

1 **RESOLUTION NO. 9178**

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3 A RESOLUTION introduced by City Manager Brent Trout temporarily suspending  
4 certain Governing Body Rules and Procedures in response to the  
5 COVID-19 pandemic  
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7 WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the  
8 coronavirus outbreak a global pandemic (COVID-19); and

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

11 WHEREAS, on March 26, 2020, the Governing Body declared a State of Local  
12 Emergency; and

13 WHEREAS, the Governor and the Shawnee County Health Officer have issued  
14 multiple executive and emergency orders establishing various directives and prohibitions in  
15 an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19; and

16 WHEREAS, on May 22, 2020, Phase 2.0 of the Governor's *Ad Astra: A Plan to*  
17 *Reopen Kansas* document will go into effect, which, among other things, restricts public  
18 gatherings to fifteen (15) or fewer people (except for those who reside together); and

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

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

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

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

31           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE  
32 CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS, that the following GB Rules are suspended through July 8,  
33 2020, unless earlier reinstated by the Governing Body:

- 34           1.     GB Rule 2.10 Television Coverage
- 35           2.     GB Rule 5.5(b) Public Comment (Sign-Up)
- 36           3.     GB Rule 5.5(c) Public Comment (Specific Agenda Items)
- 37           4.     GB Rule 5.5(d) Public Comment (General)
- 38           5.     GB Rule 7.3(b) Manner of Voting
- 39           6.     GB Rule 8.6 Quorum (Committee Meetings)
- 40           7.     GB Rule 8.14 Television Coverage (Committee Meetings)

41           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

- 42           1.     Members of the Governing Body are authorized to remotely attend,  
43 participate, and vote in meetings that may be conducted telephonically or by  
44 videoconference.
- 45           2.     Members of the Governing Body who intend to participate remotely (“Remote  
46 Participant”) shall provide reasonable notice to the City Manager to allow time for  
47 necessary preparation. A Remote Participant must be capable of fully participating in the  
48 meeting and must be able to communicate with all other members of the body, staff, and  
49 others at the meeting.

