

**Town of Jena
Regular Meeting
November 6, 2023**

The Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Jena, Louisiana, met in regular session on Monday, November 6, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at their regular meeting place, the Town Hall.

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

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

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

Mr. Richardson made a motion seconded by Mr. Jones to approve the financial reports for September 2023. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Sandifer made a motion seconded by Mr. Chapman to adopt a resolution identifying matching funds are available to be spent for the Water Sector Program. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Chapman made a motion seconded by Mr. Francis to introduce the 2024 budget for General, Utility and Sales tax funds. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Francis made a motion seconded by Mr. Chapman to hire James Mario Thomas as a full-time patrolman effective November 13, 2023. 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 sales tax collection for September 2022 was \$108,240.56 compared to collections of \$122,282.84 for 2023. The Breast Cancer Awareness Parade took place Saturday, October 28th at 4:00 p.m. and was very successful with 61 riders participating. It was followed by Trunk or Treat from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., which saw a slightly smaller crowd due to multiple activities in the area. Veteran's Day festivities will be held Saturday, November 11, with the parade beginning at 10:00 a.m. and the ceremony at 11:00 a.m. at Jena Town Park. The Christmas decorations will be installed downtown beginning the Monday after Thanksgiving. Early voting will be held through Saturday November 11 with election day being Saturday, November 18th. Mr. June Fowler will be greatly missed. He touched the lives of many children and was very helpful to the town. Congratulations to the Jena Giants for their undefeated season and district championship.

As there was no other business to be brought before the Mayor and Town Council, Mr. Richardson made a motion seconded by Mr. Jones to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

TOWN CLERK, Cory Floyd

MAYOR, LaDawn C. Edwards