

RESOLUTION NO. 9217

A RESOLUTION introduced by City Manager Brent Trout temporarily suspending certain Governing Body Rules and Procedures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic until July 7, 2021

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

WHEREAS, on March 18, 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 May 28, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Covid-19 variants have been documented in Shawnee County (B.1.1.7/UK and B.1.429/California); 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 its variants; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body, in response to COVID-19 and its variants, 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

27 administer the business of the City.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE
29 CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS, that the following GB Rules are suspended through July 7,
30 2021, unless earlier reinstated by the Governing Body:

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

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

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

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

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

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

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

53 This Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption
54 and shall remain in effect through July 7, 2021, unless earlier rescinded by the
55 Governing Body.

56 ADOPTED and APPROVED by the Governing Body on May 4, 2021.

57 CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS
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62 Michelle De La Isla, Mayor

63 ATTEST:

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68 Brenda Younger, City Clerk