

**Town of Jena
Regular Meeting
November 3, 2025**

The Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Jena, Louisiana, met in regular session on Monday, November 3, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at their regular meeting place, the Town Hall.

Mayor LaDawn Edwards called the meeting to order; Councilman Tommy Sandifer 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 Evans Dorroh

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

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

Mr. Sandifer made a motion seconded by Mr. Richardson to introduce the 2026 Budgets for General, Utility and Sales Tax funds. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Richardson made a motion seconded by Mr. Jones to authorize Mayor Edwards to sign all documents to complete the installation of drive by read water and gas meters as proposed by Aqua Metric to be financed through Government Capital and funded via a \$5.00 monthly technology fee added to each customer bill. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Sandifer made a motion seconded by Mr. Chapman to extend the Christmas Holiday from two days to three to include: Christmas Eve, Wednesday December 24, Christmas Day, Thursday December 25 and the Day after Christmas, Friday December 26, 2025. Motion unanimously approved.

Assistant Fire Chief Charlie Savell presented the Fire Report.

Superintendent David Batchelor presented the Utility Report.

Mayor Edwards announced Trunk or Treat was held October 30th, 6-8 p.m. at the Amphitheater in the Jena Park. 604 children attended this year's event. Sales tax collection for September 2024 was \$117,377.88 compared to 2025 collections of \$170,881.10. A 2008 dump truck was recently purchased with LGAP funds. Congratulations to Ronny Steele on his retirement. Thank you for your service and we wish you all the best. Welcome David Batchelor as the new Utility Superintendent. November 11th at 10:00 a.m. the Veteran's Day Parade will be held with a program following at the park at 11:00 a.m. The Downtown Block Party will be held Thursday November 20th 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. and Friday November 21 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Senior Citizen's Christmas Dinner will be held Friday, December 5th at the First Baptist Church Family Life Center. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. The Christmas Parade will be held Friday, December 12th.

Darrell McCartney addressed the Council with a request to amend section 27 of Ordinance 212. The council will seek legal advice and address this request at the December Council meeting.

As there was no other business to be brought before the Mayor and Town Council, Mr. Richardson made a motion seconded by Mr. Jones to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

TOWN CLERK, Cory Floyd

MAYOR , LaDawn C. Edwards