

**Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2024**

The Town Council of the Town of Kouts, Indiana met in the Kouts Town Hall, 210 South Main Street, Kouts, Indiana on the 8th day of January, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of conducting their regular monthly meeting.

Councilman Tyler Brock called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Roll call was taken and the following members were present: Council Members Tyler Brock, Tim Gant, Blake Jefferson, Harold Salyer and CJ Wittmer. Also present, Clerk-Treasurer Laurie Tribble, Attorney Schwerd, Orville Jefferson, Park Director/Building Inspector, Michael Miller, Town Marshall, and Jeremy Gettler, Fire Chief.

Council Re-Organization

-President: Councilor Salyer motioned to reappoint Tyler Brock as President of the Town Council. Councilor Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

-Vice President: Councilor Salyer motioned to reappoint Blake Jefferson as Town Council Vice-President. Councilor Gant seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Contracts

-Attorney: Councilor Jefferson motioned to approve Robert Schwerd and his law firm Schwerd, Fryman and Torrenga's contract as attorneys' representing the Town of Kouts for the calendar year 2024 and Councilor Wittmer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0. Contract is on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office

Annual Appointments

-Town Marshal: Councilor Wittmer motioned to retain Michael Miller as Town Marshal for the calendar year 2024. Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

-Building Inspector- Councilor Salyer motioned to retain Orville Jefferson as Building Inspector for the calendar year 2024. Councilor Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

-Park Director- Councilor Wittmer motioned to retain Orville Jefferson as Park Director for the calendar year 2024. Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

-Plan Commission-Councilor Jefferson motioned to appoint council members CJ Wittmer and Tim Gant, and staff appointment Laurie Tribble to the Planning Commission for the calendar year 2024. Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Council Liaison Positions:

- Police Department:** CJ Wittmer was reappointed to Police Department liaison.
- Park Department:** Tyler Brock was reappointed to Park liaison.
- Fire Department:** Blake Jefferson was reappointed to Fire Department liaison.
- Stormwater:** Harold Salyer was reappointed to the Storm Water Board liaison.
- MCO:** Harold Salyer was reappointed to MCO liaison.
- Engineer:** Blake Jefferson was reappointed to Engineer liaison.
- NIRPC Representative:** CJ Wittmer was appointed to be the NIRPC Representative.
- Clerk-Treasurer:** Tyler Brock was reappointed to Clerk-Treasurer liaison.

Approval of the Utility Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the December 11, 2023 utility meeting minutes were presented to the council for approval. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2023 utility meeting minutes as submitted. Councilor Wittmer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the December 11, 2023 council meeting were presented to the council for approval. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2023 regular meeting minutes as submitted. Councilor Wittmer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Claims: The final Accounts Payable Docket for 2023 was presented to the council for approval. Councilor Wittmer motioned to approve the accounts payable docket for December 12, 2023 to December 31, 2023 as submitted. Councilor Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Claims: The Accounts Payable Docket for January 2023 was presented to the council for approval. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve the accounts payable docket for January 1, 2024 to January 8, 2024 as submitted. Councilor Wittmer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

***RESOLUTION 2023-1 A RESOLUTION ALLOWING THE CLERK-TREASURER TO CANCEL OLD OUTSTANDING CHECKS-** Councilor Wittmer motioned to approve Resolution 2024-1 and Councilor Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

***RESOLUTION 2024-2-A RESOLUTION ENCUMBERING 2023 FUNDS TO PAY IN 2024-** Councilor Salyer motioned to approve Resolution 2024-2 and Councilor Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Departmental/Contractual Reports

***Clerk-Treasurer-** Laurie Tribble asked the council members if they received a copy of the audit report. They responded yes with the exception of Councilor Gant who is new to the council this year. Surf Internet installed service to Drazer Park. She lastly reported she had the final contract documents for the Church Street Storm Water Project for the council to sign.

***Attorney-** Attorney Schwerd reported that he has reviewed the Environmental Restrictive Covenant that is a legal document that runs with the land the Town Hall is on. It basically states the ground water can't be used for anything due to contaminants in the ground from the old Shutske gas station to the north of the building. We can't add a basement to the property or enlarge the building. If the building were to be destroyed, it could be rebuilt the same. The contaminant will continue to evaporate over time. IDEM concern is only if the ground is disturbed. The property owner is offering \$15,000 just in case of any future testing would need to be done. Attorney Schwerd stated we could counter offer at \$20,000. The council tabled the decision to sign the covenant until the next meeting.

***Engineering-** No report.

***Park-** No report.

***Police-** Chief Miller said Shop with A Cop went well. They had 2119 service calls, 30 crash reports and 18 arrests in 2023.

***Plan Commission-** No report.

***Building Inspector-** No report.

***Storm Water Board-** Kevin Salyer reported there will be a pre-construction meeting soon and they hope to start the Church Street Project asap.

***Fire Department-** Chief Gettler reported to the Council they had 375 calls for service in 2023. They have two people in the academy now. He would also like to review the fire protection ordinance and add re-inspection fees.

***Economic Development Commission-No report.**

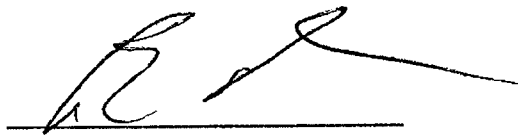
Adjournment:

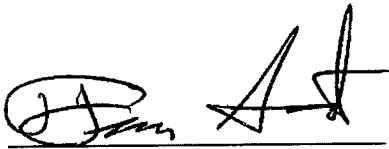
Councilor Salyer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m., and Councilor Wittmer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

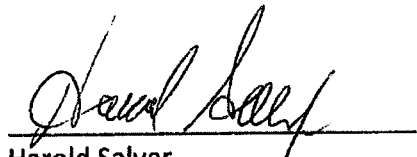
Laurie A. Tribble
Clerk-Treasurer


Tyler Brock


Blake Jefferson


Tim Gant


CJ Wittmer


Harold Salyer