1, 2015.
- b. In the first election, two councilors from the rural district and two councilors from the corporate district shall serve a four-year term. One councilor from the rural district, one councilor from the corporate district, and the at-large councilor shall serve a two-year term. At the organizational meeting of the council the body shall determine, in a random matter, which district councilors will serve two-year terms.
- c. The at-large member and two-year term councilors shall be elected again in the November 2016 general election, and shall take office at noon on January 1 of the following year.