

**Town of Jena
Regular Meeting
December 4, 2023**

The Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Jena, Louisiana, met in regular session on Monday, December 4, 2023, 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, 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. Jones made a motion seconded by Mr. Richardson to approve the financial reports for October 2023. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Francis made a motion seconded by Mr. Sandifer to open a public hearing to hear comments on the 2024 budgets for General, Utility and Sales tax funds. No comments were made. Mr. Sandifer made a motion seconded by Mr. Richardson to close the public hearing. Motion unanimously approved.

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

Mr. Francis made a motion seconded by Mr. Jones to adopt a record keeping policy. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Sandifer made a motion seconded by Mr. Jones to move the January council meeting to January 8, 2024, due to the New Year's Holiday. Motion unanimously approved.

Firefighter Jeffery Benson presented the Fire Report.

Superintendent Ronny Steele presented the utility report.

Mayor Edwards announced that sales tax collection for October 2022 was \$107,348.35 compared to collections of \$121,763.31 for 2023. The Senior Citizen's Christmas dinner was held this past Friday and was a great success. The crowd was slightly smaller than previous years, but we had a great time, and the food was wonderful. Thank you so much to the volunteers, donors, First Baptist Church, and the Jena Elementary School food service personnel. Thank you so much to Tina, Matt, Tyrone, and Nathan for decorating downtown Jena for Christmas. Congratulations to the Jena High School football team for a magnificent year. Jena's Christmas parade will take place this Friday, December 8th at 6:00 p.m. Thank you so much to the parade committee: Micky Cockerham, Karen Creel, Stephanie McDowell, and Ethel Smith. Upcoming events at the Strand Theater are December 5th at 6:00 p.m. Avery Michaels and Friends Christmas concert and December 14th at 6:00 p.m.

John Ford Coley. Operation Graduation will host Christmas in the Park December 15-17 beginning at 6 p.m. The entrance fee for this event is \$5.

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 9:16 a.m.

TOWN CLERK, Cory Floyd

MAYOR, LaDawn C. Edwards