

**Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 11, 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 11th day of March 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, Police Chief Michael Miller and Asst. Fire Chief Don Sutter. Attorney Schwerd was absent.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the February 12th, 2024 regular meeting minutes were submitted 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 the Utility Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the February 12th, 2024 utility meeting minutes were presented to the council for approval. Councilor Wittmer motioned to approve the minutes as submitted and Councilor Gant seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Claims: The Accounts Payable Docket from February 13 to March 11, 2024 was presented to the Council for approval. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve the Accounts Payable Docket as submitted and Councilor Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Departmental/Contractual Reports:

***Clerk-Treasurer-Laurie Tribble** reported she met with Mike Kleinpeter, Mr. White from OCRA and Adam Simka from Wessler regarding the ORCA Grant. The town scored well even though we had to drop out of the last round. The next public hearing will be April 8 at 6pm and May 13 at 6pm for the second hearing. Please have anyone who has water concerns or issues attend the next two meetings or write letters to the council. Mike Klienpeter is working on the URA with Adam Simka on the title search and aerial exhibit. After this is complete, Mike will notify the property owner to try to get an option to purchase signed.

*Cory received pricing to replace the Chopper Pump at the WWTP. Two quotes were received totaling \$31,751.00. This includes the chopper pump, electric motor, installation, pressure testing, startup paperwork, pre-coating of the volute internals and back-up parts should there be any breakdowns. Councilor Jefferson motioned to accept both proposals totaling \$31,751.00, with Tyler Brock as signatory. Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

*Site Services submitted a pavement repair quote for a Mentor St. water main break in the amount of \$3998.00. Councilor Salyer motioned to accept the quote as submitted. Councilor Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

*The IFA grant agreement with Abonmarche in the amount of \$15,000 was due on February 29, 2024. Laurie sent an email out to council members to let everyone know about the grant. The paperwork was

signed by Laurie due to the deadline. Councilor Wittmer motioned to approve the grant of \$15,000 from IFA. Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried. 5-0.

**Laurie reported the Annual Report has been filed on time in Gateway. And lastly, the meters ordered over a year ago are in and the reading equipment has been installed on the water tower. We are hoping to be up and running in April.*

***Attorney-**No report.

***Park-** No report.

***Police Department-** Chief Miller reported the department will be taking a state qualification rifle course. He further reported every year they use their funds to purchase a new vehicle. This year he would like to upgrade equipment and forgo the car purchase. They will be purchasing 8 Taser 7's with a docking station. The tasers have a 5-year warranty with free training and replacement taser cartridges. They would also like to purchase 8 new laptop computers. These computers also come with a 5-year warranty. They will still be using the scan gun, but no slide readers. They are also looking for a grant to purchase some new handheld radars. Lastly, Chief Miller would like to start a Neighborhood Watch Program. He would like community involvement by simply just keeping an eye out in their neighborhood. Don't be afraid to call the police when things are happening that are out of the ordinary. Councilor Brock felt it was a good idea to engage with the community. Councilor Gant asked if there were any costs involved. Chief Miller stated there are yearly fees, which include pre-printed flyers and signs to distribute.

***Plan Commission-** No report.

***Building Inspector-** No report.

***Storm Water Board-** Kevin Salyer reported the storm sewer on Church St. is complete. Cory had a few concerns that are being clarified. The 4" and an 8" water lines on the west side of the street not on the east has originally thought. It is still unknown if the 4" line is live or not. They are getting pricing on paving that section of Church St. It may be more cost effective to do when other projects are being done. They are changing their next Storm Water meeting to Monday, April 1 at 4:30pm instead of the regular Tuesday, April 2 at 7pm.

***Economic Development Commission-** Tammy Dubbels reported the EDC is tearing out the basketball court at Drazer Park and putting in a new court this summer. They are also re-paving the parking lot at town hall and remodeling the meeting room adding a video system.

***Fire Department-**Asst. Chief Sutter reported there was a fire inspection done at the Kouts School. They had 4 pages of violations that took 4 hours to complete. They were given a time frame to complete the repairs of the violations and will be reinspected to ensure compliance.

New Business

***Ordinance 2024-1 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 50: Garbage and Rubbish 2024-**This ordinance was amended to update the established fees for leaf and brush pick-up and the definition of recycling.

Councilor Wittmer motioned to approve the ordinance as submitted and Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Ordinance 2024-2 An Ordinance Amending the Salary Ordinance Establishing Salaries for the Town of Kouts for 2024-This ordinance was amended to update the Code Enforcement Officer hourly pay to \$25.00 per hour. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve the ordinance as submitted and Councilor Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Old Business

Restrictive Covenant Environmental Settlement Agreement-Attorney Schwerd was not present at the meeting, but he did relay through email he reviewed the agreement and had no objections. The final agreement is: in exchange for the Town recording the ERC and releasing Gen Pro, Gen Pro shall pay the Town the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) within 20 days of the Effective Date. This site located at 208 S Main St., was a former fuel station located north of the Town Hall. It is acknowledged that environmental reports regarding the Site identify the existence of certain contaminants of concern exist at the site. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve the agreement unless Attorney Schwerd notifies them different with Tyler Brock as signatory. Councilor Gant seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Any Other Matters That Come Before the Council

Councilor Wittmer asked that he be notified about any decisions made regarding the KPD being he is the liaison for that department. The Board as a whole takes action at the next council meeting regarding the action taken by the Council President. There was an issue regarding numbers on golf carts that happened on a weekend. After some discussion, it was discovered that the officer delivering the numbers went to a residence at 9:45 at night to deliver the sticker. It was decided to continue to give out number stickers and to change the ordinance to state they will get a year and number sticker for their carts that must be displayed. Councilor Wittmer stated he would look into ordinances from other towns and see if any other updates to the current ordinance should be looked at and report back to the Council.

Adjournment:


Councilor Jefferson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m., and Councilor Wittmer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

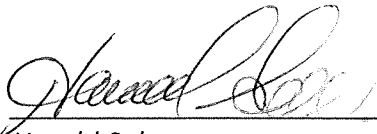


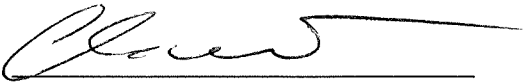
Laurie A. Tribble
Clerk-Treasurer

(signatures on next page)


Tyler Brock, President

Blake Jefferson, Vice-President


Harold Salyer


CJ Wittmer


Tim Gant