

**Town of Jena
Regular Meeting
August 7, 2023**

The Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Jena, Louisiana, met in regular session on Monday, August 7, 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, Lester Francis, Wayne Chapman, Tommy Sandifer, and Attorney Evans Dorroh.

Absent: Councilman David Paul Jones

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

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

Mr. Sandifer made a motion seconded by Mr. Chapman to remove item 7 from the agenda due to illness. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Francis made a motion seconded by Mr. Chapman to move the September meeting to September 11, 2023, due to the Labor Day Holiday.

Superintendent Ronny Steele presented Gas Awareness training.

Assistant Fire Chief Charlie Savell presented the Fire Report.

Superintendent Ronny Steele presented the utility report.

Mayor Edwards announced that sales tax collections for the month of June 2022 were \$110,570.84 compared to 2023 collections of \$120,910.11. July 2022 collections were \$99,189.79 with 2023 collections increasing to \$115,707.51. Nuisance letters are still being sent out. Some of the property owners have made progress with cleanup. Others are still being worked with to accomplish the required cleanup. Road construction in the Cowart St. area is expected to be mid-month. Madlin Graze will hold a grand opening Friday, August 18 at 10:00 a.m. The LaSalle Parish Sheriff's debate will be held at the Strand Theater Thursday, August 27 doors open at 6:30 p.m. Sales Along Hwy 84 will be held September 7, 8, & 9 and will include 68 miles of garage sales.

Xavier Ellis, Candidate for Governor, addressed to the Council and attendees about his candidacy and his vision for the future of Louisiana.

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 9:50 a.m.

TOWN CLERK, Cory Floyd

MAYOR, LaDawn C. Edwards