

## TITLE 3

### MUNICIPAL COURT<sup>1</sup>

#### CHAPTER

1. CITY JUDGE.
2. COURT ADMINISTRATION.
3. BONDS AND APPEALS.
4. SCHEDULE OF FINES AND COSTS.

#### CHAPTER 1

#### CITY JUDGE

#### SECTION

- 3-101. Jurisdiction.
- 3-102. Popular election, term, salary, etc.

**3-101. Jurisdiction.** (1) Municipal jurisdiction. The city court 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 \$500.00 or the maximum civil penalty allowed under state law.

The city judge shall have the power to levy fines, penalties and costs, to issue all necessary process, to administer oaths, and to maintain order, including the power to punish contempt by fine or confinement not exceeding the limits provided by general laws. Costs in trials of offenses against the ordinances of the city shall be provided by ordinance. Costs in other matters shall be as established under general laws of the State of Tennessee.

(2) Concurrent jurisdiction. The city judge shall also have the authority to exercise jurisdiction concurrent with courts of general sessions in all cases involving the violation of the criminal laws of the state within the corporate limits of the city, but shall exercise such jurisdiction if and only if he/she is elected in accordance with § 3-102 of this chapter. (1979 Code, § 1-502)

**3-102. Popular election, term, salary, etc.** (1) Popular election. The November general election of 2014, and every eight years thereafter, the city judge shall be elected by the qualified voters of the city for a term of eight years,

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<sup>1</sup>Charter references

City judge--City court: § 6-4-301.

See Ordinance 96-18 (Oct. 1996) of record in the recorder's office for an ordinance adopting a schedule of fines and costs for the municipal/state court.

and the city judge shall commence their term of office and be sworn in at the regular meeting of the board of mayor in January of the calendar year following in which said office is elected or re-elected.

(2) Qualifications. The municipal judge shall be a resident of the City of White House one year and a resident of Tennessee five years immediately preceding his/her election and at least 30 years of age. In addition, the municipal judge shall be an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Tennessee.

(3) Vacancies in office. Vacancies in the office of municipal judge shall be filled by the board of mayor and aldermen until the next regular November general election. At the next regular November election the person elected shall fill the unexpired term if the full term is not to be filled at that election.

(4) Compensation. The salary of the elected city judge is that established in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 16-18-205. The salary shall be paid monthly from the general fund of the city. In addition, as part of the compensation relating to the office of city judge, a city judge, if otherwise eligible for coverage under the health and medical benefits plan of the city, shall be afforded the same coverage under such plans, at the expense of the city, as is generally afforded to other employees of the city. (1979 Code, § 1-503, as amended by Ord. #98-25, Dec. 1998, Ord. #14-03, Feb. 2014, and Ord. #21-23, Oct. 2021 ***Ch19\_01-20-22***)

## CHAPTER 2

### COURT ADMINISTRATION

#### SECTION

- 3-201. Municipal court established.
- 3-202. Records, docket, city clerk.
- 3-203. Disturbance of proceedings.
- 3-204. Drug control account.

**3-201. Municipal court established.** Under the authority of Pub. Acts 1993, ch. 115, Title 16, Chapter 18, Part 2, Tennessee Code Annotated, there is established a city court for the City of White House. (1979 Code, § 1-501)

**3-202. Records, docket, city clerk.** The finance director shall have the duty of maintaining all records of the city court in accordance with applicable laws. The finance director may recommend to the mayor the employment of a person to assist him in this function and such person shall be designated as city court clerk. It is required that all dockets and records of the city court be maintained according to acceptable standards of the general law. The city judge and mayor shall fix the regular time for holding court, which shall be no less than one (1) times per month. (1979 Code, § 1-504, as amended by Ord. #17-28, Oct. 2017)

**3-203. 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. (1979 Code, § 1-508)

**3-204. Drug control account.** In all cases involving the seizure of a vehicle that contains drugs, and whose occupants are charged with the misdemeanor offense of drug possession, the procedure of Tennessee Code Annotated, § 53-11-201 shall be followed. In no incident is the city judge authorized to transfer funds in the drug enforcement fund as a substitute for a fine in a misdemeanor drug case. (1979 Code, § 1-507)

## CHAPTER 3

### BONDS AND APPEALS

#### SECTION

3-301. Appeals.

3-302. Bond amounts, conditions, and forms.

**3-301. Appeals.** Any defendant who is dissatisfied with any judgment of the city court against him may, within ten (10) days next after such judgment is rendered, appeal to the next term of the circuit court upon posting a proper appeal bond.<sup>1</sup> (1979 Code, § 1-505)

**3-302. Bond amounts, conditions, and forms.** An appearance bond in any case before the city court shall be as follows: misdemeanors which require bond - \$500.00: driving under the influence of an intoxicant or drug \$1,000.00 first offense, \$2,000.00 second offense, \$2,500.00 third offense: 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 the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00) 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 located within the county. No other type bond shall be acceptable. (1979 Code, § 1-506)

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<sup>1</sup>State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, § 27-5-101.

## CHAPTER 4

SCHEDULE OF FINES AND COSTS

## SECTION

3-401. Schedule of fines and costs.

**3-401. Schedule of fines and costs.****MUNICIPAL TRAFFIC COURT - CITY OF WHITE HOUSE, TN  
TRAFFIC FINE SCHEDULE**

<b>Violation</b>	<b>Court Cost</b>	<b>Taxes</b>	<b>Fine</b>		<b>Total</b>
Speeding					
1-15 miles over	\$55.00	\$27.50	\$30.00	=	\$112.50
16-30 miles over	\$55.00	\$27.50	\$40.00	=	\$112.50
31 and over	\$55.00	\$27.50	\$50.00	=	\$132.50
Open Container	\$55.00	\$27.50	\$50.00	=	\$132.50
Careless Driving	\$55.00	\$27.50	\$50.00	=	\$132.50
Child Restraint 0-4 Years Old	\$55.00	\$27.50	\$50.00	=	\$132.50
Animal Control	\$55.00	N/A	\$50.00	=	\$105.00
Codes	\$55.00	N/A	\$50.00	=	\$105.00
Fire Department Citations	\$55.00	N/A	\$50.00	=	\$105.00
Red Light/Stop Sign	\$55.00	\$27.50	\$35.00	=	\$117.50
Exercise Due Care	\$55.00	\$27.50	\$30.00	=	\$112.50
Improper Passing	\$55.00	\$27.50	\$35.00	=	\$117.50
Failure to Yield	\$55.00	\$27.50	\$35.00	=	\$117.50
Following Too Closely	\$55.00	\$27.50	\$35.00	=	\$117.50
Driving on Wrong Side of Road	\$55.00	\$27.50	\$35.00	=	\$117.50
Registration Law	\$55.00	\$27.50	\$30.00	=	\$112.50
Failure to Use Signals	\$55.00	\$27.50	\$20.00	=	\$102.50
Failure to Dim Headlights	\$55.00	\$27.50	\$20.00	=	\$102.50
No Driver's License on Person	\$55.00	\$27.50	\$20.00	=	\$102.50
Window Tint Law	\$55.00	\$27.50	\$20.00	=	\$102.50
Expired Driver's License	\$55.00	\$27.50	\$20.00	=	\$102.50

<b>Violation</b>	<b>Court Cost</b>	<b>Taxes</b>	<b>Fine</b>		<b>Total</b>
Failure to Change Address	\$55.00	\$27.50	\$20.00	=	\$102.50
Improper Display of Tags	\$55.00	\$27.50	\$20.00	=	\$102.50
Noise Ordinance (Vehicle)	\$55.00	\$27.50	\$20.00	=	\$102.50
Handicap Parking	N/A	N/A	\$50.00	=	\$50.00
Emergency Lane Parking	N/A	N/A	\$50.00	=	\$50.00
No Parking Zone	N/A	N/A	\$10.00	=	\$10.00
Improper Equipment	N/A	N/A	\$10.00	=	\$10.00
No Signature on Registration	N/A	N/A	\$10.00	=	\$10.00
Seat Belt	N/A	N/A	\$10.00	=	\$10.00
Multiple Offense	N/A	N/A	\$20.00	=	\$20.00
Seat Belt 16-17 Years Old	N/A	N/A	\$20.00	=	\$20.00
Child Restraint 4-15 Years Old	N/A	N/A	\$50.00	=	\$50.00

All cases found guilty in court add \$27.50 litigation tax

All applicable cases paid prior to court add \$27.50 litigation tax

Court continuations - \$5.00 per case.

Failure to appear in court = fine amount + \$55.00 court costs + \$27.50 litigation tax

Traffic school - \$80.00

Copies for court documents - \$0.15 per page

Certified copies - \$6.00

(as added by Ord. #04-03, April 2004, and amended by Ord. #05-05, May 2005, Ord. #07-08, Feb. 2007, Ord. #07-32, Oct. 2007, and Ord. #11-11, Sept. 2011)