

# **Governance Subcommittee Findings**

## **Principals & Assumptions**

1. The Governance Subcommittee's findings for the structure of the new City of Greenwood are based upon the following general principles:
2. State law providing for the reorganization of local units of government (I.C. 36-1.5) allows for innovative changes in local government. However, the new City of Greenwood would have to conform to numerous state laws that apply to the day-to-day operation of local government. Therefore, in order to avoid confusion and legal challenges in the future, the general structure of the new City of Greenwood should be compatible with the established structures of city government.
3. All of the findings regarding the structure of the new City of Greenwood should be based upon issues related to the future of northern Johnson County and should not be interpreted as a reaction to the personalities or policies of the incumbent officials in the City of Greenwood or White River Township. In no way should the recommendations be regarded as a criticism or endorsement of any individual or group of individuals holding any public office in the City of Greenwood, White River Township, or Johnson County.
4. The findings should reflect the American political theory and practice of the separation of executive and legislative functions of government as enshrined in the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Indiana as understood by its citizens. Furthermore, the recommendations should protect popular control of government and encourage the active participation by both the citizens of the new City of Greenwood and their elected representatives.
5. For a period of eight years following the first election in the new City of Greenwood, all boards and commissions (with the exception of the Board of Aviation Commissioners and the Greenwood Building Corporation) shall include residents from both east and west of the White River Township and Pleasant Township boundary.

## **Governance Subcommittee Findings**

The Governance Subcommittee's findings for the structure of the new City of Greenwood:

1. The new City of Greenwood shall be a second class city with an elected mayor, clerk, and common council as defined by the various laws of the State of Indiana and with the exceptions that follow. The common council may provide for mayor to appoint one or more deputy mayors as provided by state law.
2. The common council shall have eleven members. During the first eight years of the reorganized government and ending with their terms on January 1, 2024, seven members shall be elected from districts and four shall be elected at-large. Two at-large council member must reside in the old pre-merger City of Greenwood and two in the old pre-merger unincorporated portion of the White River Township. In the 2023 election, eight members shall be elected from districts and three members shall be elected at-large. The at-large members may live in any part of the city. A person is eligible to be a member of the common council only if the person meets the qualifications prescribed by IC 36-4-6-2.
3. The common council of the new City of Greenwood shall be encouraged to establish standing committees that parallel the major departments, boards, and commissions of the executive branch and/or specific city services and functions.
4. The mayor shall appointment, as provided by state law, a certified public accountant as city controller to be the head of a department of finance.
5. The elected city clerk shall serve as the clerk of the common council and the clerk of the city court and shall perform other duties as prescribed by state law and city ordinances. The city clerk shall also administer poor relief in White River Township. The mayor shall provide for the maintenance and care of abandoned cemeteries in White River Township by the Parks and Recreation Department of the new City of Greenwood.
6. The new City of Greenwood shall have a five member Board of Public Works and Public Safety. The mayor shall appoint the members. During the first eight years of the reorganized government and ending on January 1, 2020, at least two members must reside in the old pre-merger City of Greenwood and at least two in the old pre-merger unincorporated portion of the White River Township. The mayor may name one or more members of the common council to the board, but shall not be required to do so. The common council

is encouraged to form a public works, public safety, and ways and means sub-committees to provide proper legislative oversight of this board.

7. The new City of Greenwood shall have a three-member Trails Commission under the supervision of the Board of Works. The Park Board shall appoint one member and the Board of Works shall appoint two members. During the first eight years of the reorganized government and ending on January 1, 2020, one of the two members appointed by the Board of Works shall reside in the old pre-merger City of Greenwood and one in the old pre-merger unincorporated portion of the White River Township.
8. During the first eight years of the reorganized government and ending on January 1, 2020, three of the mayor's six appointees to the Planning Commission must reside in the old pre-merger City of Greenwood and three in the old pre-merger unincorporated portion of the White River Township and no more than two of the mayor's three appointees to the Board of Zoning Appeals may reside in either the old pre-merger City of Greenwood and in the old pre-merger unincorporated portion of the White River Township.
9. During the first eight years of the reorganized government and ending on January 1, 2020, two of the mayor's appointees to the four-member Parks Board must reside in the old pre-merger City of Greenwood and two in the old pre-merger unincorporated portion of the White River Township. If the Parks Board has more than four members, one half of the mayor's appointees must reside in the old pre-merger City of Greenwood and one half in the old pre-merger unincorporated portion of the White River Township.
10. During the first eight years of the reorganized government and ending on January 1, 2020, no more than two of the three members appointed by the mayor may reside in the old pre-merger City of Greenwood or in the old pre-merger unincorporated portion of the White River Township and one members appointed by the city council to the Redevelopment Commission must reside in the old pre-merger City of Greenwood and one in the old pre-merger unincorporated portion of the White River Township.
11. During the first eight years of the reorganized government and ending on January 1, 2020, one of the mayor's two appointees to the Economic Development Commission must reside in the old pre-merger City of Greenwood and one in the old pre-merger unincorporated portion of the White River Township.
12. During the first eight years of the reorganized government and ending on January 1, 2020, one of the city council's appointees to the Police Merit Board must reside in the old pre-merger City of Greenwood and one in the old pre-merger unincorporated portion of the White River Township. If feasible, any future fire merit board should have two members selected by fire fighters as

well as one appointed by the mayor and two appointed by the city council. During the first eight years of the reorganized government and ending on January 1, 2020, one of the city council's appointees to the Fire Merit Board must reside in the old pre-merger City of Greenwood and one in the old pre-merger unincorporated portion of the White River Township.

13. The elected officials of the new City of Greenwood shall be encouraged to seek permission from the State of Indiana to expand the jurisdiction of the City Court so that it can function as a small claims court.
14. The city judge of the new City of Greenwood shall appoint four members and the mayor of the new City of Greenwood shall appoint one member of a non-partisan Council Redistricting Commission to prepare the ordinance creating common council districts after each decennial census. Two of the commissioners appointed by the judge must reside on each side of the White River Township and Pleasant Township in the old pre-merger City of Greenwood and two in the old pre-merger unincorporated portion of the White River Township. The commission shall strive to create compact and contiguous districts of nearly equal population that do not divide recognized residential neighborhoods and communities. These communities may be identified as residential developments regulated by neighborhood associations (such as Valle Vista or Silver Springs) or neighborhoods united by a common history or character (such as Old Towne or Smith Valley). The commission, by majority vote, shall prepare one redistricting plan and present that plan to the mayor and the judge at a public hearing. At the public hearing, the mayor and the judge will either accept the plan or recommend changes in the plan. If both the mayor and the judge accept the plan, it will be submitted to the common council. If either the mayor or the judge recommends changes in the plan, the commission may change it or submit it as written to the common council. The common council may accept the plan or recommend changes in the plan. If the commission accepts the changes proposed by the common council, the plan is enacted. If the commission does not accept the changes proposed by the common council, the commission may present the plan to the city judge for approval. If the judge approves the plan, it is enacted. If the judge rejects the plan, the judge and the mayor dismisses the commission and a new commission is appointed to begin the process again. The districts created by the Council Redistricting Commission shall adhere to the legal requirements established in IC 3-4-6-3.
15. If the voters approve the consolidation of White River Township and the City of Greenwood in May of 2010, both entities shall cease to exist on July 1, 2010. In both entities all offices, elected and appointed, shall cease to exist.
16. During the transition period between the referendum approving the creation of the new City of Greenwood and the 2011 city election, the common council of the interim government shall be composed of the current members of the

Common Council of the old City of Greenwood and the White River Township trustee and Advisory Board members. During the transition period, the current mayor, judge, and clerk-treasurer of old City of Greenwood shall serve as the mayor, judge, and clerk of the new City of Greenwood.

17. During the transition period between the referendum approving the creation of the new City of Greenwood and the 2011 city election, all members of the common council must be a resident of the new city and meet the residency requirements established by IC-36-4-6-2. Residency in unincorporated White River Township before the organization shall satisfy the qualification established by Section 2 (b) to wit “residency in territory that is annexed by the city.” If an official designated above to serve as representative of White River Township is not qualified or is unable or unwilling to serve during the transition period between the referendum approving the creation of the new City of Greenwood and the 2011 city election, a new member shall be chosen by a majority vote of the remaining representatives of White River Township. That new member must reside in the old pre-merger unincorporated portion of the White River Township. If an official designated above to serve as representative of the old City of Greenwood is not qualified or is unable or unwilling to serve during the transition period between the referendum approving the creation of the new City of Greenwood and the 2011 city election, a new member shall be chosen by a majority vote of the remaining representatives of the old City of Greenwood. If replacing an at-large council member, that new member must reside in the old pre-merger City of Greenwood. If replacing a district council district, that new member must reside in the appropriate district.
  
18. During the transition period between the referendum approving the creation of the new City of Greenwood and the 2011 city election, a three-fifths (seven out of eleven) vote by the common council shall be required to approve any ordinance. This provision shall not apply after the new council members, elected in 2011, take office.
  
19. Beginning, January 1, 2011, the salaries of the elected officials of the new City of Greenwood shall be within the following ranges:

City Mayor	\$85,800.00
City Clerk	\$56,500.00
City Attorney	Between \$72,000 and \$82,000
City Controller	Between \$72,000 and \$82,000
City Engineer	Between \$72,000 and \$82,000
City Council Members	\$15,700*
City Judge	\$47,500.00**
Board & Commission Members	The same as current compensation

\* But not to exceed a total of \$173,000 for all council members.

\*\* Does not include income from court fees and probation duties.

20. If the new City of Greenwood annexes any areas of Clark or Pleasant townships between 2010 and 2020, residents of those areas shall be considered to be residents of the old pre-merger City of Greenwood for purposes of serving on city boards or commissions.