

**COMMISSIONER MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
November 17, 2025
9:00 AM**

ATTENDANCE:

COMMISSIONERS:

Rick Woodall, President
Tom Helmer, Vice President
Andy Beck

COUNCIL:

Stephanie Campbell, President

ATTORNEY:

Jim Ensley

AUDITOR'S OFFICE

Evelyn Williams

AUDIENCE:

66 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on November 17, 2025, at 9:00 AM in regular session. The meeting was held at the Putnam County Courthouse. Woodall opened the meeting and the pledge to the flag was given.

VISITORS BUREAU

Jerrold Jernigan, Director of the Putnam County Visitors Bureau, presented an award to the county for Putnam County Best of the Best for Edna Collins Bridge.

Mr. Jernigan also brought to the Commissioners attention that two appointments would be up in January 2026 for the Putnam County Tourism Commission and Putnam County Convention and Visitors Bureau Board. He asked that Wes Kendall and Emily Knuth be reappointed.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Cheyenne Maddox with Planning & Building Department presented a rezone of 1.7 acres for Darnell Barnett going from C2 to residential so they may build a residence. Cheyenne stated they have not received anything against it. Beck made a motion approve ordinance 2025-11-17-1. Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

COUNTY ROAD 125 NORTH

Bonnie Sparks stated she would like the gravel road that starts at CR 150 N and goes to 125 N to be chipped and sealed. She stated handicapped and elderly residents live along it. Clint Maddox, Highway Director stated he's familiar with the road. He stated when they chip and seal on gravel roads the residents usually are not happy with the end product. He stated gravels are gravel for a reason due to the lack of traffic and the cost. Sparks stated she is concerned when it rains and washes out over a third of the road. She asked if something could be done. Discussion was made. Woodall stated they would investigate.

HIGHWAY REPORT

Director Clint Maddox presented:

- 1) Maddox asked Jim if he had any contract with the City of Greencastle regarding Keightly Road. Ensley stated he is still waiting on the city to get back with him.
- 2) Jamrr Construction is working on Bridge 133 and asked if the county could pay the bill as an emergency claim to get it in before the end of year. Woodall made a motion to pay the claim as emergency. Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3) Looking at taking some bridges off the list of replacements. They can use piping to fix them instead of total replacement.
- 4) Received two fuel system quotes:
K & W through Keystone \$315,000
Gasoline Equipment \$445,000
Both are comparable to each other including taking tanks out and replacing. Beck asked if it could be paid from hazardous waste fund. Ensley will research.
- 5) The passer rating bids for 2026/2027 will be due. The Commissioners will meet on December 15th after the regular commissioner meeting.
- 6) United Consulting did a short presentation of the ratings for Putnam County bridges.
- 7) Woodall stated the Highway Department has an employee off work that has exhausted their FMLA and is asking for a leave of absence. Beck made a motion to deny. Helmer seconded. The motion passed.

911 REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL EMPLOYEES

David Clodfelter, 911 Director was asked at the last meeting to find a way to help offset costs of hiring 2 additional employees. Clodfelter stated he has 2 supervisory positions that are open with a total budget of \$116,000. He stated if he could have 4 senior dispatchers instead of his current 3, not fill the two supervisory positions he would only need to find money for one of the requested positions. Discussion was made regarding where the remaining money would come from. Woodall made a motion to start the next step asking the Council for approval and then figure out the funding. Beck seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PLANNING

Woodall stated at the October 20th meeting the Commissioners voted 2-1 to put a one-year moratorium for UDO's. The Planning Commission met and voted to recommend a moratorium on solar energy. Beck stated after what they have dealt with this year he believes they have a lot of research to do before they can decide to allow solar power. The moratorium would give them that time. Woodall asked if a moratorium is approved today would that be for the future? Ensley stated it would be effective today. It would not include the previous projects. The moratorium would not apply to towns unless they vote to adopt it. The Commissioners heard from members of the audience. Beck made a motion to enforce the moratorium. Helmer seconded. Woodall voted no. The moratorium passed 2 to 1.

MINUTES

November 3, 2025 – Helmer made the motion to approve. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VETERANS OFFICE

Woodall stated the Veterans Officer resigned due to health issues. They have received one application, Brian Hopkins. He works in Indianapolis for the Veterans Office. Helmer stated he would be a good fit. Helmer made a motion to hire Brian Hopkins as the new Veterans Officer. Beck seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER APPOINTED EMPLOYEES

Beck stated he would like to set up a year-end review for the department heads that they appoint. Woodall thinks it is a great idea. Discussion was made on how to proceed. The Commissioners decided to meet with the department heads on November 26th starting at 8:00 am. in the Commissioners' meeting room. Beck would reach out to them to set up times.

COUNTY PAINTINGS

Woodall stated they were made aware that the Commissioners needed to approve a person using a picture of a painting owned by them for the cover of their book they wrote. Woodall made a motion to allow Larry Tippin to use a picture of one of the county's paintings for the front of his book. Beck seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

KEIGHTLY ROAD PROPERTY

Woodall made a motion to pay a claim today for the purchase of the Keightly Road property. Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

LAWNMOWER

Woodall stated that there is a lawnmower that is not in good condition at the Cloverdale EMS station that an employee wants to purchase. Woodall made the motion to allow the employee to purchase it for \$300. Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

ANNEX UPDATE

Woodall stated Jason Simler with Baker Tilly will be at the council meeting tomorrow night to discuss financing for the annex. The annex committee met in Indianapolis last week to look at materials that will go in the annex. He stated part of the process to start the loan is to have collateral and they will have to decide what that will be.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

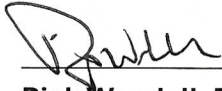
Woodall stated the property the county is purchasing for the health department is moving along. The hospital will be moved out by March 1, 2026. Meantime, a construction company is working on a quote to renovate the building.

MAIL

The Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

ADJOURN

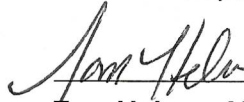
Helmer made the motion to adjourn. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.



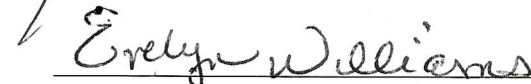
Rick Woodall, President



Andy Beck



Tom Helmer, Vice President



Attest: Auditor's Office

Evelyn Williams

ORDINANCE # 2025-11-17-1

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE PETITION TO REZONE A PARCEL OF LAND
LOCATED IN PUTNAM COUNTY, INDIANA**

WHEREAS, Donald Barnett has initiated and presented this Ordinance to amend the Putnam County Zoning Ordinance by amending the zoning map;

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Plan Commission has reported that it held a public hearing concerning this Ordinance on November 10, 2025, after timely notification of the hearing was given by the Banner-Graphic, Greencastle, Indiana and sent to adjoining property owners on or before the 24th day of October, 2025.

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Plan Commission has reported that it paid reasonable regard to the following factors enumerated in IC 36-7-4-603 in consideration of the Ordinance and determination of a recommendation to be made to the legislative body of Putnam County;

- (1) The comprehensive plan;
- (2) Current conditions and the character of current structures and uses in each district;
- (3) The most desirable use for which the land in each district is adapted;
- (4) The conservation of property values throughout the jurisdiction; and
- (5) Responsible development and growth.

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Plan Commission has certified this Ordinance to the legislative body with a favorable recommendation by a majority vote for adoption.

WHEREAS, the legislative body has considered the recommendation of the Putnam County Plan Commission and has paid reasonable regard to the factors enumerated in IC 36-7-4-603 before acting on this Ordinance;

WHEREAS, the legislative body has determined that this Ordinance should be adopted without amendment as certified by the Putnam County Plan Commission. Therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED AND ADOPTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE BODY OF THE COUNTY OF PUTNAM, INDIANA:

That the Putnam County Zoning Map, 155-004, of the Putnam County Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by changing the zoning classification for the following described real estate from "General Commercial (C2)" to "Residential (R1)" for the following described parcel.

Parcel #67-09-16-202-018.000-007

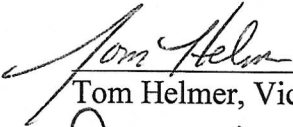
LEGAL DESCRIPTION ATTACHED HERETO.

THIS ORDINANCE TAKES EFFECT UPON PASSAGE.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Putnam County Board of Commissioners, this 17th day of November, 2025.



Rick Woodall, President



Tom Helmer, Vice President



Andy Beck

ATTEST:



Kristina Berish, Auditor

Prepared by: James W. Ensley, Attorney at Law

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-11-17-2

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A MORATORIUM ON THE APPROVAL OF
NEW SMALL MODULAR REACTORS, DATA CENTERS, SOLAR ENERGY
CONSERVATION SYSTEMS AND WIND ENERGY CONSERVATION SYSTEMS
TO EXPIRE NOVEMBER 17, 2026, IN PUTNAM COUNTY, INDIANA.

WHEREAS INDIANA CODE 36-7-4 ET SEQ. EMPOWERS
THE PUTNAM COUNTY, INDIANA AREA PLAN COMMISSION TO
THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PUTNAM COUNTY, INDIANA,
CONCERNING ORDINANCES FOR THE ZONING OR DISTRICTING OF ALL LANDS
WITHIN PUTNAM COUNTY, INDIANA.

WHEREAS, in 2023, Putnam County, Indiana adopted a Unified Development Ordinance,
effective January 1, 2024.

WHEREAS, at a meeting held on Monday, October 20, 2025, the Putnam County, Indiana Board
of Commissioners requested that the Putnam County, Indiana, Area Plan Commission
hold a public hearing for a moratorium on the approval of new solar farm projects for the
purposes of ensuring public health, safety and general welfare.

WHEREAS at a meeting held on Monday, November 10, 2025, the Putnam County, Indiana,
Area Plan Commission conducted a public hearing regarding the proposed moratorium
for the purposes of ensuring public health, safety and general welfare and
the Putnam County, Indiana, Area Plan Commission forwarded and certified a favorable
recommendation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
PUTNAM COUNTY, INDIANA AS FOLLOWS.

The Board of Commissioners of Putnam County, Indiana do hereby adopt a moratorium on the approval of Small Modular Reactors, Data Centers, Solar Energy Conservation Systems, and Wind Energy Conservation Systems for 1 year until November 17, 2026, within the unincorporated areas of Putnam County, Indiana, effective November 17, 2025.


BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, PUTNAM COUNTY, INDIANA

Rick Woodall, President

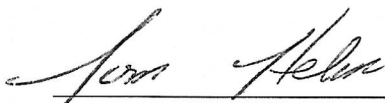


Andy Beck, Member

ATTEST:



Kristina Berish, Auditor



Tom Helmer, Member

Prepared by James W. Ensley, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 121, Greencastle, IN 46135