

**Town of Jena
Regular Meeting
June 5, 2023**

The Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Jena, Louisiana, met in regular session on Monday, June 5, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at their regular meeting place, the Town Hall.

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

Present: Council members, Donny Richardson, Lester Francis, David Paul Jones, Wayne Chapman, Tommy Sandifer, 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. Francis to approve the financial reports for April 2023. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Jones made a motion seconded by Mr. Chapman to open a public hearing to hear comments on the proposed amendments to ordinances 131 and 157. Motion unanimously approved. No comments were made on either amendment. Mr. Sandifer made a motion seconded by Mr. Francis to close the public hearing. Motion unanimously approved.

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

Mr. Francis made a motion seconded by Mr. Sandifer to adopt an amendment to Ordinance 157-Utility Rates. Motion unanimously approved.

Assistant Fire Chief Charlie Savell presented the Fire Report.

Police Chief Scott McLendon presented the police report.

Superintendent Ronny Steele presented the utility report.

Mayor Edwards and the Town Council presented Danny Ainsworth with a plaque recognizing his retirement effective June 1st after serving the town for 33 years.

Mayor Edwards thanked the town crew for hanging the banners and flower baskets downtown. Sales tax collections for April 2022 were \$120,606.68 compared to April 2023 collections of \$162,961.53. We were pleased with the results of the Bonnette Auction held Saturday, May 20, 2023. The selling price for the 2005 Crown Victoria was \$800 and the 2013 Ford Taurus sold for \$2600. The Mayor attended two ribbon cuttings Friday, June 2nd, Olde Town Market and Holy Rollers. She is very proud of our local shopkeepers. The Gibson Venue will hold a ribbon cutting Friday, June 9th at 11:00 a.m. We are in the process

of sending out nuisance letters in an effort to bring dilapidated properties into compliance with town regulations. The Mayor will attend the LMA District E meeting which will be held in Pineville on Thursday, June 8th. The bids will be opened Thursday, June 15th at 10:30 a.m. for the East Jena Street project. Avery Michaels will perform at the Strand on June 10th at 6:00 p.m.

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 9:31 a.m.

TOWN CLERK, Cory Floyd

MAYOR, LaDawn C. Edwards