

**RESOLUTION NO. 9187**

A RESOLUTION introduced by City Manager Brent Trout temporarily suspending certain Governing Body Rules and Procedures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic until August 12, 2020

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 26, 2020, the Governing Body declared a State of Local Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on May 26, 2020, Governor Laura Kelly announced that the Ad Astra order will no longer have the force and effect of law and that counties would be responsible for issuing any further public health orders to manage the outbreak in their local jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 2020, the Shawnee County Health Officer issued “A Guide to Re-opening Shawnee County”, which, among other things, limits public gatherings to no more than forty-five (45) persons; 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

27 threat and spread of COVID-19; and

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

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE  
33 CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS, that the following GB Rules are suspended through August  
34 12, 2020, unless earlier reinstated by the Governing Body:

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

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

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

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

50 others at the meeting.

51 3. Remote participants will be considered present and in attendance, and may  
52 cast votes. When roll is called, the Remote Participant will be noted as 'participating  
53 remotely' and the minutes will reflect if and when Remote Participants leave the meeting.

54 4. Written public comment may be submitted personally or by email to the City  
55 Clerk for attachment to the minutes of a remote meeting.

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

57 This Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and  
58 shall remain in effect through August 12, 2020, unless earlier rescinded by the Governing  
59 Body.

60 ADOPTED and APPROVED by the Governing Body July 7, 2020.

61 CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS

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Michelle De La Isla, Mayor

67 ATTEST:

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Brenda Younger, City Clerk