

RESOLUTION NO. 9194

A RESOLUTION introduced by City Manager Brent Trout temporarily suspending certain Governing Body Rules and Procedures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic until November 18, 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 30, 2020, the Shawnee County Health Officer issued an Emergency Order, which, among other things, limits public gatherings to no more than forty-five (45) persons; and

WHEREAS, as of July 29, 2020, the Kansas Department of Health & Environment reports that there are 1374 Covid cases in Shawnee County; 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

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

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

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE
35 CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS, that the following GB Rules are suspended through
36 November 18, 2020, unless earlier reinstated by the Governing Body:

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

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

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

48 2. Members of the Governing Body who intend to participate remotely (“Remote
49 Participant”) shall provide reasonable notice to the City Manager to allow time for

50 necessary preparation. A Remote Participant must be capable of fully participating in the
51 meeting and must be able to communicate with all other members of the body, staff, and
52 others at the meeting.

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

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

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

59 This Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and
60 shall remain in effect through November 18, 2020, unless earlier rescinded by the
61 Governing Body.

62 ADOPTED and APPROVED by the Governing Body on August 11, 2020.

63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74

CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS

Michelle De La Isla, Mayor

ATTEST:

Brenda Younger, City Clerk