

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 23-01

(Sponsored by Justice Lachowsky)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF THE COUNTY OF FAULKNER, STATE OF ARKANSAS, AN ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED: AN ORGANIZATIONAL ORDINANCE FOR THE 2023-2024 QUORUM COURT.

WHEREAS, the term for the new Quorum Court began on January 1, 2023, and an organizational ordinance for the new Quorum Court is needed; and,

WHEREAS, the Quorum Court desires to establish its regular meeting schedule by ordinance pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated § 14-14-904, and the Court finds that it is in the best interests of the Court to do so.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF FAULKNER COUNTY, ARKANSAS, THAT:

- Article 1: Unless modified by subsequent ordinance, the regular monthly meeting of the Quorum Court shall hereafter be held on the Third (3rd) Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. on January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, October, November and December. Due to the annual Faulkner County Fair Parade, the monthly meeting of the Quorum Court for September will occur on the Third (3rd) Thursday at 6:00 p.m.
- Article 2: The regular monthly meetings of the Quorum Court shall be held at the Faulkner County Courthouse, Courtroom A. If Courtroom A is unavailable, the Justices of the Peace will be timely notified of the meeting location by the Secretariat.
- Article 3: The regular monthly meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee shall be held on the Second (2nd) Tuesday of every month at 6:00pm. If the Chairperson or a quorum of the Budget & Finance Committee shall deem it necessary, the date and time of the meeting may be changed as needed.
- Article 4: The regular monthly meetings of the Budget and Finance Committee shall be held at the Faulkner County Courthouse, Courtroom A. If Courtroom A is unavailable, the committee members will be timely notified of the meeting location by the Secretariat.

Article 5: The following regular committees are hereby established to serve the Faulkner County Quorum Court: Budget & Finance, Infrastructure, Courts and Public Safety, and Personnel. Each regular committee shall comprise of five members.

Each committee shall be tasked with the following legislative responsibilities:

- (a) Budget & Finance. The duties of the Budget & Finance Committee shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - 1. Consider and/or recommend proposed budgetary items to be presented to the Quorum Court for consideration and final passage or action; and
 - 2. To submit the following year's budget or amend the existing budget; and
 - 3. Review revenue and expenditure projections; and
 - 4. Assess county government programs and operations and recommend sustainable financing arrangements for priority needs.
- (b) Personnel. The duties of the Personnel Committee shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - 1. Consider all requests to create or eliminate county employment positions; and
 - 2. Review pay raise requests to ensure reasonableness; and
 - 3. Develop personnel policies.
- (c) Infrastructure. The duties of the Infrastructure Committee shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - 1. Consider and/or recommend proposed infrastructure items to be presented to the Quorum Court for consideration and final passage; and
 - 2. Review proposed infrastructure improvements within the County; and
 - 3. Develop ordinances relating to the County's transportation system, water & sewer systems, and other community projects.
- (d) Courts & Public Safety. The duties of the Courts & Public Safety Committee shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - 1. Consider and/or recommend proposed ordinances which pertain to the County's court or public safety systems; and
 - 2. Review proposed improvements within the County's courts and public safety systems; and
 - 3. Develop ordinances relating to the improvement of the County's courts and public safety systems.

Article 6: The Quorum Court and all the Committees thereof shall be procedurally governed by the most current edition of the Democratic Rules of Order and shall include the following procedures:

- (a) The Democratic Rules of Order may not overrule or supersede any state statute regarding the governance of the Quorum Court.
- (b) The Justice of the Peace which sponsors an ordinance or makes a motion shall be given the privilege of starting the discussion and ending the discussion. Upon conclusion of discussion, for any decision in which a roll call vote is requested or required, the vote shall begin with the sponsor of the ordinance or imitator and continue in alphabetical order until all votes have been cast.
- (c) Agendas for the full Quorum Court and the committees shall be set by the chairperson of each committee, and may be amended by the chairperson or a majority of the members.
- (d) Agendas must be submitted to the Quorum Court Secretariat no later than two business days (excluding holidays observed by the county) at 11:00 a.m. prior to any Quorum Court meeting.
- (e) Proposed items that are submitted after the agenda deadline may be considered at a meeting, but will require a suspension of the rules before the proposed item can be introduced for consideration.

Article 7: The County Civil Attorney is hereby designated as legal counsel for the Quorum Court pursuant to A.C.A. §14-14-902(b).

Article 8: In accordance with A.C.A. §14-14-902, the County Clerk or the Clerk's designee is appointed as Secretariat of this Court. The duties of the Secretariat shall be as stated in A.C.A. §14-14-903(a)(3). The County Clerk or the Clerk's designee shall record all full court and committee meetings, with the exception of executive sessions.

Article 9: SPECIAL MEETINGS.

- (a) The county judge or a majority of the Quorum Court members may call a special meeting upon at least twenty-four (24) hours' notice. Such notice shall include the time, date, place, and subject of the meeting. Only the business stated in the notice of the call of the special meeting shall be considered at the meeting.
- (b) If notice of a special meeting is given at any regular or special Quorum Court meeting, it shall constitute due notice to the members present. The Secretariat shall be responsible for notifying those members who are absent.

Article 10: It is hereby recognized that immediate establishment of dates, times, and locations of the regular meetings of the Quorum Court and the Budget and Finance Committee thereof is necessary and is required by state law. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this Ordinance being necessary for preservation and protection of the public health, safety, and welfare of Faulkner

County, this Ordinance shall be in force and take effect upon passage and publication.

Article 11: SEVERABILITY. If any part of this Ordinance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any other portion of this Ordinance.

Article 12: REPEALER. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

Approved by the Quorum Court on _____.

Dated: _____

Dated: _____

Attest: _____

Affirm: _____

**Margaret Darter
Quorum Court Secretariat
Faulkner County, Arkansas**

**Allen Dodson
Faulkner County Judge
Faulkner County Arkansas**