TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 14, 2026
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 the14th day of September 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, and Harold Salyer. Also present, Clerk-Treasurer Laurie Tribble, Attorney Schwerd, Marshal James Smith, Patty Gebhardt, Code Enforcement, Fire Chief Gettler and Kevin Salyer, Storm Water. John Schoon was absent.

Public Hearing for Budget Year 2027-*Councilor Brock opened the public hearing for comment. An audience member asked one question. The General budget crossed $700,000, does that help pay for the water plant payment? No, it does not. That is for salaries, police, fire, and insurance. The public or council made no other comments. Public hearing was closed.*

Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes: *The minutes of August 10, 2026, regular meeting minutes were presented to the council for approval. Councilor Jefferson motioned to approve the minutes as presented; Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.*

Approval of Claims: *The Accounts Payable Docket from August 10 to September 14, 2026, was presented to the Council for approval. Clerk-Treasurer Laurie Tribble noted the money from the OCRA Grant was received and deposited into the Water Fund. There were two payments made with the OCRA Funds. One to IHC in the amount of $293,738.33 and the other to Caldwell Tanks in the amount of $288,200.29. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve the claims as submitted; Councilor Gant seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.*

Departmental/Contractual Reports:

****Clerk-Treasurer****-Laurie Tribble reported about a new Building and Construction Fund that has replaced the funds previously deposited into the General Fund. After contacting the SBOA, they said they would not take exception to using that fund to pay the building inspector salary so long as the proof is there that the funds collected were for construction, permits, and inspections that the new fund states. She also stated that depending on what*

the lawsuit filed against the Town costs. There could be cuts to general budget including police and fire.

***Attorney**-No report.*

***Park**-No report.*

***Police Department**-No report.*

***Code Enforcement Officer**-Patty Gebhardt reported she had been trying to meet with Tyler Brock for the last 37 days regarding the sign ordinance. Councilor Brock dismissed her, so she contacted the town attorney to make sure she was doing what she was supposed to do. Councilor Brock filed a lawsuit against the town. The funds to pay for this lawsuit come from the General Fund which pays police and fire. She was hired to enforce town code and would have rather resolved the issue by talking to him, but instead he posted everything on Facebook instead of talking to her.*

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

***Storm Water Board-** Kevin Salyer reported the Ross and Maple Storm Water Project is scheduled to begin on the 21st with NIPSCO moving the gas lines and the project itself starting on the 28th. For those who did not know there was standing water there. They are installing three new catch basins to alleviate water issues.*

***Fire Department**-Chief Gettler thanked everyone for coming to the pork chop lunch during Pork Fest, it went very well.*

NEW BUSINESS

***APPROVAL OF PAY REQUEST #32 WESSLER ENGINEERING -**Councilor Salyer motioned to approve pay request #32 in the amount of $96,545.12 to Wessler Engineering. Councilor Gant seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.*

***APPROVAL OF PAY REQUEST #33 WESSLER ENGINEERING -**Councilor Gant motioned to approve pay request #33 in the amount of $66,706.30 to Wessler Engineering. Councilor Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.*

***APPROVAL OF PAY REQUEST #34 WESSLER ENGINEERING -**Councilor Salyer motioned to approve pay request #34 in the amount of $45,418.54 to Wessler Engineering. Councilor Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.*

***ANIMAL CONTROL CONTRACT 2027-2029-**Councilor Salyer motioned to approve the Animal Control Contract for 2027-2029. Councilor Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.*

BZA-*Councilor Brock appointed Laure Blythe to the BZA from the Plan Commission membership.*

John Herma asked if there was a decision regarding his water bill. Laurie gave a report to the council showing the days he was closed. He was closed August 11, 12, 13, because of a storm that caused a power outage. Every hour closed, it showed usage on the radio read meter. He stated that he used almost two thousand gallons on a Monday when he was closed. The usage was from Sunday at approx. 1 pm to Monday at 10 am where 146 gallons an hour went through every hour that entire time. All of his other days and nights show at least 1.6 gallons per hour continuously going through the meter. Councilor Jefferson asked if they checked their toilets. Yes, Councilor Schoon checks his toilets every day. They further stated their meter was hacked. The extra meter installed in the business is not installed correctly according to the meter instructions. He argued that a plumber installed that meter and you had to be a licensed plumber to install meters. After more debate, the item was tabled for more information.

Adjournment

Councilor Jefferson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. and Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie A Tribble

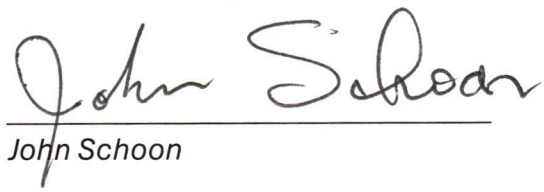
Laurie A. Tribble
Clerk-Treasurer

Tyler Brock, President

Blake Jefferson, Vice-President

Harold Salyer

Tim Gant



John Schoon