

**TITLE 3**

**MUNICIPAL COURT<sup>1</sup>**

**CHAPTER**

1. TOWN JUDGE.
2. COURT ADMINISTRATION.
3. WARRANTS, SUMMONSES AND SUBPOENAS.
4. BONDS AND APPEALS.

**CHAPTER 1**

**TOWN JUDGE**

**SECTION**

- 3-101. Town judge.  
3-102. Jurisdiction.

**3-101. Town judge.** The officer designated by the charter to handle judicial matters within the town shall preside over the town court and shall be known as the town judge. (2005 Code, § 3-101)

**3-102. Jurisdiction.** The town judge shall have the authority to try persons charged with the violation of municipal ordinances, and to punish persons convicted of such violations by levying a civil penalty not to exceed state authorized maximums. (2005 Code, § 3-102)

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<sup>1</sup>Charter references  
Town court: § 26.  
Town attorney: § 27.

## CHAPTER 2

### COURT ADMINISTRATION

#### SECTION

3-201. Maintenance of docket.

3-202. Imposition of penalties and costs.

3-203. Disposition and report of penalties and costs.

3-204. Disturbance of proceedings.

**3-201. Maintenance of docket.** The court clerk shall keep a complete docket of all matters coming before him in his judicial capacity. The docket shall include for each defendant such information as his name; warrant and/or summons numbers; alleged offense; disposition; penalties and costs imposed and whether collected; and all other information which may be relevant. (2005 Code, § 3-201, modified)

**3-202. Imposition of penalties and costs.** All penalties and costs shall be imposed and recorded by the town judge on the town court docket in open court.

In all cases heard or determined by him, the town judge shall tax in the bill of costs the same amounts and for the same items allowed in courts of general sessions<sup>1</sup> for similar work in state cases. (2005 Code, § 3-202)

**3-203. Disposition and report of penalties and costs.** All funds coming into the hands of the town judge in the form of penalties, costs, and forfeitures shall be recorded by him and paid over daily to the town. At the end of each month he shall submit to the treasurer a report accounting for the collection or noncollection of all penalties and costs imposed by his court during the current month and to date for the current fiscal year. (2005 Code, § 3-203)

**3-204. Disturbance of proceedings.** It shall be unlawful for any person to create any disturbance of any trial before the town court. (2005 Code, § 3-204, modified)

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<sup>1</sup>State law reference

*Tennessee Code Annotated*, § 8-21-401.

## CHAPTER 3

### WARRANTS, SUMMONSES AND SUBPOENAS

#### SECTION

3-301. Issuance of summonses.

3-302. Issuance of subpoenas.

**3-301. Issuance of summonses.** When a complaint of an alleged ordinance violation is made to the town judge, the judge may, in his discretion, issue a summons ordering the alleged offender personally to appear before the town court at a time specified therein to answer to the charges against him. The summons shall contain a brief description of the offense charged but need not set out verbatim the provisions of the municipal code or ordinance alleged to have been violated. Upon failure of any person to appear before the town court as commanded in a summons lawfully served on him, the cause may be proceeded with ex parte, and the judgment of the court shall be valid and binding subject to the defendant's right of appeal. (2005 Code, § 3-301)

**3-302. Issuance of subpoenas.** The town judge may subpoena as witnesses all persons whose testimony he believes will be relevant and material to matters coming before his court, and it shall be unlawful for any person lawfully served with such a subpoena to fail or neglect to comply therewith. (2005 Code, § 3-302)

**CHAPTER 4****BONDS AND APPEALS****SECTION**

3-401. Appeals.

**3-401. Appeals.** Any defendant who is dissatisfied with any judgment of the town court against him may, within ten (10) days<sup>1</sup> next after such judgment is rendered, appeal to the circuit court upon posting a proper appeal bond. (2005 Code, § 3-401)

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<sup>1</sup>State law reference

*Tennessee Code Annotated*, § 27-5-101.