

RESOLUTION NO. 9167

A RESOLUTION introduced by City Manager Brent Trout temporarily suspending certain Governing Body Rules and Procedures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus outbreak a global pandemic (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, the Governor declared a State of Disaster Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the Shawnee County Health Officer issued an order prohibiting public gatherings with more than ten (10) people in attendance; and

WHEREAS, with COVID-19 cases in Kansas projected to be between 300 and 900 by the end of March, the Governor, on March 23, 2020, issued an Executive Order prohibiting gatherings of ten (10) or more people; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body, by adoption of the Governing Body Rules and Procedures (“GB Rules”) has established a set of rules and procedures to facilitate the business of the Governing Body; and

WHEREAS, the GB Rules require in-person, televised meetings in the Council Chambers during which public comment is to be received; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety and welfare of Topeka residents, elected City officials and employees of the City of Topeka are of critical importance and are endangered by the threat and spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body, in response to COVID-19, desires to protect the public health, safety and welfare by making temporary changes to the GB Rules that facilitate City business while protecting the public and those individuals who administer the

27 business of the City.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE
29 CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS, that the following GB Rules are suspended through May 6,
30 2020, unless earlier reinstated by the Governing Body:

- 31 1. GB Rule 2.10 Television Coverage
- 32 2. GB Rule 5.5(b) Public Comment (Sign-Up)
- 33 3. GB Rule 5.5(c) Public Comment (Specific Agenda Items)
- 34 4. GB Rule 5.5(d) Public Comment (General)
- 35 5. GB Rule 7.3(b) Manner of Voting
- 36 6. GB Rule 8.14 Television Coverage (Committee Meetings)

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

38 1. Members of the Governing Body are authorized to remotely attend,
39 participate, and vote in meetings that may be conducted telephonically or by
40 videoconference.

41 2. Members of the Governing Body who intend to participate remotely (“Remote
42 Participant”) shall provide reasonable notice to the City Manager to allow time for
43 necessary preparation. A Remote Participant must be capable of fully participating in the
44 meeting and must be able to communicate with all other members of the body, staff, and
45 others at the meeting.

46 3. Remote participants will be considered present and in attendance, and may
47 cast votes. When roll is called, the Remote Participant will be noted as ‘participating
48 remotely’ and the minutes will reflect if and when Remote Participants leave the meeting.

49 4. Written public comment may be submitted personally or by email to the City

50 Clerk for attachment to the minutes of a remote meeting.

51 5. All meetings held remotely are subject to the Kansas Open Meetings Act.

52 This Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and
53 shall remain in effect through May 6, 2020, unless earlier rescinded by the Governing
54 Body.

55 ADOPTED and APPROVED by the Governing Body March 26, 2020.

56 CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS

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Michelle De La Isla, Mayor

62 ATTEST:

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Brenda Younger, City Clerk