

ORDINANCE NO. 9411

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING ARTICLE XI OF CHAPTER 7 OF THE COMPILED ORDINANCES OF OUACHITA PARISH, LOUISIANA, (SECTIONS 7-160, *et seq.*) AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EXPANSION OF BROADBAND SERVICES; AND, FURTHER PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, economic development, residential development, education, and quality of life in Ouachita Parish will benefit by expansion of the availability of broadband services to all areas of Ouachita Parish, particularly those areas that are presently unserved or underserved;

WHEREAS, at present and in the future it appears that state and federal funding will be available to foster the expansion of broadband services to unserved and underserved areas; and,

WHEREAS, the Ouachita Parish Police Jury (“OPPJ”) finds that it would benefit from the input of a citizens’ advisory committee that could direct its attention to the opportunities for the expansion of broadband services in Ouachita Parish and make suggestions and recommendations to the OPPJ concerning such opportunities, and related matters;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT ORDAINED by the Ouachita Parish Police Jury in legal and Regular Session that Article XI of Chapter 7 of the Compiled Ordinances of Ouachita Parish, Louisiana, (Section 7-160, *et seq.*) governing “Franchises” be adopted as follows:

Sec. 7-160. – Broadband Services Advisory Committee.

In order to advise the Ouachita Parish Police Jury (“OPPJ”) opportunities for the expansion of broadband services to unserved and underserved areas of Ouachita Parish, and matters related thereto, there is hereby created the Broadband Citizens' Advisory Committee.

Sec. 7-161. – Same—Members, terms and officers.

The Broadband Citizens' Advisory Committee shall be made up of seven (7) members appointed by the Ouachita Parish Police Jury. One member shall be nominated by the juror representing each of the six (6) Police Jury districts. The seventh member shall be the “at large” member and shall be nominated by the OPPJ President.

Four (4) members would serve initial terms of two (2) years and three (3) members would serve initial terms of four (4) years, with said initial terms to be allocated by the drawing of lots at the committee's initial meeting. After these initial terms, all members would serve terms of four (4) years.

At its initial meeting the committee shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman who shall serve one-year terms in such offices. The Parish Treasurer shall designate an employee to

serve as the secretary of the committee. Said secretary shall be responsible for the keeping of minutes, preparation of agendas, posting of notices, and similar clerical matters.

Sec. 7-162. – Same—Meetings.

The committee shall meet quarterly and otherwise upon the call of the chairman. Meetings shall be held at the OPPJ Office in the Ouachita Parish Courthouse or at such other location as selected by the chairman.

Sec. 7-163. – Same—Scope of duties.

The committee shall consider those matters related to opportunities for the expansion of broadband services to unserved and underserved areas of Ouachita Parish, and matters related thereto, and make recommendations to the Ouachita Parish Police Jury regarding same.

Sec. 7-164. – Same—Report to police jury.

The chairman or his designee shall appear at a meeting of the Ouachita Parish Police Jury at least quarterly to inform the police jury regarding matters considered by the committee and its recommendations, if any.

Sec. 7-165. – Same—Open meetings.

The meetings of the committee shall be considered to be meetings of a public body subject to the provisions of the Open Meetings Law (R.S. 42:4.1 et seq.) that apply to such citizens' advisory committees. Written minutes of its meetings shall be kept as public records.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the supplemental and amending provisions set forth above shall become effective upon the adoption of this Ordinance.

The above ordinance was adopted on the 22nd day of February, 2022.