

TITLE 1

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION¹

CHAPTER

1. BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.
2. CITY MANAGER.
3. RECORDER.
4. CODE OF ETHICS.
5. PUBLIC RECORDS.

CHAPTER 1

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS²

SECTION

- 1-101. Time and place of regular meetings.
- 1-102. Order of business.
- 1-103. General rules of order.

1-101. Time and place of regular meetings. The board of commissioners shall hold regular monthly meetings at 6:00 P.M. on the first Tuesday after the first of each month and on the first Tuesday after the fifteenth of each month at regular designated city offices. (1976 Code, § 1-101, as amended by Ord. #2198, Jan. 2000)

¹Charter references

See the charter index, the charter itself, and footnote references to the charter in the front of this code.

Municipal code references

Building, plumbing, electrical and gas inspectors: title 12.

Fire department: title 7.

Utilities: titles 18 and 19.

Wastewater treatment: title 18.

Zoning: title 14.

²Charter references

Compensation: § 5.

Qualifications: § 5.

Removal from office: § 5.

Term of office: § 3.

Vacancy in office: § 5.

1-102. Order of business. At each meeting of the board of commissioners, the following regular order of business shall be observed unless dispensed with by a majority vote of the members present:

- (1) Call to order.
- (2) Approval of the minutes.
- (3) Petitions and communications from the public and items from the audience.
- (4) Reports of boards and committees.
- (5) City manager's report.
- (6) Old business.
- (7) New business.
- (8) Unscheduled items.
- (9) Adjournment. (1976 Code, § 1-102, as amended by Ord. #2156, Aug. 1997)

1-103. General rules of order. The rules of order and parliamentary procedure contained in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 1990 (9th) Edition, shall govern the transaction of business by and before the board of commissioners at its meetings in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with provisions of the charter or this code. (1976 Code, § 1-103, modified)

CHAPTER 2**CITY MANAGER¹****SECTION**

1-201. Generally supervises municipality's affairs.

1-202. Executes municipality's contracts.

1-201. Generally supervises municipality's affairs. The city manager shall have general supervision of all municipal affairs, perform the duties of the recorder in his absence and may require such reports from the officers and employees as he may reasonably deem necessary to carry out his executive responsibilities. (1976 Code, § 1-201)

1-202. Executes municipality's contracts. The city manager shall execute all contracts authorized by the board of commissioners. (1976 Code, § 1-202)

¹Charter references

Appointment: § 8.

Bond: § 8.

Compensation: § 8.

Powers and duties: § 9.

Vacancy in office: § 9.

CHAPTER 3

RECORDER¹

SECTION

1-301. To be bonded.

1-302. To keep minutes, etc.

1-303. To perform general administrative duties, etc.

1-301. To be bonded. The recorder shall be bonded in the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00), with surety acceptable to the board of commissioners, before assuming the duties of his office. (1976 Code, § 1-301)

1-302. To keep minutes, etc. The recorder shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the board of commissioners and shall preserve the original copy of all ordinances in a separate ordinance book. (1976 Code, § 1-302)

1-303. To perform general administrative duties, etc. The recorder shall perform all administrative duties for the board of commissioners and for the City of Gatlinburg which are not expressly assigned by the charter or this code to another corporate officer. He shall also have custody of, and be responsible for maintaining all corporate bonds, records, and papers in such fireproof vault or safe as the municipality shall provide. (1976 Code, § 1-303)

¹Charter reference: § 12.

CHAPTER 4

CODE OF ETHICS

SECTION

- 1-401. Applicability
- 1-402. Definition of "personal interest."
- 1-403. Disclosure of personal interest by official with vote.
- 1-404. Disclosure of personal interest in non-voting matters.
- 1-405. Acceptance of gratuities, etc.
- 1-406. Use of information.
- 1-407. Use of municipal time, facilities, etc.
- 1-408. Use of position or authority.
- 1-409. Outside employment.
- 1-410. Ethics complaints.
- 1-411. Violations.

1-401. Applicability. This chapter is the code of ethics for personnel of the municipality. It applies to all full-time and part-time elected or appointed officials and employees, whether compensated or not, including those of any separate board, commission, committee, authority, corporation, or other instrumentality appointed or created by the municipality. The words "municipal" and "municipality" include these separate entities. (as added by Ord. #2371, June 2007)

1-402. Definition of "personal interest." (1) For purposes of §§ 1-403 and 1-404, "personal interest" means:

(a) Any financial, ownership, or employment interest in the subject of a vote by a municipal board not otherwise regulated by state statutes on conflicts of interests; or

(b) Any financial, ownership, or employment interest in a matter to be regulated or supervised; or

(c) Any such financial, ownership, or employment interest of the official's or employee's spouse, parent(s), step parent(s), grandparent(s), sibling(s), child(ren), or step child(ren).

(2) The words "employment interest" include a situation in which an official or employee or a designated family member is negotiating possible employment with a person or organization that is the subject of the vote or that is to be regulated or supervised.

(3) In any situation in which a personal interest is also a conflict of interest under state law, the provisions of the state law take precedence over the provisions of this chapter. (as added by Ord. #2371, June 2007)

1-403. Disclosure of personal interest by official with vote. An official with the responsibility to vote on a measure shall disclose during the meeting at which the vote takes place, before the vote and so it appears in the minutes, any personal interest that affects or that would lead a reasonable person to infer that it affects the official's vote on the measure. In addition, the official may recuse himself from voting on the measure. (as added by Ord. #2371, June 2007)

1-404. Disclosure of personal interest in non-voting matters. An official or employee who must exercise discretion relative to any matter, other than casting a vote, and who has a personal interest in the matter that affects or that would lead a reasonable person to infer that it affects the exercise of the discretion shall disclose, before the exercise of the discretion when possible, the interest on a form provided by and filed with the recorder. In addition, the official or employee may, to the extent allowed by law, charter, ordinance, or policy, recuse himself from the exercise of discretion in the matter. (as added by Ord. #2371, June 2007)

1-405. Acceptance of gratuities, etc. An official or employee may not accept, directly or indirectly, any money, gift, gratuity, or other consideration or favor of any kind from anyone other than the municipality:

(1) For the performance of an act, or refraining from performance of an act, that he would be expected to perform, or refrain from performing, in the regular course of his duties; or

(2) That might reasonably be interpreted as an attempt to influence his action, or reward him for past action, in executing municipal business. (as added by Ord. #2371, June 2007)

1-406. Use of information. (1) An official or employee may not disclose any information obtained in his official capacity or position of employment that is made confidential under state or federal law except as authorized by law.

(2) An official or employee may not use or disclose information obtained in his official capacity or position of employment with the intent to result in financial gain for himself or any other person or entity. (as added by Ord. #2371, June 2007)

1-407. Use of municipal time, facilities, etc. (1) An official or employee may not use or authorize the use of municipal time, facilities, equipment, or supplies for private gain or advantage to himself.

(2) An official or employee may not use or authorize the use of municipal time, facilities, equipment, or supplies for private gain or advantage to any private person or entity, except as authorized by legitimate contract or lease that is determined by the governing body to be in the best interests of the municipality. (as added by Ord. #2371, June 2007)

1-408. Use of position or authority. (1) An official or employee may not make or attempt to make private purchases, for cash or otherwise, in the name of the municipality.

(2) An official or employee may not use or attempt to use his position to secure any privilege or exemption for himself or others that is not authorized by the charter, general law, or ordinance or policy of the municipality. (as added by Ord. #2371, June 2007)

1-409. Outside employment. An official or employee may not accept or continue any outside employment if the work unreasonably inhibits the performance of any affirmative duty of the municipal position or conflicts with any provision of the municipality's charter or any ordinance or policy. (as added by Ord. #2371, June 2007)

1-410. Ethics complaints. (1) The city attorney is designated as the ethics officer of the municipality. Upon the written request of an official or employee potentially affected by a provision of this chapter, the city attorney may render an oral or written advisory ethics opinion based upon this chapter and other applicable law.

(2) (a) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the city attorney shall investigate any credible complaint against an appointed official or employee charging any violation of this chapter, or may undertake an investigation on his own initiative when he acquires information indicating a possible violation, and make recommendations for action to end or seek retribution for any activity that, in the attorney's judgment, constitutes a violation of this code of ethics.

(b) The city attorney may request the governing body to hire another attorney, individual, or entity to act as ethics officer when he has or will have a conflict of interests in a particular matter.

(c) When a complaint of a violation of any provision of this chapter is lodged against a member of the municipality's governing body, the governing body shall either determine that the complaint has merit, determine that the complaint does not have merit, or determine that the complaint has sufficient merit to warrant further investigation. If the governing body determines that a complaint warrants further investigation, it shall authorize an investigation by the city attorney or another individual or entity chosen by the governing body.

(3) The interpretation that a reasonable person in the circumstances would apply shall be used in interpreting and enforcing this code of ethics.

(4) When a violation of this code of ethics also constitutes a violation of a personnel policy, rule, or regulation or a civil service policy, rule, or regulation, the violation shall be dealt with as a violation of the personnel or civil service provisions rather than as a violation of this code of ethics. (as added by Ord. #2371, June 2007)

1-411. Violations. An elected official or appointed member of a separate municipal board, commission, committee, authority, corporation, or other instrumentality who violates any provision of this chapter is subject to punishment as provided by the municipality's charter or other applicable law, and in addition is subject to censure by the governing body. An appointed official or an employee who violates any provision of this chapter is subject to disciplinary action. (as added by Ord. #2371, June 2007)

CHAPTER 5

PUBLIC RECORDS

SECTION

1-501. Procedures regarding access to and inspection of public records.

1-501. Procedures regarding access to and inspection of public records.

(1) Consistent with the Public Records Act of the State of Tennessee, personnel of the City of Gatlinburg shall provide full access and assistance in a timely and efficient manner to Tennessee residents who request access to public documents.

(2) Employees of the City of Gatlinburg shall protect the integrity and organization of public records with respect to the manner in which the records are inspected and copied. All inspections of records must be performed under the supervision of the records custodian or designee. All copying of public records must be performed by employees of the city, or, in the event that city personnel are unable to copy the records, by an entity or person designated by the records custodian.

(3) To prevent excessive disruptions of the work, essential functions, and duties of employees of the City of Gatlinburg, persons requesting inspection and/or inspection and/or copying of public records are requested to complete a records request form to be furnished by the city. If the requesting party refuses to complete a request form, a city employee shall complete the form with the information provided by the requesting party. Persons requesting access to open public records shall describe the records with specificity so that the records may be located and made available for public inspection or duplication, as provided in subsection (2) above. All requests for public records shall be directed to the records custodian.

(4) When records are requested for inspection or copying, the records custodian has up to seven (7) business days to determine whether the city can retrieve the records requested and whether the requested records contain any confidential information, and the estimated charge for copying based upon the number of copies and amount of time required. Within seven (7) business days of a request for records, the records custodian shall:

- (a) Produce the records requested;
- (b) Deny the records in writing, giving explanation for denial;

or,

(c) In the case of voluminous requests, provide, in writing, the requestor with an estimated time frame for production and an estimation of duplication costs.

(5) There is no charge assessed to a requester for inspecting a public record. Charges for physical copies of records, in accordance with the Office of Public Records Counsel (OORC) schedule of reasonable charges, are as follows:

(a) Standard 8 1/2 x 11 or 8 1/2 x 14 black and white copy - fifteen cents (\$0.15) per page for each produced.

(b) Standard 8 1/2 x 11 or 8 1/2 x 14 color copy - fifteen cents (\$0.15) per page for each produced.

(c) Accident reports - fifteen cents (\$0.15) per page for each standard 8 1/2 x 11 or 8 1/2 x 14 black and white copy produced.

(d) Maps, plats, electronic data, audio discs, video discs, and all other materials shall be duplicated at actual costs to the city.

(6) Requests requiring less than one (1) hour of municipal employee labor for research, retrieval, redaction and duplication will not result in an assessment of labor charges to the requester. Employee labor in excess of one (1) hour may be charged to the requestor, in addition to the cost per copy, as provided in subsection (5). The city may require payment in advance of producing any request. Requests for copies of records may not be broken down to multiple requests for the same information in order to qualify for the first free hour.

(a) For a request requiring more than one (1) employee to complete, labor charges will be assessed based on the following formula: In calculating the charge for labor, a department head shall determine the number of hours each employee spent in producing a request. The department head shall then subtract the one (1) hour threshold from the number of hours of highest paid employee(s) spent producing the request. The department head will then multiply total number of hours to be charged for the labor of each employee by that employee's hourly wage. Finally, the department head will add together the totals for all the employees involved in the request and that will be the total amount of labor that can be charged.

(b) When the total number of requests made by a requestor within a calendar month exceeds four (4), the requests will be aggregated, and the requestor shall be charged a fee for any and all labor that is reasonably necessary to produce the copies of the requested records after informing the requestor that the aggregation limit has been met. Request for items that are routinely released and readily accessible, such as agendas for current calendar month meetings and approved minutes from meetings held in the previous calendar month, shall not be counted in the aggregated requests.

(7) If the city is assessed a charge to retrieve the requested records from archives or any other entity having possession of requested records, the records custodian may access the requestor the cost assessed to the city.

(8) Upon completion of a records request, the requestor may pick up the copies of records at the office of the records custodian. Alternatively, the requestor may choose to have the copies of records delivered via United States Postal Service; provided that the requestor pays all related expenses in advance.

(9) The police chief shall maintain in his office records of undercover investigators containing personally identifying information. All other personnel records of the police department shall be maintained in the office of the records custodian. Requests for personnel records, other than for undercover investigators, shall be made to the records custodian, who shall promptly notify the police chief of such request. The police chief shall make the final determination as to the release of information requested. In the event that the police chief refuses to release the information, he shall provide a written explanation of his reasons for not releasing the information.

(10) If the public records requested are frail due to age or other conditions, and copying of the records will cause damage to the original records, the requesting party may be required to make an appointment for inspection. (as added by Ord. #2473, March 2014)