

**Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2025**

The Town Council of the Town of Kouts, Indiana met in the Kouts Town Hall, 210 South Main Street, Kouts, Indiana on the 13th day of January, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of conducting their regular monthly meeting.

Councilman 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: Council Members Tyler Brock, Tim Gant, Blake Jefferson, Harold Salyer and CJ Wittmer. Also present, Clerk-Treasurer Laurie Tribble, Attorney Schwerd, Orville Jefferson, Park Director/Building Inspector, Michael Miller, Town Marshall, and Jeremy Gettler, Fire Chief.

WTP Construction Bid Awards-Contract A-There were 5 bids submitted for Contact A. IHC Construction Companies, LLC in the amount of \$6,517,000, with an additional optional alternate bid in the amount of \$400,000, Thieneman Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$6,724,000, Hasse Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$7,234,600, Superior Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of \$7,712,000 and Gariup Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$7,747,500. Councilor Wittmer motioned to accept IHC Construction Companies bid in the amount of \$6,517,000 (the additional alternate bid of \$400,000 was not approved). Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Contract B-There was only one bid submitted for Contract B from Caldwell Tanks, Inc. in the amount of \$2,384,000. Councilor Salyer motioned to accept Caldwell Tanks, bid in the amount of \$2,384,000. Councilor Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

2016 Ford Explorer Bid Opening-Council President Tyler Brock opened bids received for the 2016 Ford Explorer. Bids ranged from \$1050 to \$4000. No motion was made to accept any of the bids. Councilor Salyer motioned to reject all bids and readvertise. Councilor Gant seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Council Re-Organization

-President: Councilor Jefferson motioned to reappoint Tyler Brock as President of the Town Council. Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

-Vice President: Councilor Gant motioned to reappoint Blake Jefferson as Town Council Vice-President. Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Contracts

-Attorney: Attorney Schwerd was present and stated his contract would be the same as 2024. Councilor Jefferson motioned to approve Robert Schwerd and his law firm Schwerd, Fryman and Torrenga's contract as attorneys' representing the Town of Kouts for the calendar year 2025 and Councilor Wittmer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Annual Appointments

-Town Marshal: Councilor Wittmer motioned to retain Michael Miller as Town Marshal for the calendar year 2025. Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

-Building Inspector- Councilor Wittmer motioned to retain Orville Jefferson as Building Inspector for the calendar year 2025. Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

-Park Director- Councilor Salyer motioned to retain Orville Jefferson as Park Director for the calendar year 2025. Councilor Wittmer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

-Plan Commission-Councilor Jefferson motioned to reappoint Councilor CJ Wittmer to the Plan Commission for 2025. Councilor Gant seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0. Councilor Jefferson motioned to reappoint Councilor Tim Gant to the Plan Commission for 2025. Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0. Councilor Salyer motion to reappoint staff appointment Laurie Tribble to the Planning Commission for the calendar year 2025. Councilor Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Council Liaison Positions:

-Police Department: CJ Wittmer was reappointed to Police Department liaison.

-Park Department: Tim Gant was appointed to Park liaison.

-Fire Department: Blake Jefferson was reappointed to Fire Department liaison.

-Stormwater: Harold Salyer was reappointed to the Storm Water Board liaison.

-MCO: Harold Salyer was reappointed to MCO liaison.

-Engineer: Blake Jefferson was reappointed to Engineer liaison.

-NIRPC Representative: CJ Wittmer was reappointed to be the NIRPC Representative.

-Clerk-Treasurer: Tyler Brock was reappointed to Clerk-Treasurer liaison.

Approval of the Utility Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the December 9, 2024 utility meeting minutes were presented to the council for approval. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2024 utility meeting minutes as submitted. Councilor Wittmer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the December 9, 2024 council meeting were presented to the council for approval. Councilor Wittmer motioned to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2024 regular meeting minutes as submitted. Councilor Gant seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Claims: The final Accounts Payable Docket for 2024 was presented to the council for approval. Councilor Wittmer motioned to approve the accounts payable docket for December 9, 2024 to December 31, 2024 as submitted. Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Claims: The Accounts Payable Docket for January 13, 2025 was presented to the council for approval. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve the accounts payable docket for January 1, 2025 to January 13, 2024 as submitted. Councilor Wittmer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Departmental/Contractual Reports

***Clerk-Treasurer-** Laurie Tribble reported to the council the missing parts to the vector have not been received as of yet. Cory would like to have more time to try it out also before making the final repair payment. She further reported that Frontier will be doing upgrades. They have submitted plans and their contractor is licensed and bonded with the Town. In order for everything to move forward smoothly, she asked they not send locates for the whole town at one time. Only for the sections they will be working on at that time and hat they send plans with all bore holes clearly marked with the total wrote on the application so we can verify everything is correct before proceeding.

***Attorney-** No report.

***Engineering-** No report.

***Park-** Orville Jefferson is having NIPSCO install a gas service line to the Drazer Park barn in order to heat the barn.

***Police-** Chief Miller said Shop with A Cop went well. The kids all had a great time. Officer Hodge has started the academy today.

***Building Inspector-** No report.

***Storm Water Board-** Kevin Salyer reported the Alice Steet drainage project is complete. Maple to the school lot will need to be paved possibly with money from a Community Crossing Grant. They are now looking at a project on Mentor St. by Cronies for Rose to Kouts St. Greenline submitted the low bid for the project. The project will start when the weather warms up.

***Fire Department-** Chief Gettler reported he has 10 years with the Fire Department. The new truck will start to be built in March, delivering in July or August.

***Economic Development Commission-**The EDC is looking to revamp the Pennsy Park amphitheater. They will also be adding sound and video equipment.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

***RESOLUTION 2025-1-A RESOLUTION ENCUMBERING 2024 FUNDS TO PAY IN 2025-** Councilor Gant motioned to approve Resolution 2025-1 and Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

***RESOLUTION 2025-2 A RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING 2024 FUNDS BETWEEN LINE ITEMS-** Councilor Salyer motioned to approve Resolution 2025-2 and Councilor Gant seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

***RESOLUTION 2025-3 A RESOLUTION ALLOWING THE CLERK-TREASURER TO CANCEL OLD OUTSTANDING CHECKS-** Councilor Wittmer motioned to approve Resolution 2025-3 and Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

***WESSLER CONTRACT FOR NPDES REVIEW APPROVAL-**Wessler Engineering submitted a proposal in the amount of up to \$4200 to update the NPDES Permit with IDEM to remain compliant. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve the contract and Councilor Wittmer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

***AMENDMENT NO. 3 WITH WESSLER ENGINEERING FOR WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION FOR CONTRACTS A AND B-**Wessler proposes to provide construction administration, resident project representation, programming services, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) server hardware and licensing, post-construction services for the Water System Improvements Project in the amount of \$950,000 of which \$70,000 is for SCADA servers and hardware, software licensing and cellular/network equipment. See contract for details. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve the contract as submitted and Councilor Gant seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Adjournment:

Councilor Jefferson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m., and Councilor Gant seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,




Laurie A. Tribble
Clerk-Treasurer



Tyler Brock

Blake Jefferson



Tim Gant



CJ Wittmer



Harold Salyer