

**Town of Jena
Regular Meeting
February 7, 2022**

The Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Jena, Louisiana, met in regular session on Monday, February 7, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at their regular meeting place, the Town Hall.

Mayor LaDawn C. Edwards called the meeting to order; Councilman Donny Richardson opened the meeting with prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Council members Donny Richardson, Tommy Sandifer, Lester Francis, Wayne Chapman, and Attorney Evans Dorroh.

Absent: Councilman David Paul Jones

The reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was dispensed on a motion by Mr. Sandifer and seconded by Mr. Francis. Motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Richardson made a motion seconded by Mr. Chapman to approve the financial report. Motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Francis made a motion seconded by Mr. Chapman to hire Shellie McCartney as the Police Secretary effective January 20, 2022. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Sandifer made a motion seconded by Mr. Richardson to hire Ronnie Steele as the Utility Superintendent effective March 1, 2022. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Francis made a motion seconded by Mr. Richardson to adopt a resolution for the sale of surplus items. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Francis made a motion seconded by Mr. Sandifer to authorize Mayor Edwards to sign a contract with Bonnette Auction Company, LLC. Motion unanimously approved.

Councilmen Lester Francis and Tommy Sandifer gave the Street Committee update. Repair work with the LaSalle Parish Police Jury will continue during good weather. The town has been using the police jury's side bush hog to clean up rights-of-way. The committee meetings have been changed to quarterly instead of monthly.

Assistant Fire Chief Charlie Savell presented the Fire Report.

Police Chief Scott McLendon presented the Police Report.

Assistant Superintendent Ricky Haggart presented the utility report.

Mayor Edwards announced that on January 19th the town disbursed the Nancy Lieberman Charities "Kids and Cops Grant" at the Dream Court in town park. The grant funded the

purchase of 48 basketballs, air pumps and nets for the Jena High and Jena Junior High basketball teams. Each player and coach also received a JG hoodie. A huge thank you to the coaching staff at both schools and Robert Neal. Also, thank you to Jason Hatcher who donated the Dream Court to our town park. We enjoyed grilled burgers with the help of the LaSalle Parish Sheriff's Office and ended the event with a basketball game between the Jena Police Department and the school teams.

Sales tax collection for 2021 was \$1,213,928.04 compared to \$1,191,505.62 for 2020. Sales tax collection for December 2021 was \$91,752.79 and 2020 \$104,333.00. Sales tax collection for January 2022 were \$127,003.89 which is an increase compared to 2021 collections of \$118,286.36.

As there was no other business to be brought before the Mayor and Town Council, Mr. Richardson made a motion seconded by Mr. Chapman to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 a.m.

TOWN CLERK, Cory Floyd

MAYOR, LaDawn C. Edwards