

Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 14, 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 14th day of April 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 and Harold Salyer. Also present, Clerk-Treasurer Laurie Tribble, Attorney Schwerd, Police Chief James Smith, Asst. Fire Chief Don Sutter, Park Director and Building Inspector Orville Jefferson and Kevin Salyer representing the SWB. Blake Jefferson and CJ Wittmer were absent.

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

Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes: *The minutes of the March 18, 2025 special meeting minutes were presented to the council for approval. Councilor Gant motioned to approve the minutes as submitted and Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.*

Approval of Claims: *The Accounts Payable Docket from March 11 to April 14, 2025 was presented to the Council for approval. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve the Accounts Payable Docket as submitted and Councilor Gant seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.*

Departmental/Contractual Reports:

**Clerk-Treasurer-Laurie Tribble reported there was a preconstruction meeting for the water project on April 8, 2025. Due to OCRA financing requirements to provide source and location for categorical breakdown of all BABA items, a bid hold extension is required. A revised Notice to Proceed will be issued as soon as the details have been worked out. Merit Steel used to have meters in place to record the input and output of condensation of water to different departments. The town gave them a credit on the wastewater portion of their billing of the condensate water measurement. These meters have not been working for many years. They have installed new meters and are asking for the wastewater credit to begin again to slightly offset the water increase. Laurie does not have an issue giving the credit again if the Council*

doesn't take issue with it. She and Cory will figure out the formula for the discount that is fair. She will report back to the Council once the details are worked out.

***Attorney-**No report.

***Park-** Director Jefferson reported the Easter Egg Hunt went well.

***Police Department-**Police Chief Jim Smith reported they are implementing a "Blue Envelope" program. Cars with an autistic driver will have a blue envelope sticker on the back letting the officer or any emergency responders know that they need to have a different approach with the driver. If anyone knows of anyone who will benefit from this program, please let him know so he can get them a sticker.

***Plan Commission-** No report.

***Building Inspector-** No report.

***Storm Water Board-** Kevin Salyer reported LFA is working on the Ross and Maple Survey. They have three roads they would like to include in the town's paving project. Kimball from 8 to the end, Alice-49 to school parking lot and Mentor to Kouts St.

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

***Fire Department-**Asst. Fire Chief Don Sutter reported they approved the graphics for the new truck. They should begin building the truck in May or June.

***ORDINANCE 2025-7 AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A POLICY FOR ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFERS (EFT), AUTOMATIC CLEARING HOUSE (ACH) AND ONLINE BANKING FOR THE TOWN OF KOUTS, INDIANA-**Councilor Salyer motioned to suspend the rules and pass Ordinance 2025-7 on the first reading with the following roll call vote.

Tyler Brock.....Yes

Tim Gant..... Yes

Harold Salyer..... Yes

Councilor Gant seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Councilor Gant motioned to approve Ordinance 2025-7 on the first reading, Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

***RESOLUTION 2025-5 A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF KOUTS, INDIANA, OPPOSING LEGISLATION REGARDING SIGNIFICANT CUTS TO MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX REVENUES BEING CONSIDERED DURING THE 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION-**Councilor Salyer motioned to approve Resolution 2025-5 opposing SB1, Councilor Gant seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

***RESOLUTION NO. 2025-6 A RESOLUTION RE-ESTABLISHING A CUMULATIVE FIRE FUND UNDER INDIANA CODE 36-8-14 et seq.**-Councilor Brock asked for any comments or questions, no comments were made. Councilor Salyer motioned to adopt Resolution 2025-6 and Councilor Gant seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

***RESOLUTION NO. 2025-7 A RESOLUTION RE-ESTABLISHING A CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND UNDER INDIANA CODE 36-9-15.5 et seq.**-Councilor Brock asked for any comments or questions, no comments were made. Councilor Salyer motioned to adopt Resolution 2025-6 and Councilor Gant seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

***RESOLUTION 2025-8 A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS OF A DORMANT FUND BALANCE AND DISSOLVE THE DORMANT FUND-** Councilor Salyer motioned to approve Resolution 2025-8 and Councilor Gant seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

***RESOLUTION 2025-9 A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A SINKING FUND AND REPAIR & REPLACEMENT FUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BOND ORDINANCE-** Councilor Gant motioned to approve Resolution 2025-9 and Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Ricco Semento-Pork Fest- Mr. Semento asked to have the Temporary Permit State Excise Form signed by the police chief for the festival. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve Chief Smith signing the permit, Councilor Gant seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. The NIPSCO panel on the side of the building is in the Chamber's name and will be changed to Kouts Events. It will be turned on only on the day of the Pork Fest, currently they are paying \$40 a month for it.

Jake Southwell, 404 Gordon Terrace-Mr. Southwell asked if the agenda could be posted online before the meeting and when the town would start recording meetings. Yes, we can post the agenda before the meetings and we will start recording in July. Meetings will be live on YouTube.

(signatures on next page)

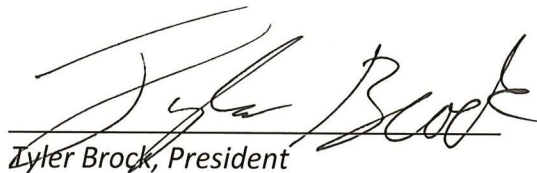
Adjournment

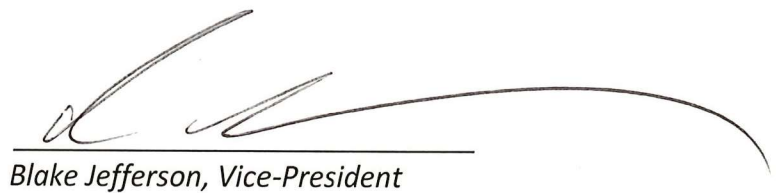
Councilor Salyer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and Councilor Gant seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

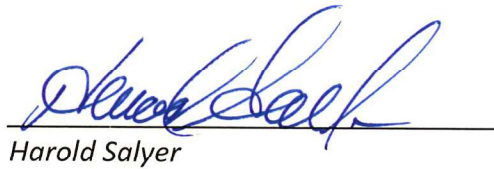
Respectfully submitted,

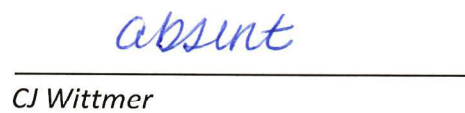


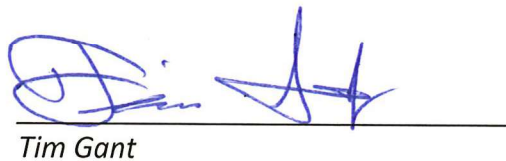
Laurie A. Tribble
Clerk-Treasurer


Tyler Brock, President


Blake Jefferson, Vice-President


Harold Salyer


CJ Wittmer


Tim Gant