

TITLE 3

MUNICIPAL COURT¹

CHAPTER

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

CHAPTER 1

CITY JUDGE

SECTION

3-101. City judge.

3-101. City judge. The officer designated by the charter to handle judicial matters within the municipality shall preside over the city court and shall be known as the city judge. (1988 Code, § 1-501)

¹Charter reference
Judicial powers of recorder: § 8.

CHAPTER 2

COURT ADMINISTRATION

SECTION

3-201. Maintenance of docket.

3-202. Imposition of fines, penalties, and costs.

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

3-204. Disturbance of proceedings.

3-205. Offenses and fines.

3-201. Maintenance of docket. The city court clerk shall keep a complete docket of all matters coming before the city judge in his/her judicial capacity. The docket shall include for each defendant such information as his/her name; warrant and/or summons numbers; alleged offense; disposition; fines and costs imposed and whether collected; whether committed to community service; and all other information that may be relevant. (1988 Code, § 1-502, modified)

3-202. 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.

In all cases heard or determined by him, the city judge shall tax in the bill of costs the same amounts and for the same items allowed in courts of general sessions¹ for similar work in state cases. (1988 Code, § 1-507)

3-203. Disposition and report of fines, penalties, and costs. All funds coming into the hands of the city judge in the form of fines, penalties, costs, and forfeitures shall be recorded by the city court clerk and paid over daily to the city. (1988 Code, § 1-510, modified)

3-204. 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.

Any person violating this section may be held in criminal contempt by the city judge and punished pursuant to the contempt provisions as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 29-9-103. (1988 Code, § 1-511, modified)

¹State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, § 8-21-401.

3-205. Offenses and fines. (1) Moving violations, traffic violation not jailed.

	Fine	Costs	Total
Child restraint	\$50.00		\$50.00
Seat belt (first offense)	\$10.00		\$10.00
Clinging to vehicle/following too closely	\$20.00	\$70.00	\$90.00
Violation anti-noise-loud mufflers/music	\$15.00	\$70.00	\$85.00
Running stop sign/red light	\$50.00	\$70.00	\$120.00
Failure to yield/RR crossing	\$50.00	\$70.00	\$120.00
Improper lane change/usage/turn signal	\$50.00	\$70.00	\$120.00
Improper turn/passing/u-turn	\$50.00	\$70.00	\$120.00
Speeding (+9 miles over)	\$15.00	\$70.00	\$85.00
Speeding (+10-19 miles over)	\$20.00	\$70.00	\$90.00
Speeding (+20-29 miles over)	\$30.00	\$70.00	\$100.00
Speeding (+30 miles over)	\$50.00	\$70.00	\$120.00
No drivers license-proof on person	\$25.00	\$70.00	\$95.00
Financial responsibility	\$25.00	\$70.00	\$95.00
Violation registration law	\$25.00	\$70.00	\$95.00
Allowing unlicensed driver to drive	\$50.00	\$70.00	\$120.00
Cruising/loitering	\$15.00	\$70.00	\$85.00
Vehicle light law	\$15.00	\$70.00	\$85.00
Leaving scene of accident	\$50.00	\$70.00	\$95.00
Other minor moving offenses	\$15.00	\$70.00	\$85.00
Wrong way on one-way street	\$25.00	\$70.00	\$95.00

	Fine	Costs	Total
Parking violations: handicap, fire lane, no parking zones	\$50.00	(No costs)	\$50.00
Fines listed below are person(s) who have been released on a misdemeanor citation.			
Soliciting without a license	\$50.00	\$70.00	\$120.00
Discharges firearm/firecrackers	\$50.00	\$70.00	\$120.00
All other violations	\$50.00	\$70.00	\$120.00
City ordinance violations			
Dogs at large/leash law (first offense)	\$10.00	\$70.00	\$80.00
*Second offense and thereafter	\$50.00	\$70.00	\$120.00
Skateboarding	\$10.00	\$70.00	\$80.00
Codes compliance	\$50.00		

(2) In all cases heard and determined by him, the city judge shall impose court costs in the minimum amount of seventy dollars (\$70.00). One dollar (\$1.00) of the court costs shall be forwarded by the court clerk to the state treasurer to be used by the administrative office of the courts for training and continuing education courses for municipal court judges and municipal court clerks. In addition, the court shall levy a local litigation tax in the amount of thirteen dollars and seventy-five cents (\$13.75) in all cases in which the state litigation tax is levied. (as added by Ord. #11-179-0, Sept. 2011)

CHAPTER 3

WARRANTS, SUMMONSES AND SUBPOENAS

SECTION

3-301. Issuance of arrest warrants.

3-302. Issuance of summonses.

3-303. Issuance of subpoenas.

3-301. 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)

3-302. Issuance of summonses. When a complaint of an alleged ordinance violation is made a summons may issue in lieu of an arrest warrent, ordering the alleged offender to personally 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, modified)

3-303. Issuance of subpoenas. Subpoena may be issued to all persons whose testimony the parties believe will be relevant and material to matters coming before the 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, modified)

¹State law reference

For authority to issue warrants, see Tennessee Code Annotated, title 40, chapter 6.

CHAPTER 4

BONDS AND APPEALS

SECTION

3-401. Appearance bonds authorized.

3-402. Appeals.

3-403. Bond amounts, conditions, and forms.

3-401. 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 ranking police officer on duty at the time, provided such alleged offender is not drunk or otherwise in need of protective custody. (1988 Code, § 1-507)

3-402. 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, Sundays exclusive, appeal to the next term of the circuit court upon posting a proper appeal bond.¹ (1988 Code, § 1-508)

3-403. 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, not to exceed 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 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. (1988 Code, § 1-509)

¹State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, § 27-5-101.