

**Town of Jena
Regular Meeting
September 11, 2023**

The Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Jena, Louisiana, met in regular session on Monday, September 11, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at their regular meeting place, the Town Hall.

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

Present: Council members, David Paul Jones, Wayne Chapman, Tommy Sandifer, and Attorney Walter Dorroh, Jr.

Absent: Councilmen Donny Richardson and Lester Francis

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

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

The audit report for year ended December 31, 2022, was presented by Scott Adams of Silas Simmons LLP. In his report Mr. Adams stated that the town is in sound financial condition and there were no audit findings. Mr. Chapman made a motion seconded by Mr. Sandifer to accept the audit report as presented. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Jones made a motion seconded by Mr. Sandifer to adopt the procurement policy for the 2024/2025 LCDBG program. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Sandifer made a motion seconded by Mr. Chapman to adopt the Citizen Participation Plan for the 2024/2025 LCDBG program. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Chapman made a motion seconded by Mr. Jones to hire Cody Bladel as a patrolman effective August 28, 2023.

Fire Chief Josh Corley presented the Fire Report.

Superintendent Ronny Steele presented the utility report.

Mayor Edwards announced that sales tax collections for the month of August 2022 were \$110,931.58 compared to 2023 collections of \$144,670.43. The town was recently awarded a 2022/23 LGAP grant in the amount of \$35,000 to purchase a compact excavator for the utility department. Road construction in the Cowart Street area has begun and should be completed near the end of the month. The Sales Along Hwy 84 event was very successful. Thank you to Lavell Evans for your hard work in planning this event. LEDD will hold its annual Legislative Update meeting September 21, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Olla First Baptist Church. Trunk or Treat will be held Saturday, October 28th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Door to door trick or treat will be October 31st. JHS Homecoming is scheduled for Friday October 6th followed by Howdy Neighbor Day Saturday October 7th.

As there was no other business to be brought before the Mayor and Town Council, Mr. Chapman made a motion seconded by Mr. Jones to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

TOWN CLERK, Cory Floyd

MAYOR, LaDawn C. Edwards