

**Town of Jena
Regular Meeting
December 1, 2009**

The Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Jena, Louisiana, met in regular session on Tuesday, December 1, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. at their regular meeting place, the Town Hall.

Mayor Murphy McMillin called the meeting to order and Councilman Carl Newburg opened the meeting with prayer.

Present: Council members Tommy Sandifer, Carl Newburg, David Paul Jones, Donny Richardson and Donnie Kendrick.

The reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was dispensed on motion by Mr. Kendrick and seconded by Mr. Richardson. Motion unanimously Passed.

Mr. Jones made a motion seconded by Mr. Sandifer to open a public hearing for the purpose of hearing comment on the 2010 budgets. Motion unanimously passed. No comments were made regarding the 2010 budgets. Mr. Richardson made a motion seconded by Mr. Newburg to close the public hearing. Motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Newburg made a motion seconded by Mr. Kendrick to adopt the 2010 budgets. Motion unanimously passed.

Mayor McMillin gave an update on the operations of the swimming pool for the summer of 2009. Attendance at the swimming pool increased by over 100% this year. Operating cost per person was up slightly, but expenses included some capital improvements required by our insurance company.

Mayor McMillin gave a year end update on the status of the Town as follows:

This year has been a successful year in every way that I know how to measure "success". For your information and guidance as we go into the year 2010 I offer the following talking points for you to consider when talking to your constituents:

- Completed a long-term strategic plan for the Town and surrounding area
- Made significant stride in making investments that have a promise for quick payout
- Each employee has been cross-trained to know at least 2 jobs
- More employees in the maintenance crew, fire department and office staff have state certifications than at any time in the history of the town
- Financially the Town of Jena has weathered a financial downturn as well as any of our peer municipalities. Jena's increase in overall revenue has been greater than the expenditures for the year.
- Grant monies have been received or are in the process of being approved as follows: \$443,300 block grant funds for sewer line rehabilitation in old Jena, up

to \$600,000 road repair in town park and east Jena, \$35,000 Community Water Enrichment program, \$31,200 LEED grant for Downtown Beautification, \$80,000 grant from Center for Planning Excellence for long-term strategic plan development, \$30,000 State Capital Outlay for downtown revitalization, \$25,000 for youth development program, \$33,000 Louisiana Government Assistance Program to purchase a utility work truck and a police car, \$54,885 from the Department of Energy used to replace 2 heating and a/c units and exterior single pane doors and windows in town hall, \$100,000 application made to the Louisiana Office of State Parks, Division of Outdoor Recreation for walking trails, \$35,000 LaSalle Economic Development District for streetscape work in downtown in 2010, donation from Jena Merchant's Association from proceeds of the Fall Ball for the restoration of the Strand Theater?????

We are pleased to obtain the above listed funds as investments in our community. We were able to obtain these funds because of the following reasons: First is because we have removed ourselves from the black list of the legislative auditor with our improved accounting and internal controls. Secondly, we have saved enough funds to use as matching funds as required by most of the above funding sources. The finance committee understands well our strategy to leverage the small amount of excess funds that the town has by putting up 10-20-30% of our own funds in order to move forward with some of the desired investments for the future. We have averaged about 20% match which means that for every dollar we have invested others have contributed four additional dollars. That is the strategy of the past and desired plan for the future.

Mr. Kendrick made a motion seconded by Mr. Jones to adopt a resolution authorizing a variance on the FY 2009 LCDBG-Wastewater system improvements grant to provide additional maintenance. Motion unanimously passed.

Assistant Fire Chief Josh Corley presented the fire report.

Town Clerk Cory Floyd presented the police report.

Superintendent Don Jones presented the superintendent's report.

In the Mayor's report Mayor McMillin announced that the Town has received donations from the Jena Merchant's Association and others for the renovation of the Strand Theater. The Senior Citizen's Dinner will be held Saturday, December 5, 2009, at 5:30 p.m. The doors will open at 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 8th at 3:00 p.m. the core group and council will meet with Code Studio for a final review of Jena's Vision. The employee Christmas party will be held Thursday, December 10th at 6:00 p.m.

As there was no other business to be brought before the Mayor and Town Council, Mr. Richardson made a motion seconded by Mr. Kendrick to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

TOWN CLERK, Cory Floyd

MAYOR, Murphy R. McMillin