

**Town Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
December 11, 2023**

The Town Council of the Town of Kouts, Indiana met in the Kouts Town Hall, 210 South Main Street, Kouts, Indiana 46347 on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 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, Harold Salyer and CJ Wittmer. Also present, Clerk-Treasurer Laurie Tribble, Attorney Robert Schwerd, Orville Jefferson, Park Director/Bldg. Insp, Police Chief Michael Miller and Fire Chief Jeremy Gettler.

**Second Public Hearing for OCRA Grant-** Tyler Brock opened the Public Hearing for discussion at 6:05 pm. Justin Kleinpeter who is a certified grant administrator was in attendance. There was a notice in the Times on November 29, stating the town has a water improvement project in the amount of approx.\$9,364,000. The town will be applying for a grant from OCRA for \$700,000. Other funds that will be used to fund the project will be ARPA Funds, SRF Funds and well settlement funds. Residents have been encouraged to attend meetings, send in photos or send in water quality issues. Applications are due in late December. Adam Simka, Wessler Engineering, went over a hand-out that he gave the audience that was previously handed out at an earlier meeting. He gave an overview of the system including wells, treatments, storage tanks and distribution system. The proposed project is to replace well 3 and improve efficiency and install new pressure filters to eliminate flushing. The elevated storage tank is a 250,000-gallon tank to replace the east tank. The west tank will be rehabilitated. The estimated SRF loan amount is \$8,707,000 with a project completion date of 2025. Public meeting was closed.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the November 13, 2023 regular meeting minutes were submitted to the council for approval. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve the minutes as submitted and Councilor Wittmer seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes:** The minutes of the November 13, 2023 special meeting minutes were presented to the council for approval. Councilor Wittmer motioned to approve the minutes as submitted and Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**Approval of Claims:** The Accounts Payable Docket for November 13 to December 11, 2023 was presented to the Council for approval. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve the Accounts Payable Docket as submitted and Councilor Wittmer seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**Departmental/Contractual Reports:**

**\*Clerk-Treasurer-**Laurie Tribble reported that storm water projects can be included with the Community Crossing Grants and gave the council a list of streets that could be included in the grant. Because the Ross Ave Storm Water Job is not bid ready the grant application will be submitted in July of 2024.

**\*Attorney-**No report.

**\*Park-** Orville Jefferson reported the Christmas Parade went well. The EDC decorated the tree at Pennsy Park for the event.

**\*Police Department-** Chief Miller reported the parade went smoothly. Jacob Bliss will be starting the academy on January 8. On December 18, the Shop with a Cop event will take place at Meijer.

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

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

**\*Storm Water Board-** Kevin Salyer reported the Church Street Project is moving forward. They are also looking to do another project of drainage repairs on Ross Ave. in 2024.

**\*Economic Development Commission-** No Report.

**\*Fire Department-**Chief Gettler reported the department is doing well. Santa and Mrs. Claus were at the fire station after the parade. County Hazardous Material was contacted due to suspicious activity at the new gas station. They were cleaning out tanks and dumping it into the storm water drains. IDEM is supposed to be contacted if anything is dumped into the drainage system. There was no paperwork done by the property owner. He also thanked the town for the truck donation last month.

**New Business**

**Resolution 2023-17 A Resolution Authorizing Application Submission and Local Match Commitment-** Councilor Wittmer motioned to approve the resolution as submitted with Tyler Brock as signatory and Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**Ordinance 2023-3-An Ordinance Establishing Salaries for Town Employees for 2024-** Councilor Salyer motioned to approve the Ordinance as submitted and Councilor Wittmer seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**\*Audit Closing-**Laurie Tribble invited the council to the Audit Closing on December 20, 2023 at 1pm. This meeting is not a public meeting.

**MCO Contract Approval for Streets-**Councilor Salyer motioned to approve MCO's Contract for 2024 for the streets and Councilor Wittmer seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**MCO Contract Approval for the Water and Sewer Department-**Councilor Salyer motioned to approve MCO's Contract for 2024 for the Water and Sewer Departments and Councilor Wittmer seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

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

**Andy Vasquez-**Porter County Councilman Andy Vasquez asked Fire Chief Gettler how he felt about a Public Safety Tax or a Fire Territory. He responded that a fire district will add more tax for citizens. He thinks more discussion should be had between everyone involved. Mr. Vasquez likes the idea of a public safety tax at 2.5%, a fire territory or district is not the way to go. He will be putting together more meetings to keep all involved in the decision.

### **Adjournment:**

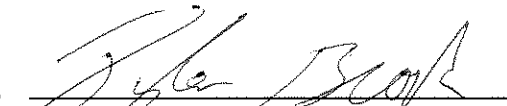
Councilor Salyer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m., and Councilor Wittmer seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,




Laurie A. Tribble  
Clerk-Treasurer

(signatures on page 4)



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Tyler Brock, President




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Blake Jefferson, Vice-President

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Robert Forster



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CJ Wittmer



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Harold Salyer