

ORDINANCE NO. 21-849

CITY OF GENTRY, ARKANSAS

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2.16.04 OF THE GENTRY MUNICIPAL CODE.

WHEREAS, while the state of emergency declared by the Governor of the State of Arkansas due to the COVID-19 pandemic has ended, the world continues to deal with the fallout from the pandemic, including the threat of lingering coronavirus variants;

WHEREAS, the Gentry City Council has determined that it would be prudent to continue to permit remote participation in Council meetings in light of the lingering effects of the pandemic, and given the City's positive experience with remote participation over the past year;

WHEREAS, Arkansas Code Annotated § 25-19-106(a) provides that, subject to certain exceptions, "all meetings . . . of the governing bodies of all municipalities . . . shall be public meetings";

WHEREAS, Arkansas Code Annotated § 14-43-501(a)(2)(C) authorizes the governing body of a city of the first class to "determine the rules of its proceedings . . ."; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gentry, a city of the first class, recognizing that physical presence is the preferred method of participation at council meetings, desires to provide a way for the Mayor, councilmembers, and citizens to participate in council meetings remotely, while still abiding by the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act of 1967;

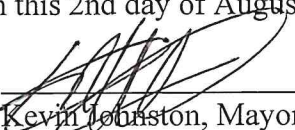
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Gentry, Arkansas:

Section 1: Section 2.16.04 of the Gentry Municipal Code is hereby amended by inserting the following as Subsection C (and renumbering the succeeding subsections appropriately):

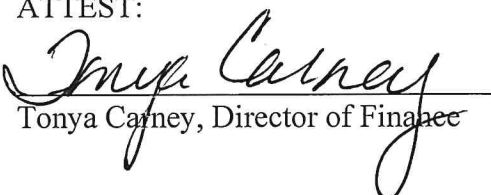
- C. Even when no emergency declaration by the Governor, the County Judge, or the Mayor is in effect, remote participation is permitted so long as at least 60% of all of the Council members are physically present at the meeting.

Section 2. All ordinances or resolutions of the City in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

PASSED and APPROVED in regular session this 2nd day of August, 2021.

  
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Kevin Johnston, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Tonya Carney, Director of Finance