

TITLE 1

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION¹

CHAPTER

1. BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.
2. MAYOR.
3. RECORDER.
4. CODE OF ETHICS.
5. GENERAL PENALTY; CONTINUING VIOLATIONS.

CHAPTER 1

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN²

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 mayor and aldermen shall hold regular monthly meetings at 6:00 P.M. on the first Tuesday following the first Monday of each month at the town hall. (1996 Code, § 1-101, as replaced by Ord. #2021-07, July 2021 *Ch1_06-16-22*)

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, and electrical inspectors: title 12.
 Fire department: title 7.
 Utilities: title 18.
 Wastewater treatment: title 18.
 Zoning: title 14.

²Charter references

Oath: Art. II, § 6.
 Powers: Art. III, § 1 and Art. IV, § 1.
 Qualifications: Art. II, § 2.
 Quorum: Art. II, § 5.
 Term of office: Art. II, § 4.

1-102. Order of business. At each meeting of the board of mayor and aldermen 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) Approval of minutes;
- (4) Citizen comments;
- (5) Communications from the mayor;
- (6) Reports from committees, members of the governing body and other officers;
- (7) Ordinances;
- (8) Resolutions; and
- (9) Adjournment. (1996 Code, § 1-102, modified)

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 board of mayor and aldermen 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. (1996 Code, § 1-103)

CHAPTER 2**MAYOR¹****SECTION**

1-201. Generally supervises municipality's affairs.

1-202. Executes municipality's contracts.

1-201. Generally supervises municipality's affairs. The mayor shall have general supervision of all municipal affairs and may require such reports from the officers and employees as he may reasonably deem necessary to carry out his executive responsibilities. (1996 Code, § 1-201)

1-202. Executes municipality's contracts. The mayor shall execute all contracts as authorized by the board of mayor and aldermen. (1996 Code, § 1-202)

¹Charter references

Oath: Art. II, § 6.

Qualifications: Art. II, § 2.

Term of office: Art. II, § 4.

Vacancy in office: Art. II, § 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 such sum as may be fixed by, and with surety as may be acceptable to, the board of mayor and aldermen.

1-302. To keep minutes, etc. The recorder shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the board of mayor and aldermen and shall preserve the original copy of all ordinances in a separate ordinance book. (1996 Code, § 1-302)

1-303. To perform general administrative duties, etc. The recorder shall perform all administrative duties for the board of mayor and aldermen and for the municipality which are not expressly assigned by the charter, this code, or the board 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. (1996 Code, § 1-303)

¹Charter references

Term of office: Art. II, § 4

CHAPTER 4

CODE OF ETHICS¹

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 nonvoting 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 and penalty.

1-401. Applicability. This chapter is the code of ethics for personnel of the Town of Petersburg. 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. #2006-4, Nov. 2006)

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* sections indicated:

Campaign finance, see *Tennessee Code Annotated*, title 2, chapter 10.

Conflict of interest, see *Tennessee Code Annotated*, §§ 6-54-107, 180; 12-4-101, 102.

Conflict of interest disclosure statement, see *Tennessee Code Annotated*, § 8-50-501.

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

Crimes involving public officials, see *Tennessee Code Annotated*, § 39-16-101.

Crimes of official misconduct, see *Tennessee Code Annotated*, § 39-16-401.

Ouster law, see *Tennessee Code Annotated*, § 8-47-101.

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), stepparent(s), grandparent(s), sibling(s), child(ren) or stepchild(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. #2006-4, Nov. 2006)

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 himself² from voting on the measure. (Ord. #2006-4, Nov. 2006)

1-404. Disclosure of personal interest in nonvoting 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 himself¹ from the exercise of discretion in the matter. (Ord. #2006-4, Nov. 2006)

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:

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

(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. #2006-4, Nov. 2006)

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. (Ord. #2006-4, Nov. 2006)

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. (Ord. #2006-4, Nov. 2006)

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. (Ord. #2006-4, Nov. 2006)

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. (Ord. #2006-4, Nov. 2006)

1-410. Ethics complaints. (1) The town 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 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 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 town attorney may request that the governing body 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 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 does not have merit, or determine that the complaint has sufficient merit to warrant further investigation, it shall authorize an investigation by the town 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. (Ord. #2006-4, Nov. 2006)

1-411. Violations and penalty. 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 by the governing body. An appointed official or an employee who violates any provision of this chapter is subject to disciplinary action. (Ord. #2006-4, Nov. 2006)

CHAPTER 5

GENERAL PENALTY; CONTINUING VIOLATIONS

SECTION

1-501. General penalty; continuing violations.

1-501. General penalty; continuing violations. Whenever in this code or in any ordinance of the town any act is prohibited or is made or declared to be unlawful or an offense or a misdemeanor, or wherever in such code or ordinance the doing of any act is required or the failure to do any act is declared to be unlawful, the violation of any such provision of this code or any such ordinance shall be punished by a penalty of not more than fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each separate violation; provided, however, that the imposition of any such penalty under the provisions of this code or of any ordinance of the town shall not prevent the revocation of any permit or license for violation of any provisions hereof where called for or permitted under the provisions of this code or of any ordinance. The municipal judge shall fix the penalty to be imposed under the provisions hereof as the judge's discretion may dictate. Each day that any violation of this code or of any ordinance continues shall constitute a separate offense. Where any act of the general assembly of the state provides for a greater minimum penalty than one dollar (\$1.00), the minimum penalty prescribed by the state law shall prevail, and be assessed by the judge. Whenever in this code reference is made to a maximum penalty of greater than fifty dollars (\$50.00), this section shall prevail and the maximum penalty shall be fifty dollars (\$50.00).