

**TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 8, 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 8th day of December 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 John Schoon. Also present, Clerk-Treasurer Laurie Tribble, Chief James Smith, Fire Chief Jeremy Gettler, Park Director and Building Inspector Orville Jefferson, and Don Sutter representing Storm Water.

Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes: *The minutes of November 10th, 2025, regular meeting minutes were presented to the council for approval. Councilor Jefferson motioned to approve the minutes as presented and Councilor Gant seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.*

Approval of Claims: *The Accounts Payable Docket from November 11 to December 8, 2025, was presented to the Council for approval. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve the claims as presented and Councilor Schoon seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.*

Departmental/Contractual Reports:

***Clerk-Treasurer-Laurie Tribble** reported Don Ensign who currently represents Hebron and Kouts (South County) on the Indiana Dunes Tourism Board, would like to continue serving on the Board of Directors representing Kouts and Hebron. The council had no problems with Mr. Ensign continuing to serve on the tourism board. The town was awarded the Community Crossing Grant for 2026 in the amount of \$315,492.00. The project will go out for bid in January. Cory Clarke from MCO and I are working with Frontier to produce some sort of agreement or plan moving forward to help with locates for installation of their services. She will keep the board updated on the progress. Cory was concerned about the flooring at the WWTP and asked the Sherwin Williams Rep to come to the plant and discuss options. For safety reasons, he would like to use a different material that would prevent slipping because of the high foot traffic in the building. There is a cost increase to the new product; they would need to replace the baseboards also. The increase would make the new total for flooring \$5825.00. Councilor Jefferson motioned to approve the new pricing and Councilor Schoon seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0. Lastly, payment approvals 4 and 5 to IHC for the WTP were sent for payment approvals. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve Payment 4 in the amount of \$218,123.80 with Tyler Brock as signatory and Councilor Gant seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve Payment 5 in the amount of \$227,766.30 with Tyler Brock as signatory and Councilor Schoon seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

***Attorney-No report.**

**Park-Director Jefferson reported the Christmas Parade went well. An AED has been installed at Drazer Park. Sandberg Electric donated the electricity installation. Midwest Center donated the new tree at Pennsy Park the has been planted.*

**Police Department-Chief Smith reported that Shop with a Cop was today. Twelve kids took part with \$200.00 each to spend. In January they will be sending an officer to the academy.*

**Building Inspector- No report.*

**Storm Water Board- Don Sutter reported they did not have a meeting in December due to lack of agenda.*

**Fire Department-Chief Gettler reported the new engine is in service. The Christmas Parade went well. Mr. and Mrs. Claus were at the fire station. They also have new fire fighters going to the academy.*

NEW BUSINESS

****ORDINANCE 2025-10 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TOWN CODE TITLE VII, TRAFFIC CODE, CHAPTER 73: PARKING REGULATIONS, § 73.10 RESIDENTIAL PARKING-** Some discussion regarding parking in front yards, trailer parking, junk vehicles among other things that took place with the code enforcement officer explaining why the suggested changes would help with enforcements. This ordinance was tabled for further review. A committee will be created to discuss the ordinance in detail.*

****ORDINANCE 2025-11 ANIMAL REGULATIONS-** A definition for "Kennel" was added to the ordinance, and two new sections were added, one regarding number of animals and a section regarding farm animals. After some discussion, it was decided the word breeding would be removed from the definition of "Kennel." Additional language was added to § 93.22, Except in a licensed kennel that is in a permitted Commercial 3 District that are causing a nuisance. Attorney Schwerd will make the suggested changes to ordinance and send it over for review. This was the 1st reading of this ordinance.*

****FIRE CONTRACT 2026-**No changes to the contract were made other than the annual contract amount. Councilor Schoon motioned to approve the 2026 contract as submitted, Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.*

****BZA APPOINTMENT(S):** Kevin Salyer and Jonathan Hackett gave their names for consideration to serve on the BZA. Tyler Brock appointed Kevin Salyer to the BZA. He further said he did not know Jonathan Hackett and asked if anyone was willing to call and speak with him before appointing him to the BZA. Councilor Schoon said he would do so.*

***ANY OTHER MATTERS-**Chief Smith asked Attorney Schwerd if he got any further with the definition of Ordinance Officer as far as what they can and cannot do. Attorney Schwerd is continuing to review.*

(signatures on the next page)

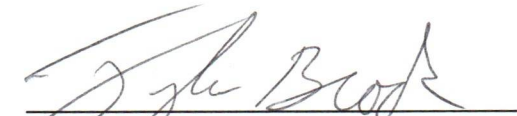
Adjournment

Councilor Jefferson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. and Councilor Schoon seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.


Respectfully submitted,



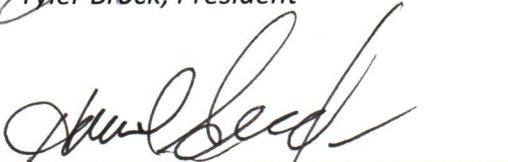
Laurie A. Tribble
Clerk-Treasurer



Tyler Brock, President



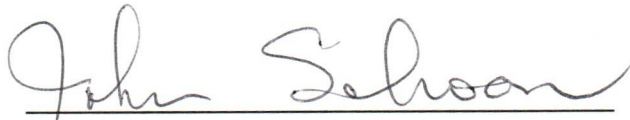
Blake Jefferson, Vice-President



Harold Salyer



Tim Gant



John Schoon