

**Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2024
6:00 PM**

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 August 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 Fire Chief Jeremy Gettler. Town Attorney Schwerd was absent.

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

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

Departmental/Contractual Reports:

**Clerk-Treasurer-Laurie Tribble reported there was a 90% completion meeting with Wessler Engineering. It was reported that IDEM is requiring two UV disinfecting systems for the disinfection of surface water. There will be an addendum to the engineering contract to add this system. The system itself will be anywhere from \$350,000 to \$500,000 in additional costs for the project. The council received an updated timeline for the water treatment project also. Mrs. Jansma the art teacher at KHS is working with the students on the water tower art logo. The grit building is complete and the overhead door on that building has been repaired. Street sweeping and the parking lots painted for Pork Festival. No word on the vector since July 2.*

**Attorney-No report.*

**Park- Director Orville Jefferson stated the Park Department is sending out letters asking for donations for the new basketball court at Drazer Park.*

**Police Department-Chief Miller reported school starts soon. They will be on Main St. with lights on to warn traffic to slow down. Officer Tratebas is working with the Ricco Semento from the Pork Fest Committee to make sure security runs smoothly for the Pork Fest at the end of the month. They are an officer down right now, but have two potential candidates to step in.*

**Plan Commission- No report.*

**Building Inspector- No report.*

**Storm Water Board- Don Sutter reported the board has finished up on two projects currently. Alice and Main St is complete. Coyote Crossing had drainage issues due to NIPSCO going through the line. NIPSCO is going to pay for the entire repair.*

**Economic Development Commission- No report.*

**Fire Department-Fire Chief Gettler reported they are getting ready for Pork Fest.*

New Business

**Ordinance 2024-3-An Ordinance Establishing Salaries for Town Employees for 2024 (Amended)- This letter is adding a part-time lieutenant to the ordinance at \$35.00 per hour. This officer will be working with the young officers. Councilor Wittmer motioned to approve the addition, and Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.*

**Leroy Fisher, 108 N Main St.-Mr. Fisher spoke to the council of some complaints/suggestions he had regarding paying for trash pick-up, the language in the RV ordinance, and a tree on the 49 Highway ROW. The Councilors responded to each of his questions.*

**Ricco Semento, Pork Fest-Mr. Semento reported he has sent in the application for the road closure for the Pork Fest August 24, 2024 to INDOT. He is still waiting for approval. He is also looking in to some options to help pay more for security for the festival. He has asked Family Express and the restaurant on the east side of Main St. to close off their driveways so cars would not go out on to Main St. during the festival. Stephanie Lockett does not want to be in charge of the festival moving forward. He is deciding if he will take over. If he should decide to, he would like to start communications with the Council regarding the next Pork Festival in September or October.*


Adjournment

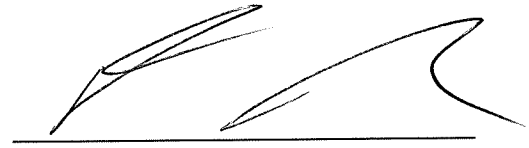
Councilor Jefferson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m. and Councilor Gant seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.


Respectfully submitted,




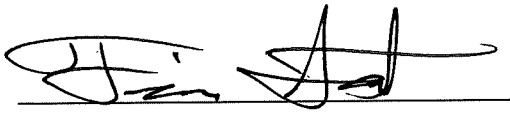
*Laurie A. Tribble
Clerk-Treasurer*


Tyler Brook, President


Blake Jefferson, Vice-President


Harold Salyer


CJ Wittmer


Tim Gant