

ORDINANCE NO. O 2021-____

BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF THE COUNTY OF BENTON, STATE OF ARKANSAS, AN ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED:

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES RELATED TO ATTENDANCE AND PUBLIC COMMENTS AT QUORUM COURT MEETINGS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS, AND ADDRESSING PAY FOR JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

WHEREAS, based on the termination of the Governor's emergency declaration arising from the Coronavirus pandemic, the Quorum Court has determined it appropriate to address certain organizational matters; and

WHEREAS, it is also thought appropriate to clarify the pay structure for Justices of the Peace and the meeting structure has changed since the last time pay was addressed.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF THE COUNTY OF BENTON, STATE OF ARKANSAS THAT:

SECTION 1. Attendance by Justices of the Peace at Quorum Court meetings for purposes of determining a quorum, for purposes of voting, and for purposes of compensation, shall be by in person attendance except as might be otherwise allowed in the event of an emergency declared by an authorized official.

SECTION 2. (a) Attendance by Justices of the Peace at committee meetings for purposes of determining a quorum, for purposes of voting, and for purposes of compensation, shall be in person only except as otherwise provided herein.

(b) A Justice of the Peace may attend one committee meeting per year by remote means, and shall be counted for quorum purposes and shall be permitted to vote and will be compensated for the meeting. The provision allowing a Justice of the Peace to be compensated for attendance at one meeting per year by remote means shall be in addition to the one compensated absence per year allowed for Quorum Court meetings by § 14-14-1205 (a)(2)(B) of the Arkansas Code.

(c) Nothing herein shall be construed to alter the definition of "per diem" pay provided for in § 14-14-1205 (a)(2)(B) of the Arkansas Code or the effects of that provision.

(d) Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent Justices of the Peace attending a meeting by remote means and being counted for quorum purposes, being allowed to vote, and being compensated if allowed in the event of an emergency declared by an authorized official.

SECTION 3. The Quorum Court as a body and its committees shall receive public comments by those persons who attend meetings in person and by those persons submitting their comments in writing which shall be managed by the County Clerk as Secretariat of the Quorum Court.

SECTION 4. That Justices of the Peace will be paid for attending Quorum Court meetings and for attending meetings of committees of the Quorum Court such amounts as might be approved from time to time in appropriation ordinances of the County.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2021.

APPROVED:

BARRY MOEHRING, COUNTY JUDGE

DATE SIGNED: _____

ATTEST:

BETSY HARRELL, COUNTY CLERK

SPONSOR: _____

Date Adopted: _____

Votes For: _____ Against: _____

Abstain: _____ Present: _____ Absent: _____