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ORDINANCE 2016-27

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WHITESTOWN, INDIANA, CREATING A VETERANS COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Town Council ("Town Council") of the Town of Whitestown, Indiana ("Whitestown" or "Town") seeks to provide veterans with a meaningful voice in municipal government; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council seeks to identify additional ways in which we can honor our veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council desires to increase awareness within Whitestown of local veteran's issues and needs, including but not limited to veteran unemployment concerns; and

WEHEREAS, the Town Council desires to encourage local businesses to consider skilled and qualified veterans for employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council desires to work closely with American Legion Post 410 to organize Whitestown ceremonies and other events for veterans holidays; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council desires to provide events and/or activities that will promote a better understanding and appreciation amongst residents of the achievements, contributions, and sacrifices our veterans have made in defense of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council desires to study options for building within Whitestown a permanent memorial to veterans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Whitestown, Indiana, as follows:

1. **Establishment.** There is hereby created a Veterans Committee for the Town of Whitestown, Indiana.

2. **Membership**. The Veterans Committee shall consist of seven (7) voting members and two (2) nonvoting members, to be appointed as follows:

   a. four voting (4) members shall be appointed by the Town Council President with the approval of a majority of the Whitestown Town Council, provided that: (a) a minimum of three (3) such members shall either be current or honorably discharged members of any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, and (b) at least one (1) such member shall be an active member (or a member of the American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of the American Legion) of the Whitestown's American Legion Post 410;

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b. three voting (3) members shall be appointed by the Town Council Vice-President with the approval of a majority of the Whitestown Town Council, provided that: (a) a minimum of two (2) such members shall either be current or honorably discharged members of any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, and (b) at least one (1) such member shall be an active member (or member of the American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of the American Legion) of Whitestown's American Legion Post 410;

c. one (1) Whitestown employee, who must be either a current or honorably discharged member of any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, shall be appointed as a nonvoting member by the Town Council President with the approval of a majority of the Whitestown Town Council; and

d. the Boone County Veteran Service Officer shall be an ex-officio nonvoting member and serve in an advisory capacity to the Veterans Committee.

Though not required by this Ordinance, the appointing authorities are strongly encouraged to appoint the spouse of a current or honorably discharged member of any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces as at least (1) of the two (2) non-active military/veteran members. Moreover, as Whitestown is an inclusive community that promotes diversity, equality, and tolerance among all of its citizens, the appointing authorities are also strongly encouraged to appoint members with varying and diverse backgrounds.

3. **Expansion of Membership**. As set forth in Section 4, members of any veterans' service organization may be appointed to the Veterans Committee. Nevertheless, in the event that an Indiana nonprofit organization that is organized for veterans purpose and is exempt from taxation under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code acquires property and actively operates a local branch, lodge, or chapter within Whitestown, such organization may petition the Town Council and the Town Council shall consider in its discretion amending this Ordinance to add an additional member to the Veterans Committee, appointed by the Town Council President, from such organization.

4. **Qualifications**. Applicants seeking membership to the Veterans Committee should demonstrate a desire to create additional ways to honor our veterans in the Whitestown community, and should have an interest in improving the everyday life of Whitestown's military veterans. All voting members of the Veterans Committee shall be Whitestown residents. All members that are current or honorably discharged members of a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces shall also be active members of at least one (1) organization listed in the United States Department of Veterans Affairs' Directory of Veterans and Military Service Organizations. Discharge status should be evidenced by a long version DD Form 214 Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, or other similar official certificate showing discharge status. Whitestown Town Council members shall not be members of the Veterans Committee.

5. **Terms**. The initial term for each member of the Veterans Committee shall expire on December 31, 2018. Subsequent terms shall be for two (2) year periods thereafter. Individuals may be appointed for additional terms. Members shall serve at the pleasure of the Town Council and may be removed from the Committee with or without cause, by a majority

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vote of the Town Council. Residents seeking appointment to the Veterans Committee are encouraged to email a letter of interest directly to the Town Manager or Assistant Town Manager. A vacancy automatically occurs if a voting member: fails to attend 3 consecutive committee meetings; moves his/her residence outside of the Whitestown municipal boundaries; or files papers for candidacy to an elected office within Whitestown. Voting members shall not serve more than three (3) consecutive terms.

6. **Meetings**. The Veterans Committee shall hold meetings at least six (6) times each term, and may hold such additional meetings as the membership of the Veterans Committee determines to be appropriate. At its first meeting each term, the Veterans Committee shall select from its membership a President, Vice-President, and Secretary, and the Veterans Committee shall take and maintain minutes of all of its meetings. Minutes shall contain at a minimum the time and place of each meeting, the names of the members present, all official acts of the Committee, the votes given by members, and a summary of all proceedings before the Committee. A member of the Town's administrative staff will serve as a nonvoting liaison. A majority of the Committee's members shall constitute a quorum. All official meetings that include a majority of the Committee shall be open to the public.

7. **Duties**. The Veterans Committee is charged with identifying additional ways that the Town of Whitestown can honor its veterans throughout the year. The Veterans Committee is also charged with reviewing, considering, discussing, debating, and advocating on such issues and matters affecting local government and the Whitestown community that the members of the Veterans Committee and other veterans residing with Whitestown (or active members of Whitestown's American Legion Post 410) determine to be important and appropriate, and which are for the betterment of Whitestown and its veterans. The Veterans Committee is encouraged to identify issues impacting Whitestown veterans that should be considered by local government, seek and develop realistic and efficient solutions, and make recommendations for consideration by the Town Council. The Veterans Committee shall report to the Town Council on its activities at least two (2) times each term.

8. **Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

Adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Whitestown, Indiana, on this 24 day of August, 2016.

THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WHITESTOWN, INDIANA	YAY/NAY
Eric Miller, President	Yes
Susan Austin, Vice-President	Yes

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Kevin Russell — YAY

Clinton Bohm — YAY

Jeffrey Wishek — YAY

ATTEST:

Matt Sumner, Clerk-Treasurer
Town of Whitestown, Indiana

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