TopCity Youth Council Minutes - March 26, 2019

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 214 SE 8th Street, Topeka, Kansas, Tuesday, March 26, 2019. The TopCity Youth Council Members met at 6:00 p.m. with the following Councilmembers present: Isabel Hernandez, LiliAnna Lucio, Perla Soto, Thorne Osborne, Irene Caracioni, Aditi Malay, Jacob Gernon -7. City of Topeka Mayor Michelle De La Isla presided. Absent: Councilmembers Kristen Hines and Joseph Phillips -2.

DISCUSSION on Robert’s Rules of Order was presented.

Michelle De La Isla, City of Topeka Mayor, provided a brief overview of Robert’s Rules of Order, the standard set of rules used to run an orderly meeting.

Brent Trout, City of Topeka City Manager, provided tips on meeting etiquette.

Councilmember Lucio asked for further clarification on calling an item to question.

Mayor De La Isla clarified when a member of the Council “Calls the Question” it signals that each Councilmember has had an opportunity to speak on the item, debate should cease, and a vote taken. She noted staff would look into providing additional training on meeting protocol.

DISCUSSION of meeting protocol and parameters was presented.

Mayor De La Isla reported after discussing with the founders of Greater Topeka Partnership, the consensus was to conduct quarterly meetings that will be televised as well as streamed live on Facebook. She reminded members of the Council meetings will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. Mayor De La Isla asked the Council if they would like to set a time limit for the meetings.

Councilmember Lucio suggested meetings last no longer than 90 minutes.

Mayor De La Isla stated a motion could be made to extend a meeting past the time limit if needed.
Councilmember Caracioni moved to approve the 90 minute meeting time limit. The motion seconded by Councilmember Geron carried unanimously. (7-0-0)

Following the discussion, Mayor De La Isla announced meetings would be held quarterly on May 28, 2019, September 24, 2019 and November 26, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located at 214 SE 8th Street, 2nd Floor, Topeka, Kanas.

Councilmember Malay moved to approve the meeting schedule. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Caracioni.

Councilmember Geron inquired when the student graduation at the Expo Center would be held.

Councilmember Lucio reported it was scheduled for May 18, 2019, and has been confirmed by Councilmember Soto.

Mayor De La Isla stated if a conflict arises to contact Trey Brooks, Executive Assistant to the Mayor, at 785-368-3895 or at tbrooks@topeka.org and the date could be changed. She reminded Councilmembers that at least five members must be present to conduct a meeting.

Brent Trout noted in order to make the proceedings of a meeting valid a quorum must be present i.e. five members of the Council.

The motion to approve the meeting schedule carried unanimously. (7-0-0)

A PRESENTATION on Quality of Life was presented by Greater Topeka Partnership’s (GTP) Jessica Schenkel, Sales Manager, and Ashley Spring, Visit Topeka Corporate Events Manager. The following items were highlighted:

- Receiving feedback from Youth Councilmembers on area events including attendance and what they would like to see come to the area.
- Marketing outreach approaches towards youth and where to find information regarding upcoming events.
Councilmembers Lucio, Caracioni, Malay and Osborne suggested alternate methods of marketing towards youth that include twitter, reaching out to schools, and making the events accessible for all.

Councilmembers Lucio and Osborne suggested having more variety of events for youth/young adults.

GTP representatives requested if the Council had additional questions to email them at jessica@visittopeka.com or ashlee.spring@topekapartnership.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL;

Mayor De La Isla asked Councilmembers what they would like to see on upcoming agendas.

Following consensus of the Council, Mayor De La Isla announced the agenda for the May meeting will include discussions on mental health and suicide prevention.

NO FURTHER BUSINESS appearing the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.