

TITLE 1

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION¹

CHAPTER

1. TOWN COUNCIL.
2. MAYOR.
3. RECORDER.
4. MISCELLANEOUS.
5. CODE OF ETHICS.

CHAPTER 1

TOWN COUNCIL²

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 town council shall hold regular monthly meetings at 6:00 P.M. on the second Monday of each month at the town hall. (1977 Code, § 1-101, modified)

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

- (1) Call to order by the mayor.
- (2) Roll call by the recorder.
- (3) Reading of minutes of the previous meeting by the recorder, and approval or correction.

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, chapter 3.

Utilities: titles 18 and 19.

Wastewater treatment: title 18.

Zoning: title 14, chapters 2 through 13.

²Charter references

Powers: § 17 through § 19.

- (4) Grievances from citizens.
- (5) Communications from the mayor.
- (6) Reports from committees, members of the town council, and other officers.
- (7) Old business.
- (8) New business.
- (9) Adjournment. (1977 Code, § 1-102)

1-103. General rules of order. The rules of order and parliamentary procedure contained in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the transaction of business by and before the town council 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. (1977 Code, § 1-103, modified)

CHAPTER 2**MAYOR¹****SECTION**

1-201. Generally supervises town's affairs.

1-202. Executes town's contracts.

1-201. Generally supervises town's affairs. The mayor shall have general supervision of all city affairs and may require such reports from the officers and employees as he/she may reasonably deem necessary to carry out his/her executive responsibilities. (1977 Code, § 1-201)

1-202. Executes town's contracts. The mayor shall execute all contracts as authorized by the town council. (1977 Code, § 1-202)

¹Charter references

Compensation: § 16.

Election and term of office: § 3.

Powers and duties: § 11.

Qualifications: § 11.

CHAPTER 3

RECORDER¹

SECTION

1-301. To be bonded.

1-302. To keep minutes, etc.

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

1-304. Residency requirements for town marshal and recorder.

1-301. To be bonded. The recorder shall be bonded in such sum as may be fixed by, and with such surety as may be acceptable to, the town council. (1977 Code, § 1-301)

1-302. To keep minutes, etc. The recorder shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the town council and shall preserve the original copy of all ordinances in a separate ordinance book. (1977 Code, § 1-302)

1-303. To perform general administrative duties, etc. The recorder shall perform all clerical duties for the mayor and board of aldermen and for the municipality, which are not assigned by the charter, this code, or the governing body to another corporate officer. He/she shall also have custody of, and be responsible for, maintaining all corporate bonds, records, and papers in such fire proof vault or safe as the municipality shall provide. (Ord. #_____, May 1980)

1-304. Residency requirements for town marshal and recorder. Residency requirements for town marshal and city recorder. Within six (6) months of their initial employment by the Town of Sharon, the town marshal and the city recorder shall establish and maintain a principal place of residence within Weakley County, Tennessee. (Ord. #2001-8-20, Aug. 2001)

¹Charter references

Bond: § 15.

Compensation: § 16.

Duties: § 13.

CHAPTER 4**MISCELLANEOUS****SECTION**

1-401. Ordinance adoption procedures.

1-401. Ordinance adoption procedures. (1) Ordinances shall begin, "Be it ordained by the Town Council of the Town of Sharon as follows:"

(2) Every ordinance shall be presented in writing to the town council and passed by a majority of the members to which the council is entitled on two (2) separate days, at least seven (7) calendar days apart. The vote shall be determined by yeas and nays and the names of the members voting for or against an ordinance shall be entered in the meeting minutes. Upon each presentation the caption of the ordinance shall be read. Every ordinance shall be effective upon final passage unless by its terms the effective date is deferred.

(3) Ordinances may be repealed or amended only by ordinance.

CHAPTER 5

CODE OF ETHICS¹

SECTION

- 1-501. Applicability.
- 1-502. Definition of "personal interest."
- 1-503. Disclosure of personal interest by official with vote.
- 1-504. Disclosure of personal interest in non-voting matters.
- 1-505. Acceptance of gratuities, etc.
- 1-506. Use of information.
- 1-507. Use of municipal time, facilities, etc.
- 1-508. Use of position or authority.
- 1-509. Outside employment.

¹State statutes dictate many of the ethics provisions that apply to municipal officials and employees. For provisions relative to the following, see the Tennessee Code Annotated (T.C.A.) sections indicated:

Campaign finance: Tennessee Code Annotated, title 2, ch. 10.

Conflict of interests: Tennessee Code Annotated, §§ 6-54-107, 108; 12-4-101, 102.

Conflict of interests disclosure statements: Tennessee Code Annotated, § 8-50-501 and the following sections.

Consulting fee prohibition for elected municipal officials: Tennessee Code Annotated, §§ 2-10-122, 124.

Crimes involving public officials (bribery, soliciting unlawful compensation, buying and selling in regard to office): Tennessee Code Annotated, § 39-16-101 and the following sections.

Crimes of official misconduct, official oppression, misuse of official information: Tennessee Code Annotated, § 39-16-401 and the following sections.

Ouster law: Tennessee Code Annotated, § 8-47-101 and the following sections.

A brief synopsis of each of these laws appears in Appendix B of this municipal code.

1-510. Ethics complaints.

1-511. Violations.

1-501. Applicability. This chapter is the code of ethics for personnel of the Town of Sharon, Tennessee. 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. The words "municipal" and "municipality" include these separate entities. (Ord. #2007-3-19, March 2007)

1-502. Definition of "personal interest." (1) For purposes of §§ 1-503 and 1-504, "personal interest" means:

(a) Any financial, 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 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. (Ord. #2007-3-19, March 2007)

1-503. 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 himself¹ from voting on the measure. (Ord. #2007-3-19, March 2007)

1-504. 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

¹Masculine pronouns include the feminine. Only masculine pronouns have been used for convenience and readability.

discretion shall disclose, before the exercise of the discretion when possible, the interest on a form provided by and filed with the town 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. (Ord. #2007-3-19, March 2007)

1-505. 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. (Ord. #2007-3-19, March 2007)

1-506. 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. (Ord. #2007-3-19, March 2007)

1-507. 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 board of mayor and aldermen to be in the best interests of the Town of Sharon. (Ord. #2007-3-19, March 2007)

1-508. 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 town charter, general law, or ordinance or policy of the Town of Sharon. (Ord. #2007-3-19, March 2007)

1-509. 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 town charter or any ordinance or policy. (Ord. #2007-3-19, March 2007)

1-510. Ethics complaints. (1) The town attorney is designated as the ethics officer of the town. Upon the written request of an official or employee potentially affected by a provision of this chapter, the town 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 town 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 to end or seek retribution for any activity that, in the attorney's judgment, constitutes a violation of this code of ethics.

(b) The town attorney may request that the town council retain 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 board of mayor and aldermen, the board of mayor and aldermen 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 board of mayor and aldermen determines that a complaint warrants further investigation, it shall authorize an investigation by the town attorney or another individual or entity chosen by the board of mayor and aldermen.

(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. (Ord. #2007-3-19, March 2007)

1-511. 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 town's charter or other applicable law, and in addition is subject to censure by the board of mayor and aldermen. An appointed official who violates any provision of this chapter is subject to disciplinary action. (Ord. #2007-3-19, March 2007)