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
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 threat and spread of COVID-19; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS, that the following GB Rules are suspended through May 5, 2021, unless earlier reinstated by the Governing Body:

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

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

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

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

5. Virtual public comment may be allowed for those individuals who wish to
speak (i) as part of a public hearing, (ii) regarding a specific agenda item or (iii) during
General Public Comment; in addition to individuals who wish to be noted as present during
(i) a public hearing or (ii) discussion of a specific agenda item. The City Clerk will provide
the Zoom meeting link to the individuals who specify whether they wish to speak or have
their presence noted for the record.

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

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

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

CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS

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Michelle De La Isla, Mayor

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Brenda Younger, City Clerk

ATTEST: