

**Town of Jena  
Regular Meeting  
April 8, 2014**

The Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Jena, Louisiana, met in regular session on Tuesday, April 8, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. at their regular meeting place, the Town Hall.

Mayor Murphy McMillin called the meeting to order and Councilman Donny Richardson opened the meeting with prayer. Councilman Carl Newburg led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Council members Tommy Sandifer, Donnie Kendrick, Donny Richardson, Carl Newburg, and Attorney Steve Kendrick

Absent: Councilman David Paul Jones

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

Mr. Newburg made a motion seconded by Mr. Sandifer to adopt a proclamation declaring April as Fair Housing Month. Motion unanimously passed.

Mayor McMillin presented the new Jena brand to the Council. Following the presentation Mr. Kendrick made a motion seconded by Mr. Richardson to adopt the new logo and continue to use the current slogan as recommended by the Branding Committee made up of Morgan Tarpley, Cory Floyd, Cynthia Cockerham, Ginger Breithaupt and Mayor McMillin. Motion unanimously passed.

Fire Chief Josh Corley presented the fire report.

Police Chief Paul Smith presented the police report.

Superintendent David Miller presented the superintendent's report.

Mayor McMillin reported that the ribbon cutting ceremony for the splash pad will be held Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is encouraged to attend and wear your Live Lively LaSalle t-shirts. Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> will be Dr. Brandon Lane Phillips Day. Dr. Phillips will be presented a key to the city during an open house at town hall 2 -4 p.m. Universal Plant Services will hold their grand opening celebration Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. Planting began last week at the Community Garden; additional items will be planted as the weather permits. A couple of issues surfaced at the US Hwy 84 public hearing last month. The pilot streetscape project was overlooked; plans will be modified to make all of downtown look like the pilot area in front of Town Hall. The new highway is planned to be much too close to Nolley Methodist Church. The consultants and DOTD are working with two options to correct this problem with the current design. The annual LMA Convention will be held in Baton Rouge July 31 – August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Sales tax collection was down the first quarter of this year compared to the first quarter of last year. We recently received notification that our 2012-2013 LCDBG Streets Improvement project was funded. The town was awarded \$600,000 to reconstruct streets in the High School Drive, Peyton Street and Sycamore Street area.

Several items were brought up as concerns by the public. There was a concern that the removal of the traffic light at the intersection of Hwy 84 and Francis/Druett Street would cause a safety hazard. It was also noted that the stray dog problem seems to be getting worse.

A significant variance in the garbage route was also noted. Mayor McMillin promised that each of these items would be addressed and the corrective action would be reported at the next 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. Kendrick to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

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TOWN CLERK, Cory Floyd

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MAYOR, Murphy R. McMillin