

**Town of Jena
Regular Meeting
April 1, 2024**

The Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Jena, Louisiana, met in regular session on Monday, April 1, 2024, 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 Donny Richardson, Wayne Chapman, Lester Francis, and Attorney Walter Dorroh, Jr.

Absent: Councilmen David Paul Jones and Tommy Sandifer

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

Mr. Francis made a motion seconded by Mr. Chapman to approve the financial reports for February 2024. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Francis made a motion seconded by Mr. Richardson to open a public hearing to inform the public on the recently completed FY 2022 LCDBG Public Facilities Street Project. Motion unanimously approved. Thomas Magee with Frye Magee presented to project information. No other comments were made. Mr. Richardson made a motion seconded by Mr. Chapman to close the public hearing. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Francis made a motion seconded by Mr. Chapman to open a public hearing to hear comments on the 2023 budget amendments to the General, Utility and Sales Tax budgets. No comments were made. Mr. Richardson made a motion seconded by Mr. Chapman to close the public hearing. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Chapman made a motion seconded by Mr. Francis to adopt Amendments to 2023 General, Utility and Sales Tax fund budgets. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Francis made a motion seconded by Mr. Chapman to approve the 2023 Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Richardson made a motion seconded by Mr. Francis to approve a beer permit for Paul's Drive Thru. 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 February 2023 Sales tax collection was \$176,379.49 with 2024 collections being \$122,221.15.

She also congratulated the Town of Ball and their Mayor, Gail Wilking, on their first ever Moon Pie Festival. The festival which took over a year to plan was a huge success. Easter in the Park was held Friday, March 29 at the Jena Town Park and was very successful again this year. Thank you to Troop 14 Scouts, Prosperity Baptist Church, Junie B Jumpers, Walmart, Chloe Children's Boutique, Dawn Masters, Pritchard Baptist Church, Bellevue Baptist Church, Donna Free, Shady Grove United Pentecostal Church, Whitehall United Pentecostal Church, Christ Temple Pentecostal Church, East Jena Baptist Church, First Baptist Church, Fellowship Baptist Church, LuLu's Water Slides and Jumpers, Eugene Edwards, Kaley Grace Whatley Kent Hatfield, Caleb Parker, Cayleigh Parker, Lynette Parker, Clint Norris. Town of Jena employees: Cory Floyd, Tina Gore, Matthew Mitcham, Delmer Cockerham and Homeland Bank for supplying all the candy for 6,600 eggs. Mayor Edwards encouraged all churches to participate in the future as it is a great outreach opportunity. CLTCC is hosting a 1 day forklift training class April 19, 2024. The fee is \$150. Please call 318-992-2910 for more information. The Mayor also reminded homeowners that it is necessary and very important in emergency situations to have a 911 address sign at their home. Emergency personnel will have significant delays in finding your property if the address is not properly displayed. This can result in death or loss of property. Congratulations to Craig Franklin and his family for their one-year anniversary of owning the Jena Times.

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 9:25 a.m.

TOWN CLERK, Cory Floyd

MAYOR, LaDawn C. Edwards