

Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2025
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 10th day of March at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of conducting their regular monthly meeting.

Council Vice President Blake Jefferson 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 Tim Gant, Harold Salyer and Blake Jefferson. Also present, Clerk-Treasurer Laurie Tribble, Attorney Schwerd, Interim Police Chief James Smith, Fire Chief Jeremy Gettler, Park Director and Building Inspector Orville Jefferson and Kevin Salyer representing the SWB. Tyler Brock and CJ Wittmer were absent.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the February 10, 2025 regular meeting minutes were presented to the council for approval. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve the minutes as submitted and Councilor Gant seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Approval of Claims: Before approving the claims, Laurie Tribble reported that Nipsco will be installing gas service at the Drazer Park barn at a cost of \$1100.05 that is on the docket for payment. The Accounts Payable Docket from February 11 to March 10, 2025 was presented to the Council for approval. Councilor Gant motioned to approve the Accounts Payable Docket as submitted and Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Departmental/Contractual Reports:

***Clerk-Treasurer-Laurie Tribble** reported Mediacom would like to renew their lease at the Town Garage for an additional 5 years. They suggested a 3% increase for year 1, then a 3% increase in year 3. The previous increase was 10% in 2020. She suggested the 10% increase, the council agreed. She will contact Mediacom and counteroffer. Invoice Cloud is offering a new online service called Online Bank Direct. Customers who make payments via their bank's bill pay solution will be received and reported in our Biller Portal. The system will automatically match payments to open invoices. We will no longer need to write a receipt for each check, approx. 80+ per month, mailed to us from the bank. The turn around time is faster also. The cost is \$50 per month plus .25 a check, however, we will save time and money not writing a receipt for each check and less receipt books. The customer will also save money with the quick turn around by not having a penalty for payments received after the 20th. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve using Online Bank Direct and Councilor Gant seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. She presented a Conflict-of-Interest form from James Smith for the council to approve/sign His wife has a seamstress business and sews patches on uniforms for the department free of charge. The Cumulative Funds will be re-established with a public hearing next month.

**Attorney-No report.*

**Park- Director Jefferson reported the Easter Egg Hunt is April 12 at 11am.*

**Police Department-Interim Police Chief Jim Smith reported the computer switch over with county is not going well. But they will continue to work on it.*

**Plan Commission- No report.*

**Building Inspector- No report.*

**Storm Water Board- Kevin Salyer reported the Mentor Street drainage repair will begin shortly. They also signed a contract with LFA for engineering service for the drainage repair on Maple St and Ross Ave.*

**Economic Development Commission- No report.*

**Fire Department-Fire Chief Jeremy Gettler reported the new cad system is working better than the old system. Five members of the department were sent to a safety class to learn rescue technics for grain bin accidents.*

***Ordinance 2025-4-Miscellaneous Fee Ordinance-**Tow release fees were updated from \$50 to \$100. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve the ordinance with the updated fee and Councilor Gant seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.*

***Ordinance 2025-5-Amended Salary Ordinance-**The salary ordinance was updated to add all ranks for the police department annual salary max pays. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve the ordinance as submitted Councilor Gant seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.*

***Town Marshal Appointment-**The Town Marshal position is currently being held by interim Chief James Smith. Councilor Salyer motioned to appoint James Smith officially to Town Marshal, Councilor Gant seconded the motion with discussion. Councilor Gant stated he wasn't at the Executive Session and didn't know anything about Jim Smith. Because it was an Executive Session no minutes are taken and what was discussed stays in that meeting. Councilor Jefferson asked for a vote of all in favor, then not if favor. Councilor Gant stated for the record he was abstaining from the vote. Item was tabled until a later time in order to have a majority.*

***Ricco Semento-Pork Fest-** Mr. Semento stated they are no longer Kouts Festivals and Events they are now Kouts Events Inc. They are also a 501C in order to have charity status. May 3 is the garage sales and Nelson's Chicken will be vending at the corner during the event. He stated he is adding Friday night to the Pork Fest and will have a beer garden and SDI pavilion for music. He is looking for sponsors for the event to cover help with the cost for KPD security for the day of the festival. And asked that the restrooms be open for the event. Park Director Orville Jefferson*

stated to Mr. Semento that he has not yet contacted the parks department to ask if he could use anything or add another night. The event uses electricity and supplies for the restrooms that the park pays for. Further, the park would not be opening the restrooms for the event. He suggested he attend the park meeting on Wednesday at 6pm to discuss use of the park before further scheduling events.

Adjournment

Councilor Salyer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and Councilor Gant seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie A. Tribble

Laurie A. Tribble
Clerk-Treasurer

Tyler Brock
Tyler Brock, President

absent
Blake Jefferson, Vice-President

Harold Salyer
Harold Salyer

absent
CJ Wittmer

Tim Gant
Tim Gant