



City of Topeka
Governing Body Action Form
City Council Chambers
214 SE 8th Street
Topeka, Kansas 66603
www.topeka.org
August 11, 2026

DATE:	August 11, 2026	
CONTACT PERSON:	Councilmembers Murry McGee, Christina Valdivia-Alcala and Michelle Bradberry	DOCUMENT #:
SECOND PARTY/SUBJECT:	Restricting Utility Connections for Data Center Development	PROJECT #:
CIP PROJECT:	No	
ACTION OF COUNCIL:		JOURNAL #: PAGE #:

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

POTENTIAL CONSIDERATION OF THIS ORDINANCE IS BASED ON THE APPROVAL BY THE GOVERNING BODY TO SUSPEND THE GOVERNING BODY RULES AND PROCEDURES, RULE OF ORDER 6.3(f)(2) - WAIT PERIOD.

Suspension of Rules Voting Requirement: Action requires seven (7) votes of the Governing Body.

AN ORDINANCE introduced by Councilmembers Murray McGee, Christina Valdivia-Alcala and Michelle Bradberry implementing a temporary moratorium on the acceptance, processing, and approval of applications or *utility connections* for data center developments

Ordinance Voting Requirement: Action requires at least six (6) votes of the Governing Body.

(Approval would amend the language to restrict utility connections both inside and outside of city limits for data centers. This is necessary to prevent administrative exceptions that would allow staff to extend utility services outside of city limits to serve a data center as defined in the ordinance.)

VOTING REQUIREMENTS:

Suspension of Rules: Action requires seven (7) votes of the Governing Body.
Ordinance: Action requires at least six (6) votes of the Governing Body.

POLICY ISSUE:

Upon approval to suspend Governing Body Rules and Procedures, Rule of Order 6.3(f)(2) - Wait Period, the Governing Body will consider the proposed language amendment restricting utility connections both inside and outside of city limits for data centers as defined in the ordinance, amending Ordinance No. 20670 approved by

the Governing Body on July 14, 2026, implementing a 12-month moratorium on the acceptance, processing and approval of applications for a data center development.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This is a policy decision to be made by the Governing Body. Staff is making no recommendation.

BACKGROUND:

This item is being proposed at the request of Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala. Governing Body Rules and Procedures, Rule of Order 6.3(f)(2) - Wait Period, states any item previously acted upon may not be amended or rescinded until four months has elapsed since the previous action. Ordinance No. 20670 approved by the Governing Body on July 14, 2026, implemented a 12-month moratorium on the acceptance, processing and approval of applications for data centers.

Upon approval to suspend Governing Body Rules and Procedures, Rule of Order 6.3(f)(2), the Governing Body will consider the proposed language amendment restricting utility connections both inside and outside of city limits for a data center as defined in the ordinance. This is necessary to prevent administrative exceptions that would allow staff to extend utility services outside of city limits to serve a data center as defined in the ordinance. The proposed amendments are as follows:

- Line 6: Explicitly adds “utility connections” in the introduction.
- Line 41: Adds the phrase “or outside of” in regard to the City limits. This would prevent the City from approving anything it has the power to grant inside or outside City limits under the terms of the moratorium, including utility connections. This will accomplish the goal of closing any administrative “loopholes” in regard to utility extensions.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

There is no budgetary impact to the City to adopt the ordinance.

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Not Applicable.

ATTACHMENTS:

GB Rules and Procedures, Rule of Order 6.3(f)(2) Wait Period.
Proposed Ordinance - Restrict Utility Connections - Data Centers
Ordinance 20670 (Approved July 14, 2026)