

**Town of Jena
Regular Meeting
March 1, 2016**

The Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Jena, Louisiana, met in regular session on Tuesday, March 1, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. at their regular meeting place, the Town Hall.

Mayor LaDawn Cooper Edwards called the meeting to order and Town Attorney Walter Dorroh opened the meeting with prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Council members Bruce Wilson, Wayne Chapman, David Paul Jones, Donny Richardson and Tommy Sandifer and Attorney Walter Dorroh

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

Mr. Wilson made a motion seconded by Mr. Chapman to introduce Ordinance 204: Annexation of McDaniel property on Basham Road. Motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Sandifer made a motion seconded by Mr. Richardson to adopt a proclamation honoring Jena Giants football team for their outstanding achievements during the 2015-2016 season. Motion unanimously passed.

Fire Chief Josh Corley presented the fire report.

Police Chief Scott McLendon presented the police report.

Superintendent David Miller presented the superintendent's report.

Mayor Edwards announced that the town employees planted 16 rows of potatoes in the community garden last month. When the potatoes are ready, we will dig the entire garden up in one day. The date will be announced at a later time. A few bids have been received for the roof replacement and we are waiting on two more. When all the bids are in we will hold a special meeting to decide which route to take. Work is underway on the 6 new streetlights. The playground area at the Jena Town Park will be closed on Thursday and Friday, March 24-25 due to preparations for the town's Easter in the Park. Monday, March 7th the town crew and volunteers will start hanging the Easter eggs in the park tree. The Town will hold the first annual Easter in the Park celebration on Friday, March 25th from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Jena Town Park. The Easter Bunny will arrive at 10:30 a.m. Lynn Enterkin will be available to take pictures of the children with the Easter Bunny or you may bring your own camera. Our area churches have joined us helping with the eggs hunts, games, activities and prizes. There will also be a petting zoo and more. Everyone is welcome to bring a picnic lunch or you may enjoy some good food from Hog Heaven BBQ. Mayor Edwards recognized Beverly Young and Jenni Moss for the huge amount of time they have spent on making sure this is a great event for our community. The Mayor attended the Mid-Winter Conference in Baton Rouge February 24-26th. It was very informative. She also thanked the Council for allowing her to attend. The old 1966 fire truck has been evaluated by a mechanic and will be too expensive to repair. Due to the age of the truck and estimated repair expense on the existing truck, the fire

committee, Josh Corley, and Mayor are looking into purchasing a new service truck. The different options are being evaluated and will be discussed at our next meeting. The Town has been granted an extension from DOTD on the 3rd Street Project. We have asked for the extension deadline of October 3, 2016, but are awaiting confirmation of this date by DOTD. This extension will allow us to pay a 5% match instead of 20% on this million dollar grant. Thank you to Mr. Dorroh for his help in obtaining this extension.

Yesterday we laid to rest one of our own, Donny Ray Smith, Sr., better known as Don. He was 73 years old. Don served our town as Fire Chief from 1980 until his retirement in 2011. He also served as Justice of the Peace from 2011 to 2016. He served as Assistant Coordinator for 911 in which he was very instrumental in the development of 911. He served as President on the 911 Board and later an employee. He served his country in the United States Navy with a rank of E-4 from 1960-1963. Our condolences to his wife, Kim, son Donny Smith, Jr., and daughter Synthia Smith Thompson.

As there was no other business to be brought before the Mayor and Town Council, Mr. Richardson made a motion seconded by Mr. Wilson to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

TOWN CLERK, Cory Floyd

MAYOR, LaDawn Cooper Edwards