

**Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 13, 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 13th day of November, 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 Robert Schwerd, Orville Jefferson, Park Director/Bldg. Insp, Police Chief Michael Miller and Fire Chief Jeremy Gettler.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the October 9, 2023 regular meeting minutes were submitted to the council for approval. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve the minutes as submitted and Councilor Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the October 26, 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 5-0.

Approval of Claims: The Accounts Payable Docket for October 10 to November 13, 2023 was presented to the Council for approval. Councilor Wittmer motioned to approve the Accounts Payable Docket as submitted and Councilor Forster seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Departmental/Contractual Reports:

***Clerk-Treasurer-**Laurie Tribble asked the board let her know if they had an street paving they intended to do in 2024. The Community Crossing Grant applications are due in January.

***Attorney-**No report.

***Engineering-** No report.

***Park-** No report.

***Police Department-** Chief Miller reported the department is short on some shifts. A new officer was hired today, Jacob Bliss. He will start the academy in January. Many of the officers have stepped up to fill the vacate shifts and several have returned to the department.

***Plan Commission-** No report.

***Building Inspector-** No report.

***Storm Water Board-** Kevin Salyer reported they would like the council to award Grimmer Construction to do the Church and Rt. 8 Storm Water Project. Two bids were received for the Church Street Project. One from Grimmer in the amount of \$107,166 and the other from Gariup in the amount of \$186,750. LFA reviewed the bids and recommended Grimmer Construction be awarded the contract. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve Grimmer Constructions Bid in the amount of \$107,169 with Kevin Salyer as signatory on the contract. Councilor Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

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

***Fire Department-**Chief Gettler reported the department is doing well. He asked the council if they would consider donating the 2013 Explorer to the department for their recruits to drive to and from classes. He looked at the vehicle and it needs some repairs that they would do. The Kelley Blue Book price is approximately \$6000. Councilor Jefferson motioned to approve donating the 2013 Explorer to the fire department and Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0-1 with Councilor Wittmer abstaining.

New Business

Resolution 2023-15 A Resolution Establishing a Capital Plan for the Local Income Tax Funds for Calendar Years 2024, 2025, and 2026- Councilor Forster motioned to approve the resolution as submitted and Councilor Wittmer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Resolution 2023-16-A Resolution Permitting the Town of Kouts to Buy Vacation and Compensation Time from Members of the Kouts Police Department- This would allow officers to be paid up to 10 days of vacation and compensation time accumulated in 2023 in order to not have more than 4 days carryover into 2024. This is a one-time use resolution

and expires in 90 days whichever comes first. Councilor Jefferson motioned to approve the resolution as submitted and Councilor Wittmer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Reappointment to Tourism Board-Don Ensign who currently represents Kouts and Hebron on the Porter County Convention, Recreation and Visitors Commission would like to continue serving on the Board in 2024. Councilor Jefferson motioned to approve the reappointment of Don Ensign to the board to represent Kouts and Hebron and Councilor Wittmer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

2024 Kouts Fire Department Contract-The fire department presented their fire contract to the Council for approval. Chief Gettler stated there were no changes to the contract from the previous year. Councilor Jefferson motioned to approve the contract as submitted and Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

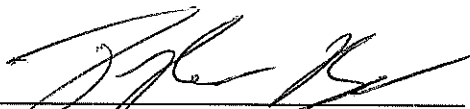
Adjournment:

Councilor Jefferson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m., and Councilor Forster seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Laurie A. Tribble
Clerk-Treasurer



Tyler Brock, President

Blake Jefferson, Vice-President

Robert Forster



CJ Wittmer



Harold Salyer