

**Town of Jena
Regular Meeting
January 12, 2026**

The Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Jena, Louisiana, met in regular session on Monday, January 12, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at their regular meeting place, the Town Hall.

Mayor LaDawn Edwards called the meeting to order; Councilman Lester Francis 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. Francis and seconded by Mr. Chapman. Motion unanimously approved.

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

Mr. Sandifer made a motion second by Mr. Francis to open a public hearing to hear comments on the Amendment to Ordinance 212. Motion unanimously approved. No comments were received. Mr. Sandifer made a motion seconded by Mr. Francis to close the public hearing. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Richardson made a motion seconded by Mr. Jones to adopt an amendment to Ordinance 212. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Francis made a motion seconded by Mr. Chapman to hire Cadyn Elliott as a full-time patrolman effective January 15, 2026.

Mr. Chapman made a motion seconded by Mr. Francis to approve Committees and appointments for 2026. They are as follows:

Committees:

Senior Citizens	Lester Francis	Tommy Sandifer
Recreation	Lester Francis	David Paul Jones
Insurance	David Paul Jones	Wayne Chapman
Police	Wayne Chapman	Lester Francis
Fire	Lester Francis	Donny Richardson
Environment	Tommy Sandifer	Donny Richardson
Personnel	Wayne Chapman	Tommy Sandifer
Finance	Wayne Chapman	Donny Richardson
Street	David Paul Jones	Tommy Sandifer

Appointments:

Town Attorney	Dorroh & Kendrick
Town Magistrate	Mark Talley
Alternate Town Magistrate	Don Wilson
Town Clerk & Tax Collector	Cory Floyd
Auditor	Silas M. Simmons & Company, LLP
Town Engineer	Bryant Hammett & Associates
Banks	Southern Heritage Bank, CLB The Community Bank, Homeland Federal Savings Bank and Sabine State Bank
Official Journal	The Jena Times

Patrolman Kyle Robertson presented the Police report.

Superintendent David Batchelor presented the Utility Report.

Mayor Edwards announced that Sales tax collection for December 2024 was \$135,610.95 compared to 2025 collections of \$108,183.61. The collections for the year were down slightly by \$1,047.31. Thank you to the town crew for all their work installing the Christmas decorations quickly after Thanksgiving and removing them after New Years. The Senior Citizen's Christmas Dinner was held Friday, December 5th at the First Baptist Church Family Life Center and was a huge success. Thank you to the First Baptist Church for the use of your facility and to all volunteers and donors. The Christmas Parade was held Friday, December 12th. This year's parade was the prettiest so far and had a lot of community participation. Thank you to the parade committee Micky Cockerham, Karen Creel, Ethel Smith, and Stephanie McDowell. Thank you to Misty Stringer and Brandy Eubanks from the Mayor and Council for creating and hosting Christmasville. Thank you to Dale Smith with Southern Comfort for serving 200 meals to needy families for Thanksgiving and over 200 New Year's Day. Also, thank you to Christ Temple Pentecostal Church for serving over 800 Thanksgiving meals. The materials have been ordered for the Town Square Pavillion.

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 9:40 a.m.

TOWN CLERK, Cory Floyd

MAYOR , LaDawn C. Edwards