

**Town of Jena
Regular Meeting
July 14, 2025**

The Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Jena, Louisiana, met in regular session on Monday, July 14, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at their regular meeting place, the Town Hall.

Mayor LaDawn Edwards called the meeting to order; Councilman David Paul Jones opened the meeting with prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

Mr. Francis made a motion seconded by Mr. Jones to approve the financial reports for May 2025. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Richardson made a motion second by Mr. Francis to hire Leah Larae Ganey as a full-time patrol officer effective June 8, 2025. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Jones made a motion seconded by Mr. Sandifer to reject all bids opened at the June 2, 2025, Council meeting for the demolition of 2730 and 2724 E Oak St. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Sandifer made a motion seconded by Mr. Francis to authorize the advertisement of bids for the demolition of 2730 and 2724 E Oak St with modified insurance requirements. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Chapman made a resolution seconded by Mr. Francis to adopt a resolution recognizing and approving the "Sales Along 84" Event. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Jones made a motion seconded by Mr. Francis to establish a security deposit schedule to comply with Jena Municipal Code Sec. 34-86 (2)(d). Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Richardson made a motion seconded by Mr. Chapman to introduce Ordinance 213 to annex Charles and Patricia Moffett property. Motion unanimously approved.

Fire Chief Josh Corley presented the Fire Report.

Superintendent Ronny Steele presented the Utility Report.

Mayor Edwards announced that May sales tax collections were up with 2024 collection being \$126,412.91 compared to 2025 collections of \$191,100.53. June collections were up slightly with 2024 collections being \$133,108.83 compared to 2025 collections of \$136,865.92. Mayor Edwards, Town Clerk Cory Floyd, Superintendent Ronny Steele and Utility employees Tina Gore and Timmy Renz will attend the LRWA awards ceremony in Lake Charles Wednesday, July 16th. The Grand Re-Opening of the Spring Market will also be

held that day at 10:00 a.m. Mayor Pro-tem Wayne Chapman will cut the ribbon. Thank you to the employees and Womack Construction for all the hard work this past month during the water project. They have worked many long hours including some 24 hours straight to ensure that everyone's water service was restored as quickly as possible. Thank you to the citizens of Jena for your patience as we complete the much needed water upgrades.

As there was no other business to be brought before the Mayor and Town Council, Mr. Richardson made a motion seconded by Mr. Sandifer to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

TOWN CLERK, Cory Floyd

MAYOR , LaDawn C. Edwards