

**Town of Jena
Regular Meeting
March 6, 2012**

The Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Jena, Louisiana, met in regular session on Tuesday, March 6, 2012, 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. Town Attorney Walter Dorroh, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

Mr. Kendrick made a motion seconded by Mr. Sandifer to keep Blue Cross Blue Shield as the healthcare insurance carrier, increase the deductible to \$2,000, and accept a 6% rate increase. Gap insurance will be offered to the employees as an optional coverage paid for through payroll deduction. Motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Newburg made a motion seconded by Mr. Kendrick to appropriate \$30,000 for salary/wage increases for the remaining 9 months of the year effective the first pay period in April. Motion unanimously passed.

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 reported that the town would undergo a fire insurance rating review June 18th & 19th. The capital improvement projects are moving forward. The LCDBG request for street improvements previously submitted was amended to include 2 more streets (Humphries and N. Fourth). This strengthened the application by adding more residents and increasing the Town's share of the total cost. Applications for the Maintenance Superintendent position have been received from six qualified individuals. The Personnel Committee will begin the review of the application and schedule interviews in the coming weeks. Just a reminder to all concerned citizens utility funds can only be used for utility costs. State law requires water, gas and sewer departments break even or make a small profit. The Town of Jena has among the lowest utility rates in the state because we strictly control expenditures. Curtis Hudnall has invited the Mayor to visit an old restored theater in Liberty, Texas. This could be a great experience to help plan the operation of the Strand Theater once its restoration is completed. A brown bag lunch is scheduled at the Town Square Friday, April 13th and May 4th from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. The Mayor has been appointed to Central Louisiana Economic Development Alliance (CLEDA) executive committee which is working to regionalize their economic development efforts.

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 6:38 p.m.

TOWN CLERK,
Cory Floyd

MAYOR, Murphy R. McMillin