

**Town of Jena  
Regular Meeting  
May 1, 2023**

The Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Jena, Louisiana, met in regular session on Monday, May 1, 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, Lester Francis, David Paul Jones, Wayne Chapman, and Attorney Evans Dorroh.

Absent: Councilman Tommy Sandifer

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

Mr. Chapman made a motion seconded by Mr. Richardson to adopt the millage rate for the tax year 2023. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Richardson made a motion seconded by Mr. Jones to approve the 2022 Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire. Motion unanimously approved.

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

Mr. Richardson made a motion seconded by Mr. Jones to authorize Mayor Edwards to sign a contract with Bonnette Auction Company, LLC for the sale of the surplus property. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Francis made a motion seconded by Mr. Chapman to adopt a resolution to award the Auxiliary Power for Gaharan Well Site Project to the low bidder, Stephens Contracting Co., and authorize Mayor Edwards to execute all documents related to the project. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Chapman made a motion seconded by Mr. Francis to introduce an amendment to Ordinance 131-Personnel Policies. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Francis made a motion seconded by Mr. Chapman to introduce an amendment to Ordinance 157-Utility Rates. 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 Easter in the Park had to be canceled due to rain. Thank you to Beverly Young for all her hard work in preparing for the event. Sales tax collection for the month of March 2022 was \$95,095.03 compared to 2023 collections of \$107,283.18. The hanging baskets will be out soon. Tier 3 Ethics reports are due May 15<sup>th</sup>, a blank form has been provided for each of you. Wastewater Superintendent, Danny Ainsworth will retire effective June 1, 2023.

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 9:26 a.m.

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TOWN CLERK, Cory Floyd

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MAYOR, LaDawn C. Edwards