

**RESOLUTION NO. 9210**

A RESOLUTION introduced by City Manager Brent Trout temporarily suspending certain Governing Body Rules and Procedures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic until May 5, 2021

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

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Shawnee County, Kansas declared a State of Local Disaster Emergency which was extended to June 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2020, the Governing Body declared a State of Local Emergency which continues for as long as the County’s State of Local Disaster Emergency exists; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas Legislature has extended the State of Disaster Emergency through March 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on February 10, 2021, the Shawnee County Health Officer issued an Emergency Order limiting public gatherings to no more than 300 participants or 50% of total capacity, whichever is smaller, after social distancing is applied; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Order is in effect until 11:59 p.m. on March 12, 2021; 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 May 5,  
36 2021, 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. Virtual public comment may be allowed for those individuals who wish to  
59 speak (i) as part of a public hearing, (ii) regarding a specific agenda item or (iii) during  
60 General Public Comment; in addition to individuals who wish to be noted as present during  
61 (i) a public hearing or (ii) discussion of a specific agenda item. The City Clerk will provide  
62 the Zoom meeting link to the individuals who specify whether they wish to speak or have  
63 their presence noted for the record.

64 6. All meetings held remotely are subject to the Kansas Open Meetings Act.

65 This Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and  
66 shall remain in effect through May 5, 2021, unless earlier rescinded by the Governing Body.

67 ADOPTED and APPROVED by the Governing Body on February 16, 2021.

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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