

**RESOLUTION NO. 9200**

A RESOLUTION introduced by City Manager Brent Trout temporarily suspending certain Governing Body Rules and Procedures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic until February 16, 2021

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 August 21, 2020, the Shawnee County Health Officer issued an Emergency Order, which, among other things, limits inside public gatherings to no more than twenty-five (25) persons, where social distancing cannot be maintained; and

WHEREAS, the number of new coronavirus cases in Shawnee County has increased from 345 during the last week in October, 2020 to 627 in the first week of November, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on November 12, 2020, the Shawnee County Health Officer issued an Emergency Order limiting public gatherings to no more than ten (10) persons, where social distancing cannot be maintained; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body, by adoption of the Governing Body Rules and

27 Procedures (“GB Rules”) has established a set of rules and procedures to facilitate the  
28 business of the Governing Body; and

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

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

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

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE  
39 CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS, that the following GB Rules are suspended through February  
40 16, 2021, unless earlier reinstated by the Governing Body:

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

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

- 49 1. Members of the Governing Body are authorized to remotely attend,

50 participate, and vote in meetings that may be conducted telephonically or by  
51 videoconference.

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

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

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

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

63         This Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and  
64 shall remain in effect through February 16, 2021, unless earlier rescinded by the Governing  
65 Body.

66         ADOPTED and APPROVED by the Governing Body on November 17, 2020.

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CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS

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Michelle De La Isla, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Brenda Younger, City Clerk

RES/Coronavirus (Suspension of GB Rules)  
Revised 11-13-2020  
11/17/2020 Meeting