

**Town of Jena
Regular Meeting
February 14, 2017**

The Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Jena, Louisiana, met in regular session on Tuesday, February 14, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. at their regular meeting place, the Town Hall.

Mayor LaDawn Cooper Edwards called the meeting to order; Councilman Bruce Wilson opened the meeting with prayer, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Council members Bruce Wilson, Wayne Chapman, Tommy Sandifer, Donny Richardson, David Paul Jones and Attorney Steve Kendrick.

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

Mr. Wilson made a motion seconded by Mr. Richardson to open a public hearing for the purpose of hearing comments on the amendments to the 2016 General and Utility Fund Budgets. Motion unanimously passed. No comments were made. Mr. Richardson made a motion seconded by Mr. Sandifer to close the public hearing. Motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Sandifer made a motion seconded by Mr. Wilson to adopt the Amendments to the 2016 budgets for the General and Utility Funds. Motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Sandifer made a motion seconded by Mr. Richardson to increase the skating rink rental fee to \$60 for a two hour party with 30 or less participants and \$80 for a two hour party with more than 30 participants effective March 1, 2017. Motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Jones made a motion seconded by Mr. Wilson to approve a dual option plan for the employee health insurance. 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 the Town Hall roof is almost finished. The Third Street plans were received back from DOTD on January 27th, Keith Capdepon with need 30 days to make the required changes and resubmit to DOTD. The Strand Theater is moving along good. The Sheet rock is completed and duct work is being installed. We will soon be visiting a company in Shreveport to pick out the portable restroom which is being funded by a grant through LEDD and The Rapides Foundation. The outdoor fitness equipment has been ordered. The town crew and Danny Spicer Electrical have finished installing the trail lighting. A ribbon cutting will be held Tuesday, February 28th at 6:00 p.m. We will start at the Jena Times and walk into the woods to cut the ribbon, and then continue on to the Skating Rink for free

skating until 8:00 p.m. We are very excited about the recent renovations at the Skating Rink. We have new skates, new paint and new lights. Sales tax collections were down \$8,397.33 compared to the same time period last year.

David Conley questioned the Council about the possibility of the town employees getting raises in the near future. The Mayor and Council stated they would love to give raises, but before that can be considered the sales tax collections need to stabilize.

As there was no other business to be brought before the Mayor and Town Council, Mr. Richardson made a motion seconded by Mr. Chapman to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

TOWN CLERK, Cory Floyd

MAYOR, LaDawn Cooper Edwards