

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING BYLAWS FOR THE
CONDUCT OF BUSINESS BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF BEL AIRE, KANSAS.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Planning Commission of the City of Bel Aire, Kansas:

ARTICLE 1: CREATION, MEMBERSHIP, AUTHORITY AND DUTIES

SECTION 1. CREATION. Pursuant to City ordinance and state law the Bel Aire City Planning Commission, hereinafter referred to as the “Commission,” was established by Ordinance No. 11 which was published on May 8, 1981. The Commission was re-established with new parameters by the Governing Body by the adoption of Ordinance No. 195 which was passed and approved and became effective on January 1, 1992. Ordinance 275 amended Ordinance 195 to designate the Commission to serve as the City Board of Zoning Appeals. Ordinance 357 amended Ordinance 275 to address how to appoint and remove members from the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals which was passed and approved and became effective on January 15, 2002.

SECTION 2. MEMBERSHIP. The Commission consists of seven members serving staggered three-year terms of whom five shall be residents of the City of Bel Aire, Kansas and two such members shall reside outside of the City, but within three miles of the corporate limits of the City. Members are appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the City Council. After the appointment, members will take office at the next regular meeting of the Commission.

In the event of a vacancy on the Planning Commission the Mayor shall select an individual to fill such vacancy for the remainder of the term in accordance with the same procedures used to select the original Commissioner.

A Commissioner may be removed by the Mayor. Selection of a new Commissioner shall be in accordance with the same procedures used to select the original Commissioner.

In the event a Commissioner resigns a successor shall be selected in the same manner used to select the original Commissioner.

Policies and Procedures for Appointment and Removal of Members of the Planning Commission shall be in accordance with Ordinance 357.

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46 **SECTION 3. ATTENDANCE.** Regular attendance is an important responsibility for
47 membership. Maintaining a quorum for voting purposes is especially important. Any
48 member that absences themselves for three consecutive regular meetings or misses a total
49 of five meetings during a calendar year, the Secretary will provide written notice to the
50 City Manager, and the Mayor who may elect to remove the member.

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52 **SECTION 4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST.** Members of the Commission shall be aware
53 at all times of their responsibility to the citizenry of the City of Bel Aire and to the residents
54 of the surrounding Planning Area and shall refrain from any recommendation or action that
55 would benefit individuals or special interest groups rather than serve the best interest of the
56 entire community. In furtherance of this responsibility, members shall refrain from
57 recommending or acting on any matter before the Commission in which they have, either
58 directly or indirectly, any financial interest or use their influence or position to show
59 favoritism that could lead to the development of a clientele at a later date.

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61 If a member is asked if they have a conflict of interest on a matter before the Commission,
62 that member shall publicly announce the conflict and excuse themselves from the meeting
63 room until the matter has been addressed by the remaining Commission members. If there
64 is a question or a real or perceived conflict of interest, the affected member should contact
65 the Secretary and City Attorney for an interpretation of the situation prior to the meeting.

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67 A member is automatically disqualified when they or their spouse own property in the
68 notification area of a zoning application.

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70 **SECTION 5. AUTHORITY.** The Commission is vested with the duties and
71 responsibilities prescribed in Kansas Statutes Annotated K.S.A. 12-741, et seq., as
72 amended, and 12-736.

73
74 **SECTION 6. DUTIES.** As provided for by the statutes referred to in Section 5, the duties
75 of Commission shall be:

- 76
77 1. Make or cause to be made, adopt and maintain an official Comprehensive Development
78 Plan for the City and any unincorporated territory lying outside the City but within
79 Sedgwick County which in the Commission's opinion forms the total community of
80 which the City is part, subject to the approval of the Governing Body by ordinance
81 (K.S.A. 12-747);
- 82 2. Annually review or reconsider the Comprehensive Plan at least once a year at the
83 November meeting to determine if the Plan or any portion thereof has become obsolete
84 and to report such status to the Governing Body or propose remedial amendments,
85 extensions or additions to the plan (K.S.A. 12-747[d]);
- 86 3. Determine the conformance to the Comprehensive Plan of public improvements,
87 facilities or utilities of a type embraced within the recommendations of the Plan which
88 are proposed for construction or authorization and to report upon such conformance or
89 nonconformance within 60 days to the Governing Body unless conformance is

- otherwise determined by reviewing the City's capital improvement program (K.S.A. 12-748).
4. Prepare, adopt and maintain Zoning Regulations for the City to recommend the approval of such regulations to the Governing Body; and to hold hearings and make recommendations on all amendments thereto and zoning applications including zoning cases in the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission (MAPC) Urban Area of Influence (K.S.A. 12-753 through 12-759 and 12-763).
 5. Prepare, adopt and maintain Subdivision Regulations for the City and extraterritorial jurisdiction; to recommend the approval of such regulations by the Governing Body; and to process and approve plats and to transmit them to the Governing Body for the acceptance of dedications thereon (K.S.A. 12-749, 751(a), 752 and 764).
 6. Prepare and approve plans for neighborhoods and special project areas;
 7. Maintain planning reference files of plans, reports, maps ordinances, regulations and policies accessible to officials, developers and citizens;
 8. Maintain cooperation and coordination with the trustees of the surrounding township(s), U.S.D. #259, USD #375, the Wichita-Sedgwick County Metropolitan Area Planning Commission and Department and with such other county, regional and state planning entities as may be deemed appropriate; and
 9. Make recommendations to the Wichita-Sedgwick County Metropolitan Area Planning commission on all plats proposed in the Bel Aire planning area outside the City and on all zoning items proposed for hearings within the MAPC Zoning Area of Influence as well as for any proposed revisions to County rules or regulations which might affect the development of the planning area; and
 10. Hold hearings, provide plans for and/or make recommendations on such other matters as may be periodically assigned to the Commission by the Governing Body.
 11. Ensure productive meetings by requiring members to read all pre-circulated materials and be ready to participate actively in discussions related to agenda items. Failure to do so may impact participating in discussions or voting on matters requiring informed consent.

SECTION 7. COMPENSATION. Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation for their services; however, the members may request reimbursement for their out-of-pocket expenses including travel when related to attendance at external conferences and/or meetings subject to approval of the Governing Body.

ARTICLE II: OFFICERS, ELECTIONS AND DUTIES

SECTION 1. OFFICERS. The officers of the Commission shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary. The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall be members of the Commissions. The Secretary shall be the City of Bel Aire Zoning Administrator and shall provide duties in support of the Planning Commission (K.S.A. 12-745).

133 **SECTION 2. ELECTIONS.** At the regular Commission meeting in October of each year,
134 the officers shall be nominated and those persons receiving the highest number of votes
135 shall be deemed elected. Officers shall take office at the next regular scheduled meeting
136 of the Commission and serve for one year. Officers may serve for more than one term.
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138 **SECTION 3. DUTIES.** The duties of the officers shall be:
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- 140 1. The Chairperson shall preside over all meetings of the Commission. In the absence of
141 the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson shall preside. In the absence of both the
142 Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson, the Senior Commissioner (the person serving
143 the longest period of time on the Commission) shall act in the manner and capacity of
144 the Chairperson. The Chairperson shall sign all minutes and other official papers and
145 documents to indicate that they have been approved by the Commission. The
146 Chairperson shall represent the Commission at all meetings with other groups unless
147 another member is designated to perform that function.
- 148 2. The Vice-Chairperson shall act in the manner and capacity as the Chairperson in the
149 absence of the Chairperson.
- 150 3. The Secretary, or their designee, shall perform the following duties:
 - 151 a. Prepare the minutes of each Commission meeting and submit them to the
152 Commission for approval. Commission meetings are recorded and once the
153 Commission has approved the minutes the recording is deleted. When the Secretary
154 attests to the approved minutes the Secretary is attesting that the votes of the
155 members are accurate from that specific meeting.
 - 156 b. Maintain the official minutes as approved and signed by the Chairperson and the
157 Secretary or their designees and post minutes to the City of Bel Aire website or
158 such other repository as may be established from time to time;
 - 159 c. Attest to resolutions and certificates adopting the Comprehensive Plan and
160 amendments thereto and to maintain the official Comprehensive Plan documents
161 and accompanying adoption materials and ordinances;
 - 162 d. Distribute to each Commission member all current materials relating to the
163 Comprehensive Plan, Zoning and Subdivision Regulations and Zoning Map and
164 maintain official copies of the same pursuant to City Code and state law; and
 - 165 e. Prepare and distribute agendas for each Commission meeting in coordination with
166 the Chairperson. (See Article III, Section 7 on Agendas).

167 **ARTICLE III: MEETINGS**

168 **SECTION 1. REGULAR MEETINGS.** Regular meetings of the Commission will be
169 on the second Thursday of every month, unless changed by the Commission. All meetings
170 shall be held in the Council Room of City Hall beginning at 6:30 p.m.; provided, however,
171 that the Commission may vote to adopt another hour, date, or place of meeting. Any such
172 change shall be published for the convenience of persons having business before the
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Commission.

SECTION 2. SPECIAL MEETINGS. Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson or in the Chairperson's absence by the Vice-Chairperson or Senior Commissioner upon written request of any three members of the Commission. When a special meeting is called, reasonable notice as to date, time, place, manner and purpose for the meeting shall be given by the Chairperson to the Secretary at least five (5) business days before the meeting by hand delivery. The announcement of a special meeting at a regular meeting shall constitute notice to those persons present. Commission members and the Governing Body shall be notified by the Secretary including all persons designated to receive agendas on a regular basis. (See Article III, Section 7 on Agendas.). No items other than those identified in the notice shall be considered at a special meeting.

SECTION 3. ADJOURNED MEETINGS. If the business before the Commission is not completed, the Commission by motion may adjourn the meeting or a specific agenda item to a specified date, time and place until the matters on the original agenda or the specified item are acted upon. When such a motion is made known to those persons in attendance, no further notice need be given.

SECTION 4. OPEN MEETINGS AND CLOSED SESSIONS. Pursuant to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, all meetings of the Commission except for executive sessions are open to the public. Closed sessions, if deemed necessary, may be held in accordance with the provisions of the Kansas Open Meeting Act. The motion to recess for a closed/executive session shall be placed in the minutes and include (a) a statement describing the subjects to be discussed; (b) the statutory justification for closing the meeting; and (c) the time and place at which the open meeting will resume, all in accordance with the Kansas Open Meetings Act, K.S.A. 75-4317 *et seq.* In such closed sessions, no binding vote or action may be taken.

SECTION 5. WORKSHOP SESSIONS. The Commission may meet at a regular or special meeting in a workshop session for a general discussion on one or more topics or for a training session; however, the Kansas Open Meetings Act applies, and no binding action may be taken. While regular minutes are not required, a record of attendance and a summary of the subject(s) discussed should be made.

SECTION 6. QUORUM. A quorum for the conduct of business shall be four members. In the absence of a quorum at any meeting the presiding officer after consultation with the members present may announce the meeting will not take place. The presiding officer will wait ten (10) minutes and then make the announcement. The Secretary will note which Commissioner's were present and note that no action was taken on any of the agenda items. In addition, the Secretary will note anyone present at the meeting and specifically what agenda item(s) they were present for.

If there is a loss of a quorum during a meeting, the presiding officer after consultation with those members present, may adjourn the meeting to a specified date, time and place or similarly table any unheard an agenda item. When such information is made known to

those persons in attendance, no further notice needs to be given. The Secretary will note which Commissioner's left the meeting and note that no action was taken on any of the agenda items yet to be heard. In addition, the Secretary will note anyone present at the meeting and specifically what agenda item(s) they were present for.

Members abstaining from voting may be counted when determining whether a quorum is present; however, members having a conflict of interest or who are disqualified from voting may not be counted as part of the quorum for the item where they have a conflict of interest or are otherwise disqualified from voting.

If a majority of Commissioners have a conflict of interest on a specific agenda item, they will request that the Governing Body hear the item in a public hearing format. The agenda item will require renotification to all required individuals.

SECTION 7. AGENDAS. The Secretary shall oversee the preparation of an agenda of all matters to come before the meeting and to have it posted on the City of Bel Aire website with the link shared, via email, to the Commission members in advance of the meeting. Copies of the agenda shall be posted to the City of Bel Aire website, or such other repository as may be established from time to time and be furnished to each party having an item on the agenda and to any person requesting an agenda or a notice of the date, time and place of a regular or special meeting of the Commission under the Kansas Open Meetings Act. K.S.A. 75-4318 (b) and(d). Any member of the Commission may place items on the agenda by advising the Secretary, or their designee, no later than noon on the seventh day preceding the next regular meeting. If the number of applications received for zoning or platting creates an unduly long Commission meeting, the Secretary may carry over such items on a first-come, first-served basis to the next Commission meeting unless already advertised for public hearing.

SECTION 8 RECORDING OF MEETINGS. The Secretary or their designee shall keep complete records of all proceedings of the Commission. The Secretary or their designee shall prepare and maintain permanent minutes to be available for public view. Minutes shall be posted on the City of Bel Aire website or may be furnished to all persons or bodies making such a request to the Secretary or City Clerk. The Secretary or City Clerk may make such charges as are necessary to recover the cost of making such copies.

ARTICLE IV: CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

SECTION 1. ORDER OF BUSINESS. The general order of business shall be as follows unless otherwise decided by the Commission:

- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll call
- c. Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag
- d. Consent Agenda
- e. Approval of the Agenda
- f. Approval of the minutes

- g. Announcements
- h. Old and New Business
- i. Staff reports
- j. Public hearings
- k. Approval of Next Meeting Date
- l. Current Events- Upcoming Agenda Items and Events
- m. Adjournment.

Off-agenda items may be added to the agenda and scheduled items may be removed from the agenda at the beginning of a regular meeting by motion approved by a majority of the Commission members present and voting. No items may be added to the agenda of the special meeting.

SECTION 2. APPEARANCE BEFORE THE COMMISSION. When a public forum or public hearing is held, applicants and petitioners or their representatives and members of the community at large or individuals or their representative who feel that they will be affected by any action of the Commission may appear to present views and statements either for or against agenda items. Personal appearance before the Commission is recommended; however, written communication may be submitted to the Commission. The commission may at their discretion to table postpone items coming before the Commission if the applicant or petitioner is not present and has not submitted written communication.

SECTION 3. ACTIONS. In all formal matters, the Commission shall act by motion unless a resolution is required by law or governmental regulations. All notices required by law to be given by publication including those for public hearings shall be published in the official city newspaper. Substantive motions before the Commission shall be restated by the presiding officer before a vote is taken. Every motion on a substantive matter shall set forth reasons based on the discussion. Action shall be taken on each agenda item presented at the conclusion of discussion of that item.

SECTION 4. VOTING. Unless otherwise provided by state law or by ordinance of the City, the Commission shall act by a majority vote of the members present and voting. A record of all proceedings of the Commission shall be kept. Voting shall be by individual voice "Aye" or "Nay" ballot, written ballot or show of hands; shall be tallied and the results determined by the presiding officer. In the event of a tie or a divided vote, see Article IV, Section 5 paragraph 8 and 9.

SECTION 5. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE. All meetings of the Commission shall be conducted in accordance with the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order-except insofar as modified by these Bylaws and procedures adopted by the Commission, unless otherwise required by state law:

1. A second shall be required for all motions.

2. The presiding officer shall have the right to make motions and to second motions without vacating the chair.
3. Substitute motions may be made for prime motions provided that substitute motions are voted on before the prime motion. Substitute motions shall be made only once and shall be debatable only if the prime motions were debatable. A substitute motion may be made without the consent of the maker of the prime motion.
4. Motions to reconsider any items shall be made by one of the members voting in favor of the item to be reconsidered. Motions to reconsider shall only be considered at the same meeting at which the item was decided.
5. If participation from the floor (audience) is repetitious; or when the course of business due to the number of matters to be considered and/or number of people requesting to be heard will not reasonably permit further participation, the presiding officer may reduce their speaking time to five minutes or something less. Those persons speaking on a given item from the floor should first be recognized and then address their remarks to the presiding officer. Each member of the Commission may speak to an issue as many times as may be desired.
6. The presiding officer shall have the right to vote. If the officer chooses not to vote, he or she shall automatically be considered to have abstained from voting.
7. When a divided vote occurs, the presiding officer shall call for a roll-call vote. The Secretary shall enter into the minutes the result by name of all roll-call votes.
8. Any member abstaining or remaining silent on a vote shall be considered to have voted with the majority vote of those who voted; provided that, such member does not have a conflict of interest or bias in the matter that would otherwise disqualify them from voting. In the event of an equally divided vote, the vote of a member abstaining or remaining silent is not to be counted. Members who do abstain or remain silent on a vote are still counted as present in determining a quorum.
9. Members shall automatically be disqualified from voting when they or their spouse own property in the area of notification for a zoning application. Such abstention shall not prevent them from signing a protest petition or appearing before the Commission to speak on the zoning application. When a member is disqualified from voting, they cannot be counted as present for the quorum.
10. Subject to these provisions, the presiding officer shall decide all points of order and procedure, unless it is overruled by a majority vote of the entire membership of the Commission.

ARTICLE V: HEARING PROCEDURES

SECTION 1. INTENT AND PURPOSE. It is the intent of the Commission to hold fair and impartial hearings on all matters requiring a public hearing at which adequate legal notice has been given to all concerned parties. The purpose of such hearings is to make it clear that decisions are based on the relevant evidence presented and that well organized

hearings and procedures will lead to legally defensible decisions which are not arbitrary, discriminatory or unreasonable. To ensure fairness, the hearing room should be able to accommodate all persons wishing to attend and to enable them to properly hear the proceeding.

Ex parte contacts, i.e., those contacts in the forms of verbal or written communications outside of a hearing are discouraged. Commission members should (a) come to a hearing favoring neither side; (b) have no personal interest in the outcome other than that shared by the community-at-large; (c) treat both sides fairly and impartially; and (d) base their decision solely on the facts presented as evidence before the Commission. Any facts determined by personal investigation should be reported to the Commission at the hearing as *ex parte* information.

SECTION 2. ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS. Proceedings requiring public hearings are considered quasi-judicial proceedings. The latter includes the procedural due process elements of notice and opportunity to be heard in a fair, open and impartial manner. According to K.S.A. 12-757, the planning commission must create an accurate written summary of the proceedings during public hearings on proposed zoning amendments. This summary should include the evidence presented, findings of fact, and the factors considered in reaching a decision to recommend approval or denial of a zoning change. Additionally, the minutes should reflect the planning commission's recommendations and the reasons for those recommendations, which are then submitted to the governing body for further action K.S.A. 12-757, K.S.A. 12-756. The following order of proceedings shall be used for all such public hearings:

1. Determination that a quorum is present.
2. Determination that proper notice has been given.
3. Report of *ex parte* contacts with Commission members.
4. Introduction of application by staff.
5. Presentation by applicant shall be limited to five minutes unless such time is extended by the commission.
6. Commission and staff question applicant.
7. Public comments on proposed application. Each presenter shall speak no more than once per issue and shall be limited to five minutes unless such time is extended by the commission.
8. Receipt of written communications or petitions.
9. Applicant presents closing comments, which shall be limited to five minutes unless such time is extended by the commission
10. Staff presents closing comments.
11. Public portion of the hearing closed by the presiding officer.
12. Planning Commission deliberations.
13. Review findings and factors on which recommendation is based.

14. Motion to recommend to the Governing Body the approval, disapproval or modification of the application or to table the agenda item to a specific date, time and place.

While no further public comments will be received after the hearing is closed, the Commission may question any participant at any time during the proceedings.

SECTION 3. LEGISLATIVE HEARINGS. Hearings for the adoption of comprehensive plans and zoning and subdivision regulations and amendments thereto are considered legislative in nature. The order of proceedings for public hearings in Article V, Section 2 above may be modified for a legislative hearing as to the role of the applicant and the findings and factors on which a decision is based. In any event, the Commission's recommendation to the Governing Body shall be in writing accompanied by a written summary of the hearing thereon.

ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. COMMITTEES AND LIAISON REPRESENTATIVES. The Chairperson, with the consent of the Commission, may appoint standing and ad hoc committees and liaison representatives as may be needed to assist in the business of the Commission. The membership of such committee(s) and liaison representatives may consist of all Commission members or part Commission members or by all noncommission members. All such committees and representatives shall be provided with a formal charge and shall report to the Commission their findings and recommendations, unless otherwise directed.

All standing committees and liaison representatives shall be appointed at the next regular Commission meeting following the election of officers. They shall take office following the meeting of their appointment and serve for one year or until their successor has been appointed. Such committees may elect officers unless otherwise designated by the Chairperson and establish such rules of procedure as they deem desirable.

ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS. The Commission may, by a majority vote of the entire membership thereof, and upon approval by the Governing Body of the City, amend these Bylaws or any provisions or sections thereof, at any time when the same is not in conflict or in contradiction of any of the laws of the State of Kansas or ordinances of the City of Bel Aire, Kansas. The Commission shall review the Bylaws, no less than every three (3) years to ensure timely and appropriate updates are made if necessary.

Notices of the proposed amendments shall be furnished by the Secretary to all members of the Planning Commission and the Governing Body not less than seven calendar days prior to the meeting at which such amendments are to be considered. A current copy of the Bylaws of the Commission and such amendments thereto as may from time to time be

adopted, shall be maintained by the Secretary and filed with the City Clerk

SECTION 2. ADOPTED. The above and foregoing Bylaws are hereby adopted as the Bylaws of the City of Bel Aire City Planning Commission and recommended for approval of the Governing Body of the City of Bel Aire, Kansas. These Bylaws shall be effective and all previously adopted Bylaws of the Planning Commission shall be repealed, effective the 14th day of August, 2025, following approval thereof by the Governing Body of the City.

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PASSED by the Planning Commission of the City of Bel Aire, Kansas, on the 14th day of August, 2025.

SIGNED by the Presiding Officer on the 14th day of August, 2025.

CITY OF BEL AIRE, KANSAS

Phillip Jordan, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Paula L. Downs, Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY:

Maria A. Schrock, City Attorney

PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED by the Governing Body of the City of Bel Aire, Kansas,
on the 2nd day of September, 2025.

SIGNED by the Mayor on the _____ day of September, 2025.

CITY OF BEL AIRE, KANSAS

Jim Benage, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melissa Krehbiel, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY:

Maria A. Schrock, City Attorney