

**Town Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
October 9, 2023**

The Town Council of the Town of Kouts, Indiana met in the Kouts Town Hall, 210 South Main Street, Kouts, Indiana on the 9th day of October, 2023 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, Robert Forster, Blake Jefferson, Harold Salyer, and CJ Wittmer. Also present, Clerk-Treasurer Laurie Tribble, Attorney Schwerd, Police Chief Mike Cairns, Park Director/Building Inspector Orville Jefferson.

**2023 Budget Adoption for 2023-Resolution 2023-14**

**Riverboat** budget in the amount of **\$20,000.**

**Rainy Day** budget in the amount of **\$40,000.**

**General** budget in the amount of **\$605,002.**

**LIT** budget in the amount of **\$261,080.**

**LRS** budget in the amount of **\$60,000.**

**MVH** budget in the amount of **\$187,675.**

**Major Moves** budget in the amount of **\$30,531.**

**Storm Water** budget in the amount of **\$407,120.**

**Cumulative Fire Fund** budget in the amount of **\$83,000.**

**Park** budget in the amount of **\$16,640.**

**Cumulative Capital Development** budget in the amount of **\$40,000.**

**Cumulative Capital Improvement** budget in the amount of **\$4,325.**

**Adopted Tax Levy \$483,119**

**Total- \$1,755,373**

Councilor Wittmer motioned to adopt Resolution 2023-14, with a 2024 Budget in the amount of \$1,755,373 pending DLGF approval, Councilor Forster seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes:** The minutes of the September 11<sup>th</sup> regular council meeting were presented to the Council. Councilor Jefferson motioned to approve the September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes as submitted. Councilor Forster seconded the motion, motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of Utility Meeting Minutes:** The minutes of the September 11<sup>th</sup> utility meeting were presented to the Council. Councilor Jefferson motioned to approve the September 11<sup>th</sup> utility meeting minutes as submitted. Councilor Salyer seconded the motion, motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of Claims:** The Accounts Payable Docket for September 12 to October 9, 2023 was presented to the Council. Councilor Forster motioned to approve the Accounts Payable Docket for September 12 to October 9, 2023 as submitted and Councilor Wittmer seconded the motion, motion carried 5-0.

**Departmental/Contractual Reports:**

\***Clerk-Treasurer-** Laurie Tribble reported Hydrant Flushing will be Oct 16-20. Surf Internet finished pulling fiber and has installed their first residential service this last week.

\***Attorney-** No report.

\***Engineering-** No report.

\***Park-** Park Director Orville Jefferson asked the council for approval to have a Christmas Parade again this year on 49 during the Christmas Open House weekend. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve the temporary road closure for the parade with Town Marshal Cairns signing the road closure permit; Councilor Wittmer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

\***Police-** Chief Cairns reported an officer has left to accept a job with Hebron. There has been a conditional offer given to an individual to start November 1 for the KPD.

\***Plan Commission-** No report.

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

\***Storm Water Board-**Kevin Salyer reported bids were received for the Church Street Project. The engineer's estimate was \$99,000. One bid was received from Gariup in the amount of \$297,000. Since the state won't allow them to tie into state owned infrastructure for the Church Street Project. The project was revised and put out for bid a second time on October 13 and 20 to be opened at the next Storm Water meeting on November 1, and awarded at the next council meeting on November 13. If awarded, Notice to Proceed will be issued in December with a project completion date of April. Lastly, the board reviewed the plans for Coyote Crossing Phase 2. They found no

drainage issues; however, they reported the entrance on 49 was eliminated. They will recommend to the Plan Commission a second entrance be put in. There will be approximately 100 homes between Hearthstone and Coyote all with only one exit. In the event of a disaster this will be an issue not only for residents, but for emergency services.

**\*Fire Department-** Chief Gettler reported the Touch-A-Truck event went well. The police, sheriff and farmers contributed to the event.

**\*Economic Development Commission-** Bob Forster reported that Wana Pizza is now open and we have a new barber, Tommy, on Main St.

### **Ordinances and Resolutions**

**RESOLUTION 2023-13 APPROPRIATION REDUCTION-**Councilor Wittmer motioned to approve Resolution 2023-13 for a reduction of the CCD Fund budget in the amount of \$40,000, MVH in the amount of \$100,000, and Major Moves in the amount of \$30,531. Councilor Wittmer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

### **New Business**

**2023/2024 Lawn Pro Contract for Snow Removal Downtown-**Councilor Jefferson motioned to approve the snow removal contract with Lawn Pro in the same amount as last years' contract. Councilor Forster seconded the motion with Tyler Brock as signatory. Motion carried 5-0.

**CTL Engineering Geotechnical Exploration-**Councilor Salyer motioned to approve the geotechnical exploration proposal in the amount of \$25,005 and Councilor Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0. Due to the need to keep the project moving forward and the need to protect the health, safety and welfare of the Town's citizens the contract was signed before this meeting and is now ratified at this meeting with Attorney Schwerd's approval. (see email Sept 13, 2023)

**Dixon Engineering Tank Maintenance Inspection Services-**Councilor Jefferson motioned to approve the tank inspection of the west tank in the amount of \$4,750 with Tyler Brock as signatory. Councilman Wittmer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**Park Appointment-**Council President Tyler Brock appointed Thierry Lyles, Democrat, to the Park Board.

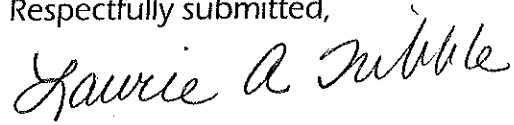
### **Any Other Matters That Come Before the Council**

**Tim Gant-**Mr. Gant had previously reported there is a problem with the storm drain in his side yard. He asked that some look at it again to confirm the developer fixed the issue.


### **Adjournment:**

Councilor Jefferson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m., and Councilor Forster seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

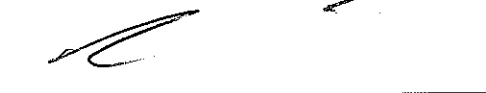


Laurie A. Tribble  
Clerk-Treasurer




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Tyler Brock




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Blake Jefferson



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CJ Wittmer



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Robert Forster



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Harold Salyer