

**Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2024**

The Town Council of the Town of Kouts, Indiana met in the Kouts Town Hall, 210 South Main Street, Kouts, Indiana 46347 on the 12th day of February at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of conducting their regular monthly meeting.

Council President 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: Councilors Tyler Brock, Tim Gant, Blake Jefferson, Harold Salyer and CJ Wittmer. Also present, Clerk-Treasurer Laurie Tribble, Attorney Robert Schwerd, Police Chief Michael Miller and Fire Chief Jeremy Gettler.

Approval of Minutes: *The minutes of the January 8th, 2024 regular meeting minutes were submitted to the council for approval. Councilor Wittmer motioned to approve the minutes as submitted and Councilor Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.*

Approval of the Utility Meeting Minutes: *The minutes of the January 8th, 2024 utility meeting minutes were presented to the council for approval. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve the minutes as submitted and Councilor Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.*

Approval of Claims: *The Accounts Payable Docket for January 9th to February 12th, 2024 was presented to the Council for approval. Councilor Wittmer motioned to approve the Accounts Payable Docket as submitted and Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.*

Departmental/Contractual Reports:

**Clerk-Treasurer-Laurie Tribble reported Mike Kleinpeter sent an agreement between the Town and Kleinpeter Consulting Group, LLC for a Uniform Relocation Act Professional Services Contract. The contract is for assistance, skills and knowledge to ensure proper acquisition of land needed for the water project. This contract is not to exceed \$10,000. Acquisition fees will be billed at an hourly cost of \$125/per hour. Attorney Schwerd reviewed the contract and recommended the council sign the agreement. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve the contract as submitted and Councilor Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.*

***Attorney-Attorney Schwerd** discussed with the council the Restrictive Covenant Agreement with the property to the north of Town Hall. It was explained that there would be some restrictions that come with signing the contract such as we can't put in a well. Attorney Schwerd stated that the contamination would continue to dissipate as time goes on. The Council suggested Attorney Schwerd counter offer the settlement amount at \$20,000 to recover some of the attorney fees.

***Park-** No report.

***Police Department-** Chief Miller reported Deputy Marshal Cody Piet has been medically cleared to return to work. Their department now has access to the FLOCK system through Porter County.

***Plan Commission-** No report.

***Building Inspector-** No report.

***Storm Water Board-** Kevin Salyer reported the storm sewer on Church St. has been installed. He was also given new contact information for INDOT from Laurie via CJ and has left a message. No response as of yet. He is hoping to speak with them regarding some issues regarding the drainage issues in town.

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

***Fire Department-**Chief Gettler reported his department sent two members to Ford Motors for extrication school. The state inspector reported some repairs the Dollar General needed to do. They were given a time frame to complete the repairs. They did not complete the repairs and are under sanctions from the State Fire Marshal office. They also checked the sprinkler system at Save-A-Lot. They needed to do some repairs to become compliant. They did do their repairs in the correct time frame and are good to go. They will be teaming up again to do inspections at the school.

***Lawn Pro Leaf and Brush Pick-up for 2024-**The contract for the leaf and brush contract is the same dollar amount as last years contract at \$6,460 per week. Councilor Jefferson motioned to approve the contract as submitted and Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Any Other Matters That Come Before the Council

Councilor Salyer reported INDOT will be repaving Rt 8 and putting in sidewalks, but they are stopping at Kimball St. LFA is doing the design work for this project. The SWB is asking they continue to Church St. with the sidewalk in order to make the downtown area open to 60+ more households. They would like to see more drainage repairs also. There will be meetings with the town before this project begins in 2025/2026.


Adjournment:

Councilor Jefferson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m., and Councilor Wittmer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.


Respectfully submitted,



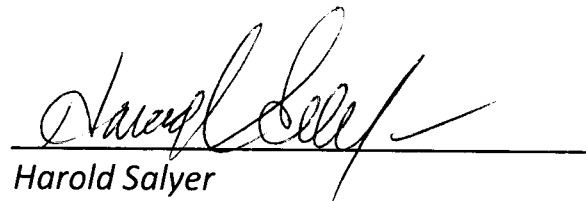
Laurie A. Tribble
Clerk-Treasurer




Tyler Brock, President



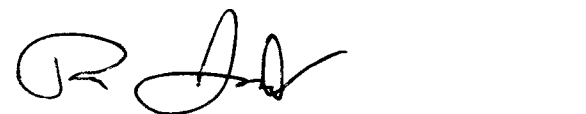
Blake Jefferson, Vice-President



Harold Salyer



CJ Wittmer



Tim Gant