

**TITLE 3**

**MUNICIPAL COURT<sup>1</sup>**

**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. (1978 Code, § 1-501)

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<sup>1</sup>Charter reference  
Appointment of judge: § 7.

## 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. Trial and disposition of cases.
- 3-206. Collection agency services to collect unpaid fines.

**3-201. Maintenance of docket.** The city judge shall keep a complete docket of all matters coming before him in his judicial capacity. The docket shall include for each defendant such information as his name; warrant and/or summons numbers; alleged offense; disposition; fines and costs imposed and whether collected; whether committed to workhouse; and all other information that may be relevant. (1978 Code, § 1-502)

**3-202. Imposition of fines, penalties, and costs.** (1) In all cases heard and determined by him/her, the town judge shall impose court costs in the amount of sixty-five dollars twenty-five cents (\$65.25). 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.

(2) **Electronic citation regulations and fees.** (a) As used in this section, "electronic citation" means a written citation or an electronic citation prepared by a law enforcement officer on paper or on an electronic data device with the intent the citation shall be filed, electronically or otherwise, with a court having jurisdiction over the alleged offense.

(b) Pursuant to and in accordance with state statutory requirements found in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-10-207(e), each court clerk shall charge and collect an electronic citation fee of five dollars (\$5.00) for each citation with results in a conviction. (1978 Code, § 1-508, as amended by Ord. #7-01, Dec. 2001, replaced by Ord. #01-14, April 2014, and amended by Ord. #08-16, Aug. 2016)

**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 him and paid over daily to the town. At the end of each month he shall submit to the board of mayor and aldermen a report accounting for the collection or non-collection of all fines and costs

imposed by his court during the current month and to date for the current fiscal year. (1978 Code, § 1-511)

**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. (1978 Code, § 1-512)

**3-205. Trial and disposition of cases.** Every person charged with violating a municipal ordinance shall be entitled to an immediate trial and disposition of his case, provided the city court is in session or the city judge is reasonably available. However, the provisions of this section shall not apply when the alleged offender, by reason of drunkenness or other incapacity, is not in a proper condition or is not able to appear before the court. (1978 Code, § 1-506)

**3-206. Collection agency services to collect unpaid fines.**

(1) The town is hereby authorized to solicit and use the services of a collection agency to collect unpaid fines.

(2) The contract with such collection agency shall be in writing and conform to all provisions set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 40-24-105(d).

(3) The contract with such collection agency may also include the collection of unpaid parking fines as provided in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 6-54-513, after notices required by law are mailed to registered vehicle owners. (as added by Ord. #5-10, Oct. 2010)

## CHAPTER 3

### WARRANTS, SUMMONSES AND SUBPOENAS

#### SECTION

3-301. Issuance of arrest warrants.

3-302. Issuance of summonses.

3-303. Issuance of subpoenas.

3-304. Failure to appear.

**3-301. Issuance of arrest warrants.**<sup>1</sup> Only the city judge shall have the power to issue warrants for the arrest of persons charged with violating municipal ordinances. (1978 Code, § 1-503)

**3-302. Issuance of summonses.** When a complaint of an alleged ordinance violation is made to the city judge, the judge may in his discretion, in lieu of issuing an arrest warrant, issue a summons 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 ordinance alleged to have been violated. (1978 Code, § 1-504)

**3-303. Issuance of subpoenas.** The city judge may subpoena as witnesses all persons whose testimony he believes will be relevant and material to matters coming before his court, and it shall be unlawful for any person lawfully served with such a subpoena to fail or neglect to comply therewith. (1978 Code, § 1-505)

**3-304. Failure to appear.** It shall be unlawful and a civil offense for any person to violate his written promise to appear in court after giving his written promise to an officer upon the issuance of a citation or summons of any kind, including, but not limited to a citation in lieu of arrest in both traffic and non-traffic cases, and a summons in lieu of arrest. A violation of this section shall be punishable by a civil penalty of not more than \$500, as provided in Section 5 of the adopting ordinance (Ord. #3-98) of the White Pine Municipal Code. (As added by Ord. #3-00, April 2000)

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<sup>1</sup>State 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. (1978 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.<sup>1</sup> (1978 Code, § 1-509)

**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 but in no case more than two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00), 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 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. (1978 Code, § 1-510)

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<sup>1</sup>State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, § 27-5-101.