

TITLE 3

MUNICIPAL COURT¹

CHAPTER

1. CITY COURT.
2. COURT COSTS AND FEES.

CHAPTER 1

CITY COURT

SECTION

- 3-101. City judge.
- 3-102. Maintenance of docket.
- 3-103. Issuance of arrest warrants.
- 3-104. Issuance of summonses.
- 3-105. Issuance of subpoenas.
- 3-106. Appearance bonds authorized.
- 3-107. Imposition of fines, penalties, and costs.
- 3-108. Appeals.
- 3-109. Bond amounts, conditions, and forms.
- 3-110. Disturbance of proceedings.

3-101. City judge. The officer designated by the charter to handle judicial matters within the city shall preside over the city court and shall be known as the city judge.

Qualifications for the municipal judge are as follows:

- (1) Licensed to practice law in the State of Tennessee;
- (2) A member in good standing of the bar of the Tennessee Supreme Court;
- (3) A resident of Weakley County, Tennessee. (1988 Code, § 1-501, modified)

3-102. Maintenance of docket. The city judge 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; fines, penalties, and costs

¹Charter references

Bond: section 22.

City judge: section 17.

Oath of office: section 21.

imposed and whether collected; whether committed to jail, and all other information which may be relevant. (1988 Code, § 1-502, modified)

3-103. Issuance of arrest warrants.¹ The city judge shall have the power to issue warrants for the arrest of persons charged with violating municipal ordinances. (1988 Code, § 1-503)

3-104. Issuance of summonses. When a complaint of an alleged ordinance violation is made to the city judge, the judge may in his discretion, in lieu of issuing an arrest warrant, issue a summons ordering the alleged offender personally to appear before the city 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 city 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. (1988 Code, § 1-504)

3-105. Issuance of subpoenas. The city 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. (1988 Code, § 1-505)

3-106. Appearance bonds authorized. When the city judge is not available or when an alleged offender requests and has reasonable grounds for a delay in the trial of his case, he may, in lieu of remaining in jail pending disposition of his case, be allowed to post an appearance bond with the city judge or, in the absence of the judge, with the city recorder, or in the absence of the city recorder, with the ranking police officer on duty at the time, provided such alleged offender is not under the influence of alcohol or drugs. (1988 Code, § 1-506)

3-107. Imposition of fines, penalties, and costs. All fines, penalties, and costs shall be imposed and recorded by the city judge on the city court docket in open court.

Court costs on each case heard in the city court shall be fixed and assessed at such amount established by the board of mayor and aldermen, and

¹State law reference

For authority to issue arrest warrants see Tennessee Code Annotated, title 40, chapter 5.

this amount shall be in addition to any costs collected on behalf of or as required by the State of Tennessee. (1988 Code, § 1-507, modified)

3-108. Appeals. Any defendant who is dissatisfied with any judgment of the city court against him may, within ten (10) days¹ next after such judgment is rendered, appeal to the next term of the circuit court upon posting a proper appeal bond. (1988 Code, § 1-508)

3-109. Bond amounts, conditions, and forms. An appearance bond in any case before the city court shall be in such amount as the city judge shall prescribe and shall be conditioned that the defendant shall appear for trial before the city court at the stated time and place. An appeal bond in any case shall be in such sum as the city judge shall prescribe and shall be conditioned that if the circuit court shall find against the appellant the fine or penalty and all costs of the trial and appeal shall be promptly paid by the defendant and/or his sureties. An appearance or appeal bond in any case may be made in the form of a cash deposit or by any corporate surety company authorized to do business in Tennessee or by two (2) private persons who individually own real property within the county. No other type bond shall be acceptable. (1988 Code, § 1-509, modified)

3-110. Disturbance of proceedings. It shall be unlawful for any person to create any disturbance of any trial before the city court by making loud or unusual noises, by using indecorous, profane, or blasphemous language, or by any distracting conduct whatsoever. (1988 Code, § 1-510)

¹State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, § 27-5-101.

CHAPTER 2

COURT COSTS AND FEES

SECTION

3-201. Court costs, etc.

3-201. Court costs, etc. The fines and court costs for the violations stated below are increased as indicated:

T.C.A.	Charge	Fine	State Tax	Court Cost	Total
55-8-152	Speeding (1-5 over limit)	20.00	13.75	100.00	133.75
55-8-152	Speeding (6-15 over limit)	25.00	13.75	100.00	138.75
55-8-152	Speeding (16-25 over limit)	30.00	13.75	100.00	143.75
55-8-152	Speeding (26-35 over limit)	35.00	13.75	100.00	148.75
55-8-152	Speeding (36-45 over limit)	40.00	13.75	100.00	153.75
55-8-152	Speeding (46+ over limit)	45.00	13.75	100.00	158.75
55-10-205	Reckless driving	50.00	13.75	100.00	163.75
55-8-149	Stop sign/light violation	20.00	13.75	100.00	133.75
55-8-130	Failure to yield	20.00	13.75	100.00	133.75
55-8-124	Following too close	20.00	13.75	100.00	133.75
55-8-136	Fail to exercise due care	20.00	13.75	100.00	133.75
55-8-116	Improper passing	20.00	13.75	100.00	133.75
55-8-154	Obstructing traffic	20.00	13.75	100.00	133.75
55-50-301	No drivers license	25.00	13.75	100.00	138.75
55-4-101	Registration violation	20.00	13.75	100.00	133.75
55-9-402	Light law violation	20.00	13.75	100.00	133.75
55-9-603	Seatbelt violation 1st offense	10.00		0.00	10.00
55-9-603	Seatbelt violation 2nd offense	20.00		0.00	20.00
55-9-602	Child passenger restraints	50.00			50.00
Ord. 11-302	Unnecessary noise	25.00		100.00	125.00
55-12-139	Financial responsibility	50.00		100.00	150.00
39-17-305	Disorderly conduct	50.00		100.00	150.00
55-10-416	Open container	25.00		100.00	125.00
39-14-502	Littering	25.00		100.00	125.00
Ord. 10-101	Dogs running at large	25.00		100.00	125.00

T.C.A.	Charge	Fine	State Tax	Court Cost	Total
	Riding unauthorized motor vehicle	25.00		100.00	125.00
55-9-107	Window tint violation	25.00		100.00	125.00
	Contempt of court	50.00			50.00
	Improper parking	20.00	1.00		21.00
	Improper parking for trucks on Hwy 22	50.00	1.00		51.00
55-8-199	Texting while driving	50.00		10.00	60.00
55-50-601	Possession of suspended DL				
	Driving school			100.00	

(as added by Ord. #2015-01, Feb. 2015)