

**Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2026**

The Town Council of the Town of Kouts, Indiana met in the Kouts Town Hall, 210 South Main Street, Kouts, Indiana on the 12th day of January 2026 at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of conducting their regular monthly meeting.

Councilor 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: Council Members Tyler Brock, Tim Gant, Blake Jefferson, Harold Salyer and John Schoon. Also present, Clerk-Treasurer Laurie Tribble, Attorney Schwerd, Orville Jefferson, Park Director/Building Inspector, James Smith, Town Marshall, and Jeremy Gettler, Fire Chief.

Contracts

-Attorney: Attorney Schwerd 's contract for 2026 was presented to the Council for approval. Councilor Jefferson motioned to approve the contract with Robert Schwerd, of Schwerd, Fryman and Torrenga for the calendar year 2026 and Councilor Schoon seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

MCO-Midwest Contract Operations Contract for Water and Sewer Services for 2026 was presented to the Council for approval. Councilor Jefferson motioned to approve the 2026 Contract in the amount of \$362,338.20 annually or \$30,194.85 monthly. Councilor Schoon seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

MCO-Midwest Contract Operations Contract for Street Services for 2026 was presented to the Council for approval. Councilor Gant motioned to approve the 2026 Contract in the amount of \$60,011.70 annually or \$5000.96 monthly. Councilor Schoon seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Council Re-Organization

-President: Councilor Salyer motioned to reappoint Tyler Brock as President of the Town Council. Councilor Schoon seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

-Vice President: Councilor Gant motioned to reappoint Blake Jefferson as Town Council Vice-President. Councilor Schoon seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Annual Appointments

-Town Marshal: Councilor Jefferson motioned to retain James Smith as Town Marshal for the calendar year 2026. Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

-Building Inspector- Councilor Schoon motioned to retain Orville Jefferson as Building Inspector for the calendar year 2026. Councilor Gant seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

-Park Director- Councilor Gant motioned to retain Orville Jefferson as Park Director for the calendar year 2026. Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

-Plan Commission-Councilor Jefferson motioned to reappoint Councilor Tyler Brock to the Plan Commission for 2026. Councilor Schoon seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0. Councilor Jefferson motioned to reappoint Councilor Tim Gant to the Plan Commission for 2026. Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0. Councilor Jefferson motioned to reappoint staff appointment Laurie Tribble to the Planning Commission for the calendar year 2026. Councilor Schoon seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilor Brock asked if there were any positions on the boards that expired. Then further stated that he noticed Lois Covel and Laura Blythe's Plan Commission appointments were expired. Regarding the Plan Commission he said Laura Blythe approached him to stay on board. He reappointed Mrs. Blythe to the Plan Commission. He stated the council members decided to go in a different direction with the Plan Commission he was not re-appointing Lois Covel to the board.

Council Liaison Positions:

-Police Department: Tyler Brock was reappointed to Police Department liaison.

-Park Department: Tim Gant was appointed to Park liaison.

-Fire Department: Blake Jefferson was reappointed to Fire Department liaison.

-Stormwater: Harold Salyer was reappointed to the Storm Water Board liaison.

-MCO: Harold Salyer was reappointed to MCO liaison.

-Engineer: Blake Jefferson was reappointed to Engineer liaison.

-NIRPC Representative: John Schoon was reappointed to be the NIRPC Representative.

-Clerk-Treasurer: Tyler Brock was reappointed to Clerk-Treasurer liaison

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of December 8, 2025, council meeting was presented to the council for approval. Councilor Schoon motioned to approve the minutes of the December 8 regular meeting minutes as submitted. Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Claims: The final Accounts Payable Docket for 2025 was presented to the council for approval. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve the accounts payable docket for December 9 to December 31, 2025, as submitted. Councilor Gant seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Claims: The Accounts Payable Docket for January 12, 2025, was presented to the council for approval. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve the accounts payable docket for January 1, 2026, to January 12, 2026, as submitted. Councilor Schoon seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Departmental/Contractual Reports

***Clerk-Treasurer-** Laurie Tribble reported to the council:

*Wessler Engineering has submitted Addendum #4 for additional engineering services for the WTP in the amount of \$270,000. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve the change order as submitted and Councilor Schoon seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

*Change Order #1 from IHC was submitted for approval. Councilor Schoon motioned to approve the Change Order. Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

*Payment approval #18 to IHC in the amount of \$531,037.65 was submitted for approval. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve payment #18. Councilor Schoon seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

*The police 2018 Explorer has been taken for repairs. During the process it was found the vehicle needs repairs totaling at least \$4000, which could be more after they get in to look at the engine. Councilor Salyer motioned to decommission the vehicle and place it up for sale as-is. Councilor Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

*Laurie has her bond for 2026 and will be recording it at the Porter County Court House.

*The streets selected for the Community Crossing Grant are out for bid. Bids are due January 22, 2026, and will be opened at 3pm.

*We will need an ordinance to keep golf carts off the new walking trail.

*One of the snowplows has an emergency repair. She asked for approval to purchase the parts from Rowe Trucking for approx. amount of \$704.34 to do the repair and the truck back in service before the next council meeting. Councilor Jefferson motioned to approve the purchase, Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

***Attorney-** No report.

***Park-** Orville Jefferson stated the walking trail lighting is in at Drazer Park. He is also getting pricing for new light bollards at Pennsy Park.

***Police-** Chief Smith reported the department will be ordering a new vehicle for 2026, a Ford Explorer.

***Code Enforcement-**No report.

***Building Inspector-** No report.

***Storm Water Board-** Kevin Salyer reported they are coordinating with NIPSCO for their next project at Ross and Maple because gas lines need to be moved before moving forward. They are looking to issue a NTP in the spring.

***Fire Department-** Chief Gettler reported they will be sending three firefighters to the academy.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

***ORDINANCE 2025-10-AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TOWN CODE TITLE VII, TRAFFIC CODE, CHAPTER 73.10: PARKING REGULATIONS §73.10 RESIDENTIAL PARKING-**Several suggested changes were made to the ordinance by a committee who reviewed the ordinance. If you have a gravel driveway you can continue to use gravel. Other than in neighborhoods with curbs, parking is still allowed from the roadway to the sidewalk only and trailers used for moving can remain for 72 hours instead of 24. Councilor Brock wants to continue to review the ordinance. Ordinance tabled.

***ORDINANCE 2025-11-AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PORTIONS OF TOWN CODE CHAPTER 93: ANIMAL REGULATIONS-**This is the second reading of this ordinance. Councilor Schoon motioned to approve the ordinance as submitted. Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

***RESOLUTION 2026-1 A RESOLUTION ALLOWING THE CLERK-TREASURER TO CANCEL OLD OUTSTANDING CHECKS-** Councilor Gant motioned to approve Resolution 2026-1 and Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

***RESOLUTION 2026-2-A RESOLUTION ENCUMBERING 2025 FUNDS TO PAY IN 2026-** Councilor Jefferson motioned to approve Resolution 2026-2 and Councilor Schoon seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

***RESOLUTION 2026-3 A RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING 2025 FUNDS BETWEEN LINE ITEMS-** Councilor Salyer motioned to approve Resolution 2026-3 and Councilor Gant seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

***BZA Appointment**-Jonathan Hackett. Council President Tyler Brock appointed Jonathan Hackett to serve on the BZA.

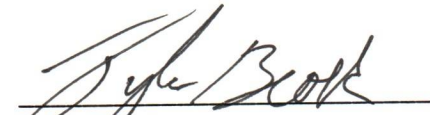
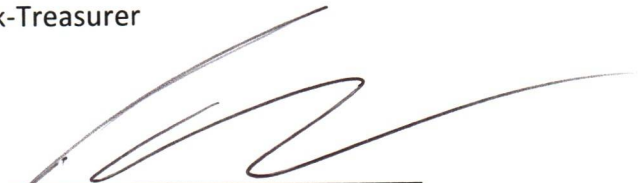


Adjournment:

Councilor Jefferson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m., and Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Laurie A. Tribble
Clerk-Treasurer


Tyler Brock
Blake Jefferson
Tim Gant
Harold Salyer
John Schoon