

**Town Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
October 14, 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 14<sup>th</sup> day of October 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 Schwerd, Police Chief Michael Miller, Fire Chief Gettler, Building Inspector/Park Director Orville Jefferson and Kevin Salyer, Storm Water Board.*

**2025 Budget Approval-***Council President Brock read the 2025 Budget to the audience. Councilor Wittmer motioned to approve the 2025 Budget in the amount of \$1,825,044 and Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.*

**Approval of Minutes:** *The minutes of the September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 regular meeting minutes were presented to the council for approval. Councilor Wittmer motioned to approve the minutes as submitted and Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.*

**Approval of Claims:** *The Accounts Payable Docket from September 10 to October 14, 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 Officer Ken Green left employment with the Kouts Police Department 6 months before his employment contract with the department was satisfied. Officer Green's Attorney is asking the board to waive his contract stating he worked for the town for 10 years as a reserve, he also purchased his own uniforms and equipment during that time, before taking a full-time position and attending the Tier 2 police academy. The contract was an agreement to stay with the department after graduating from the academy for 3 years. There was some discussion concerning setting a precedence with other officers. In the spirit of his unique circumstances in this case, Councilor Jefferson motioned to approve forgiving his contract with the town early and Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.*

**\*Attorney-***No report.*

**\*Park-** Director Orville Jefferson reported the basketball court has been poured. He is waiting for the hoops to be installed, possibly next week. Park restrooms will be closed November 1. Trunk or Treat is October 26 from 4-7.

**\*Police Department-**Chief Miller reported the 2016 Explorer is decommissioned and ready for sale. During the last quarter, the department had 785 events, 474 were traffic stops and 15 arrests (noting 98% of arrests are out of towners.) The department did not get a donation from the Pork Fest this year at all.

**\*Plan Commission-** No report.

**\*Building Inspector-** No report.

**\*Storm Water Board-** Kevin Salyer reported they are working with Accu-Dig to repair the standing water issue at Alice and the school parking lot. They plan to replace the drainage line before winter and pave in the spring. They will also be updating the storm water drawings.

**\*Economic Development Commission-** Tammy Wittmer reported the parking lot is complete. The board is working on next years' projects.

**\*Fire Department-**Fire Chief Gettler reported at the request of the town, he did a life safety inspection at the florist shop. He said there is a lot of clean up to do inside and they will need to add extinguishers. He gave them 60 days to complete the items mentioned. They went to Kouts Sprouts this week for fire prevention week. The Touch a Truck event went well. He further commented on hydrants in town and funds for the new fire truck.

**New Business**

**Ordinance 2024-6 Appropriation Reduction-**The funds budgeted in Major Moves was not spent in 2024. The appropriation is being reduced to fund the 2025 Budget for Major Moves. Councilor Wittmer motioned to suspend the rules and pass Ordinance 2024-6 on the first reading. Councilor Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following roll call vote:

Tyler Brock.....Yes  
Tim Gant..... Yes  
Blake Jefferson..... Yes  
Harold Salyer..... Yes  
CJ Wittmer.....Yes

Councilor Salyer motioned to approve Ordinance 2024-6 as written. Councilor Wittmer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**Ordinance 2024-7 Miscellaneous Fees Ordinance**-The Miscellaneous Fees Ordinance was presented to the Council. There is an additional fee added to the ordinance allowing to charge for Certified Letters at the current going rate. Councilor Jefferson motioned to suspend the rules and pass Ordinance 2024-7 on the first reading. Councilor Gant seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following roll call vote:

Tyler Brock.....Yes  
Tim Gant..... Yes  
Blake Jefferson..... Yes  
Harold Salyer..... Yes  
CJ Wittmer.....Yes

Councilor Salyer motioned to approve Ordinance 2024-7 as written. Councilor Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**Agreement for Professional Grant Administration Services for OCRA Grant**-Kleinpeter Consulting Group, LLC submitted an Agreement for Professional Grant Administration Services for the OCRA Grant in the amount of \$76,000 in compensation. The services are outlined in their contract agreement. A lump sum payment shall be paid to Kleinpeter Consulting Group, LLC. The breakdown for the compensation is \$20,000 for Labor Standards and \$56,000 for Grant Administration. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve the contract with Tyler Brock as signatory. Councilor Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**2024/2025 Snow Removal**- Lawn Pro submitted their contract for snow removal for the 2024/2025 season. The contract submitted did not have a price increase from the previous year. Councilor Jefferson motioned to approve the contract as submitted with Tyler Brock as signatory. Councilor Wittmer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilor Gant asked about the issues with Jake Clark from the previous month. Attorney Schwerd is working on the issues with Laurie Tribble.

**Adjournment**

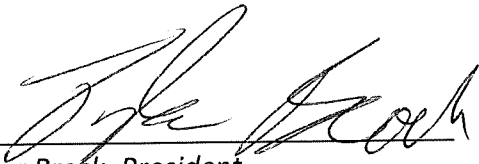
Councilor Jefferson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m. and Councilor Wittmer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

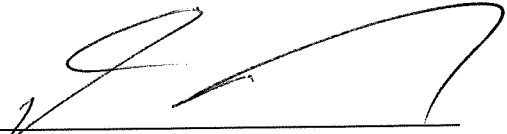
Respectfully submitted,



Laurie A. Tribble  
Clerk-Treasurer

(signatures on page 4)

  
Tyler Brock, President

  
Blake Jefferson, Vice-President

*absent*  
Harold Salyer

  
CJ Wittmer

*absent*  
Tim Gant