

**Town of Jena  
Special Meeting  
July 22, 2016**

The Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Jena, Louisiana, met in special session on Friday, July 22, 2016, at 8:00 a.m. at their regular meeting place, the Town Hall.

Mayor LaDawn Cooper Edwards called the meeting to order.

Present: Council members Bruce Wilson, Tommy Sandifer, David Paul Jones and Attorney Steve Kendrick

Absent: Councilman Donny Richardson and Wayne Chapman

Attorney Walter Dorroh updated the Town Council on the status of the Strand Theater contract. "Womack and Sons Construction Group was the low bidder on the project. We had some concerns as to the ability of that company to be a responsible bidder so we sent them notice of that fact. I was contacted by their attorney. They want to have a title 38:2212(x) informal hearing to demonstrate to the Town that they are a responsible bidder and should be awarded the contract. The law requires this hearing to be held within 5 days of the date of the notice. Due to conflicting schedules we are going to extend that and probably hold the hearing at the August 2<sup>nd</sup> regular Council meeting assuming that Womack Group and their attorney are agreeable. At that hearing the Womack Group will present their arguments as to why we should award them the bid. We will have five days after that informal hearing to make a decision and inform Womack and Sons Construction as to whether or not we're going to accept or reject their bid. After that it's within their right to accept that decision or provoke litigation to convince the court that the town is acting outside the law by doing that. I assured the lawyer when I spoke with him that we are not going to take any action that would be detrimental to his client. We are not allowed under the law to award the contract to any other bidder until we've had the informal hearing and given the Womack Group the opportunity to have due process."

There were no questions from the Council.

As there was no other business to be brought before the Mayor and Town Council, Mr. Jones made a motion seconded by Mr. Sandifer to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 a.m.

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TOWN CLERK, Cory Floyd

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MAYOR, LaDawn Cooper Edwards