

**Town of Jena
Regular Meeting
September 12, 2022**

The Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Jena, Louisiana, met in regular session on Monday, September 12, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at their regular meeting place, the Town Hall.

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

Present: Council members, Donny Richardson, Tommy Sandifer, David Paul Jones, Lester Francis, Wayne Chapman, and Attorney Walter Dorroh, Jr.

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

Mr. Richardson made a motion seconded by Mr. Jones to approve the financial report. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Chapman made a motion seconded by Mr. Francis to adopt the LCDBG Management Resolution including policies: Section 504 Grievance Procedure, Language Access Plan, Residential Anti-Displacement, and Policy for communicating information to persons with sensory impairments. Motion unanimously approved.

Superintendent Ronny Steele made the annual Natural Gas Public Awareness Presentation.

Mr. Francis made a motion seconded by Mr. Jones to adopt a resolution in support of applying for a FY 2022-2023 LGAP grant. Motion unanimously approved.

Firefighter Jeffery Benson presented the Fire Report.

Police Chief Scott McLendon presented the Police Report.

Superintendent Ronny Steele presented the utility report.

Mayor Edwards announced that on August 5th she attended an orientation in Baton Rouge for the upcoming LCDBG Street Project. GEO hosted a luncheon at the Strand Theater Tuesday, August 23 at 11:30. Avery Michaels and Exit 209 band joined by Kinship Group, Kings Messengers and James Kelly performed at the Strand Theater Saturday, August 27. The show was a great success. Avery is scheduled to return to the Strand Saturday, November 5th. The Howdy Neighbor Day Beauty Pageant will be held at the Strand Saturday, September 24th at 11:00 a.m. CJ Solar is scheduled to perform at the Strand Saturday, October 29th. Tickets are available at Rae Rae's Gifts, Initially Blessed and Cotton Boll. LaSalle General Hospital hosted an open house and ribbon cutting Thursday, September 8th. We toured the new entrance, admitting and hospital. Congratulations to Lana Francis and the LaSalle General Hospital staff for their new addition. On Friday, September

9th we attended the "In Honor and Remembrance" Woodman Life Salutes American Heroes program at the LaSalle Parish Courthouse. A special thank you to Martiel Jones for always organizing the program. This ceremony honors the heroes and victims of September 11, 2001. Later that evening we honored thirty seniors at Jena High School who participate in band, dance line, cheerleading and football team. Chief McLendon and I presented each senior with a Jena Medal. On behalf of the Town of Jena we would like to congratulate each senior for their hard work and dedication. We will have a ribbon cutting at the Olive Branch, which is in the Wright Building Thursday, September 22nd at 10:30 a.m. Sales tax collections for July 2021 were \$100,008.39 with July 2022 being \$99,189.79. Collections for August 2021 were \$106,134.81 and August 2022 was \$110,931.58.

Councilman Lester Francis and Police Jury Member June Fowler commented on this quarter's street progress. Both men expressed that it is imperative that the Town and Police Jury continue to work together to improve the streets. Mr. Fowler hopes to be able to repave the remainder of Hazel Loop and Spruce Street.

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 9:24 a.m.

TOWN CLERK, Cory Floyd

MAYOR, LaDawn C. Edwards