RESOLUTION NO. 7950

A RESOLUTION introduced by Councilmember Brett Blackburn amending Topeka City Council Rules and Procedures 7.1 concerning City Council committees and the designation of the committee chair.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Topeka, Kansas, that Topeka City Council Rules and Procedures 7.1 is hereby amended to read as follows:

7.1 Committees:

(a) Purpose: The orderly and timely transactions of the city government, shall be better served by having in place a committee framework whereby resolution of certain issues may be developed prior to consideration by the full city council. The committee framework shall include the use of standing committees and special committees.

(b) Standing Committees:

(i) The council shall have the following three (3) standing committees, comprised of three (3) members of the council:

1. Policy and Finance
2. Economic and Community Development
3. Public Health, and Safety

The deputy mayor shall appoint the members of the standing committees. Appointments shall be made by the first meeting in May. Each councilmember shall fill out a committee preference list for a standing committee and the deputy mayor shall make every effort to appoint councilmembers to the committee of their choice.
Councilmembers shall serve on their assigned committees for a one (1) year term. Councilmembers who wish to change committee assignments may do so with permission of the deputy mayor. Each standing committee shall elect the chair from among its members.

(ii) The Council shall have the following standing committees comprised of all members of the council:

(1) Budget
(2) Long-range planning
(3) Committee of the whole

The deputy mayor shall be the chair of the Budget, Long-range planning and the Committee of the whole. The mayor shall serve as a non-voting, advisory member of the Budget committee.

(c) Special Committees: Special committees may be established when there is an issue which needs special focus and would be better handled outside standing committees. Special committees may be created by a majority vote of the council. Any proposition addressed to the establishment of a special committee must state tasks and the time period in which the committee should complete its assignment.

The deputy mayor shall appoint the members of a special committee. The chair shall be designated by committee membership.
(d) **Duties of Committees:** It shall be the duty of the committees to act promptly and faithfully in all matters referred to them by the governing body.

(e) **Committee Powers:** All committees shall have the power to hold hearings and order production of books and papers relating to any subject within its jurisdiction. Standing committees shall make suggestions to improve their effectiveness. Standing committees may appoint subcommittees from their committee membership. A committee may discuss and examine any subject or item that has either been referred to the committee by council action, or which the committee, by majority vote, has decided to place on a committee agenda for its consideration.

(f) **Committee Procedure:**

(i) **Reference to Committee:** Any item coming before the city council may be referred to committee by majority vote of the council. The examination of any subject can be initiated by a committee upon majority vote of the committee.

(ii) **Consideration by Committee:** Each item referred to a committee shall remain in that committee until the committee shall act upon it or it is dislodged from the committee's consideration as provided for in the rules or until passage of sixty (60) calendar days, after which the item shall automatically be placed on the next available city council agenda, whichever occurs first.

(iii) **Committee Action:** An item shall be, upon majority vote of the
committee, reported out of such committee by the chair. The action of the committee shall be reflected in one (1) of the following manners:

(1) Do Pass

(2) Do Not Pass

(3) Without Recommendation

(4) As Amended

(A) Do Pass

(B) Do Not Pass

(C) Without Recommendations

An item reported out of committee shall be placed on a city council action meeting agenda, as provided by Rule 7.1(f)(ii) above. Both majority and minority reports of a committee may be filed at the request of any committee member, with the report proceeding to the city council.

An item may be reported out of a committee as originally referred, or with amendments. An item amended in committee and thereafter reported out of said committee must show on the face of the item's cover sheet the fact that it has been amended by the committee. This shall be the responsibility of the chair of the committee. Amendments approved by the committee shall be separately attached to the original item. The council may approve committee
amendments by either adopting the committee report or voting separately on each amendment.

When a committee makes substantial amendments to an item they may report a substitute item for consideration by the council. The substitute item approved by the committee shall be separately attached to the original item. If the council accepts a substitute ordinance, it must have both a first and second reading before final council consideration.

(iv) **Discharge of an item from Committee:** The city council at any meeting held thirty (30) days or more after any item has been referred to a committee can, upon motion of any councilmember, determine by a recorded vote whether such committee shall be discharged from further consideration thereon.

If during the course of a regular council meeting, a majority of the council votes in the affirmative on said motion, the item shall be immediately delivered to the city clerk and before transacting any other business the city council shall determine by a majority vote of the members present, whether it should be committed to any other committee or shall proceed to be discussed and voted on by the city council at the next regular city council meeting. No item removed from a committee pursuant to this section shall receive final consideration by the city council during the same meeting in which it
was removed from committee.

(v) **Standing Committee Meeting Times:** Each standing committee shall meet as needed. Special meetings may be called by the committee chair or by action of the committee. The city manager shall be notified of special committee meetings at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of any meeting. Any request for resource staff will be included in the notification. The city clerk will be notified of the time, place, and items to be discussed at each committee meeting at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the meeting.

(vi) **Alternate Members of Committees:** If a member of a standing committee cannot be present at a meeting, an alternate may be appointed to serve at that meeting, with full voting rights. The alternate shall be appointed in the following order of priority:

1. An alternate councilmember of the absent member's request.
2. An alternate chosen by the chair from those other councilmembers present at the meeting.
3. An alternate chosen by the deputy mayor at the request of the absent member or the committee chair.

(vii) **Quorum:** In order to meet and take action a majority of the committee members must be present.

(viii) **Agenda Preparation:** The chair shall be responsible for establishing
the agenda for each committee meeting. Members desiring an item to be placed on the agenda should contact the chair directly or through the council staff.

If a member disagrees with a decision made by the chair concerning the agenda, the councilmember may appeal the decision to the full committee. A majority vote of the members present shall decide the question.

(ix) **Minutes:** Minutes shall be kept of each meeting. Minutes shall be reviewed and approved by the chair prior to submittal to the city council. A majority of the committee may amend the minutes at the next regular meeting of the committee. The minutes shall reflect the attendance of members and vote on each issue.

(x) **Public Comment:** Public comment may be allowed on any matter on a committee agenda, based on rules to be established by the committee. All rules of decorum and conduct for debate and comment established by these Topeka City Council Rules and Procedures shall be applicable to public speakers.

(xi) **Committee Expenses:** No committee shall incur any expense without having been authorized by a vote of a majority of the council.

(xii) **Rules:** All rules of the city council, including Robert’s Rules of Order, shall apply to the committees.
ADOPTED and APPROVED by the City Council May 15, 2007.

CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS

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William W. Bunten, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Brenda Younger, City Clerk

*This resolution became effective without the Mayor’s signature.*