



WASHINGTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS
County Courthouse

MEETING OF THE
WASHINGTON COUNTY QUORUM COURT
COUNTY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, June 28, 2021
6:00 P.M.
Washington County Quorum Court Room

Robert Dennis
Suki Highers
Butch Pond

Sam Duncan - Chair

Sean Simons
Evelyn Rios Stafford
Jim Wilson-Vice-Chair

A G E N D A

1. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

2. PRAYER AND PLEDGE

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

At the beginning of each meeting, the agenda shall be approved. Any JP may request an item be added or removed from the agenda subject to approval of the Committee.

4. PATRIOT PARK PRESENTATION

5. WASHINGTON REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER REPORT

6. COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES UPDATE

7. NWA CRISIS STABILIZATION UNIT UPDATE

8. OVERVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF COUNTY BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES

9. A RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT WASHINGTON COUNTY IS A PRO LIFE COUNTY Item 21-R-006 (9.1)

10. **AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR REMOTE PARTICIPATION (TO BE REFERRED TO AS “HYBRID MEETINGS”) IN THE MEETINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY QUORUM COURT AND ITS SUBCOMMITTEES**

JP EVELYN RIOS STAFFORD Item 21-O-072 (10.1)

11. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Twelve-minute comment period with a three-minute limit for each individual to comment on items on the agenda.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

Item 21-R-006

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF THE COUNTY OF WASHINGTON, STATE OF ARKANSAS, A RESOLUTION TO BE ENTITLED:

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT WASHINGTON COUNTY IS A PRO LIFE COUNTY.

WHEREAS, we affirm that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness; and,

WHEREAS, we affirm our belief that God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them, Genesis 1:27; and,

WHEREAS, Amendment 68 to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas makes clear that we are to protect the life of every unborn child from conception until birth, to the extent permitted by the Federal Government; and,

WHEREAS, it is the duty of governments, such as ours, to protect this unalienable right to life of every person within our jurisdiction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS, that Washington County, Arkansas, declares itself to be a Pro Life County, committed to the protection of all lives, including the lives of the unborn.

JOSEPH K. WOOD, County Judge

DATE

BECKY LEWALLEN, County Clerk

Introduced by: JP Patrick Deakins

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE

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

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR REMOTE PARTICIPATION (TO BE REFERRED TO AS "HYBRID MEETINGS") IN THE MEETINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY QUORUM COURT AND ITS SUBCOMMITTEES.

WHEREAS, on April 16, 2020, the Arkansas Senate and House of Representatives passed HB 1082 (Act 2 of 2020), amending Ark. Code Ann. § 25-19-106, and allowing the Washington County Quorum Court and other public entities to assemble, gather, meet, and conduct open public meetings through electronic means; and,

WHEREAS, the ability for the Quorum Court and its subcommittees to conduct virtual meetings as described in the above legislation expired when the Governor’s Emergency Order 21-07 expired on May 30, 2021; and,

WHEREAS, even though the Washington County Quorum Court and its members are now required to meet in person, there is nothing in Arkansas law or Washington County Ordinance that prohibits the Court from conducting hybrid meetings that allow the public to participate in its meetings electronically; and,

WHEREAS, the community has been participating in meetings virtually since early last year due to the Covid-19 Pandemic for safety and other reasons, and Washington County purchased equipment and infrastructure necessary to allow such virtual participation by the community; and,

WHEREAS, as a public service to the community, the Washington County Quorum Court desires that its public meetings and those of its subcommittees provide for remote participation by the public in conjunction with an in-person meeting, which shall be referred to herein as a “hybrid meeting”; and,

WHEREAS, this remote participation shall include the

42 opportunity for the community to offer public comment and address the court, and
43 otherwise generally permitted interactions at such meetings as set out in Washington
44 County Code; and,

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46 **WHEREAS**, all hybrid meetings shall be held as closely
47 consistent with the applicable statutes, special acts, county ordinances, resolutions or
48 procedures as possible, and in compliance with the open meetings provisions set forth in
49 the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act, while still allowing for electronic participation
50 by the community members.

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52 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE QUORUM**
53 **COURT OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS:**

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55 **ARTICLE 1.** That whenever possible, except for times when
56 there are technical difficulties or equipment failure, all open meetings of the Washington
57 County Quorum Court and its subcommittees shall be conducted as “hybrid meetings”
58 that simultaneously provide for remote participation by members of the community.

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60 **ARTICLE 2.** These “hybrid meetings” shall be held as closely
61 consistent with the applicable statutes, special acts, county ordinances, resolutions or
62 procedures as possible, and in compliance with the open meetings provisions set forth in
63 the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act, while still allowing for electronic participation
64 by community members, including the opportunity for the community to offer public
65 comment if otherwise generally permitted at such meetings as set out in Washington
66 County Code.

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68 **ARTICLE 3.** If there are ordinances or parts of ordinance in
69 conflict with any parts of this ordinance, then this ordinance shall prevail.

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71 **ARTICLE 4.** This ordinance being necessary for the public
72 peace, health, and safety shall be in full effect immediately upon adoption and signing.

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77 JOSEPH K. WOOD, County Judge

DATE

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82 BECKY LEWALLEN, County Clerk

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84 Introduced by: **JP Evelyn Rios Stafford**