

**TITLE 1**

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION<sup>1</sup>**

**CHAPTER**

1. CITY COUNCIL.
2. MAYOR.
3. RECORDER.
4. ETHICS POLICY.

**CHAPTER 1**

**CITY COUNCIL<sup>2</sup>**

**SECTION**

- 1-101. Time and place of regular meetings.
- 1-102. Order of business.
- 1-103. General rules of order.
- 1-104. Term of office and compensation of council members.

**1-101. Time and place of regular meetings.** (1) The regular monthly meetings for the months of February, March, April, May, June, August, October, November, and December shall be held on the first Monday of the month at 6:00 P.M. Prevailing Central Time.

(2) The regular monthly meeting for the month of September shall be held on the second Monday of the month at 6:00 P.M. Prevailing Central Time.

---

<sup>1</sup>Charter 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.

Utilities: titles 18 and 19.

Wastewater treatment: title 18.

Zoning: title 14.

<sup>2</sup>Charter references

Composition, compensation, expenses, etc.: § 6.

Election: § 5.

Vacancies in office: § 9.

(3) The regular monthly meeting for January shall be held on the first Monday of January, except when the first Monday is New Years Day (January 1), in which case the regular monthly meeting shall be held on the second Monday of January. Each January meeting shall be held at 6:00 P.M. Prevailing Central Time.

(4) The regular monthly meeting for July shall be held on the first Monday of July except when the first Monday is Independence Day (July 4), in which case the regular monthly meeting shall be held on the second Monday of July. Each July meeting shall be held at 6:00 P. M. Prevailing Central Time.

(5) All meetings of the Council of the City of Parsons shall be held at the meeting room of the Parsons Municipal Building located at 535 Tennessee Avenue South, Parsons, Tennessee. (1970 Code, § 1-101, as replaced by Ord. #307, June 2009)

**1-102. Order of business.** At each meeting of the city 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.
- (4) Grievances from citizens.
- (5) Communications from the mayor.
- (6) Reports from committees, councilmen, and other officers.
- (7) Old business.
- (8) New business.
- (9) Adjournment. (1970 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, 1990 (9th) Edition, shall govern the transaction of business by and before the city 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. (1970 Code, § 1-103, modified)

**1-104. Term of office and compensation of council members.** The council members elect for 1998, and for each term thereafter shall hold office and be elected for a term of four years beginning at 12:01 P.M. on the first Monday of July, next following their election. Each council member shall receive the sum of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per month. (Ord. #135, \_\_\_\_ 1998)

**CHAPTER 2****MAYOR**<sup>1</sup>**SECTION**

- 1-201. Generally supervises city's affairs.  
1-202. Executes city's contracts.  
1-203. Term of office and compensation of mayor.

**1-201. Generally supervises city's affairs.** The mayor shall have general supervision of all city affairs and may require such reports from officers and employees as he may reasonably deem necessary to carry out his executive responsibilities. (1970 Code, § 1-201)

**1-202. Executes city's contracts.** The mayor shall execute all contracts as authorized by the city council. (1970 Code, § 1-202)

**1-203. Term of office and compensation of mayor.** The mayor elect for 1998, and for each term thereafter shall hold office and be elected for a term of four years beginning at 12:01 P.M. on the first Monday of July, next following his or her election. The salary for the office of mayor elect for the term beginning 1998, shall be \$28,000.00 a year. The mayor shall further receive medical insurance, as provided to the other employees and shall receive and be reimbursed for the actual and necessary expenses incurred in the conduct of his or her official duties. All other provisions relating to the power, authority and duties of the mayor as contained in the city charter shall remain the same. (Ord. #153, \_\_\_\_\_ 1998)

---

<sup>1</sup>Charter references

Election: § 5.

Powers and duties, etc.: §§ 7 and 15.

Vacancy in office: § 9.

**CHAPTER 3****RECORDER<sup>1</sup>****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 the city council and with such surety as may be acceptable to the city council. (1970 Code, § 1-301)

**1-302. To keep minutes, etc.** The recorder shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the city council and shall preserve the original copy of all ordinances in a separate ordinance book. (1970 Code, § 1-302)

**1-303. To perform general administrative duties, etc.** The recorder shall perform all administrative duties for the mayor, the city council, and for the city which are not assigned by the charter, this code, or the mayor 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 city shall provide. (1970 Code, § 1-303)

---

<sup>1</sup>Charter references

Bond: § 23.

Powers and duties: § 16.

## CHAPTER 4

### ETHICS POLICY

#### SECTION

- 1-401. Applicability.
- 1-402. Definitions.
- 1-403. Gift ban.
- 1-404. Gift ban exceptions.
- 1-405. Disposition of gifts.
- 1-406. Disclosure of personal interests by official with a vote.
- 1-407. Disclosure of personal interests in nonvoting matters.
- 1-408. City recorder to maintain a disclosure file.
- 1-409. Ethics complaints.
- 1-410. Violations.
- 1-411. Repealer clause.
- 1-412. City recorder to file a copy of ordinance with Tennessee Ethics Commission.

**1-401. Applicability.** This chapter is the code of ethics for personnel of the municipality. 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 appointed or created by the municipality. The words "municipal" and "municipality" include these separate entities. (as added by Ord. #267, May 2007)

**1-402. Definitions.** For the purposes of interpreting this chapter, the following words, terms, and phrases shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section:

- (1) "City" means the municipality of Parsons, Tennessee.
- (2) "Gift" means the transfer or conveyance of anything of economic value, regardless of form, without adequate and lawful consideration.
- (3) "Immediate family" means parents, spouse and children.
- (4) "Personal interest" means:
  - (a) The holding or acquisition of any financial or ownership interest of either ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) or five percent (5%) or greater in a business entity that has or is negotiating a contract of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or more with the city, or is regulated by any agency of the city; or
  - (b) The ownership of any real estate having a value of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or greater which the city has or is negotiating an acquisition, leasehold, or easement agreement;

(c) Any such financial or ownership interest as defined in § 1-402(4)(a) and (b) of this chapter by the officer or employee's spouse or immediate family member. (as added by Ord. #267, May 2007)

**1-403. Gift ban.** Except as permitted in § 1-404 of this chapter, no covered official or employee, nor any immediate family member of a covered official or employee, shall intentionally or knowingly solicit or accept any gift as defined herein. (as added by Ord. #267, May 2007)

**1-404. Gift ban exceptions.** Section 1-403 of this chapter is not applicable to the following:

(1) Opportunities, benefits, and services that are available on the same conditions as for the general public.

(2) Anything for which the covered officer or employee, or a member of his or her immediate family, pays the fair market value.

(3) Any contribution that is lawfully made to the covered officer or employee's political campaign fund, or to that of his or her immediate family, including any activities associated with a fund-raising event in support of a political organization or candidate.

(4) Educational materials provided for the purpose of improving or evaluating municipal programs, performance, or proposals.

(5) A gift from a relative, meaning those persons related to the individual as father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, great-aunt, great-uncle, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, grandfather, grandmother, grandson, granddaughter, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half-brother, half-sister, and including the father, mother, grandfather, or grandmother of the individual's spouse and the individual's fiancée or fiancé.

(6) Anything provided by an individual on the basis of a personal friendship unless the recipient has reason to believe that, under the circumstances, the gift was provided because of the official position or employment of the recipient or his or her spouse or immediate family member and not because of the personal friendship. In determining whether a gift is provided on the basis of personal friendship, the recipient shall consider the circumstances under which the gift was offered, such as:

(a) The history of the relationship between the individual giving the gift and the recipient of the gift, including any previous exchange of gifts between those individuals; and

(b) Whether to the actual knowledge of the recipient the individual who gave the gift personally paid for the gift or sought a tax deduction or business reimbursement for the gift; and

(c) Whether to the actual knowledge of the recipient the individual who gave the gift also at the same time gave the same or

similar gifts to other officers or employees, or their spouses or immediate family members.

(7) Food or refreshments not exceeding fifty dollars (\$50.00) per person in value on a single calendar day; provided that the food or refreshments are:

(a) Consumed on the premises from which they were purchased or prepared; or

(b) Catered.

For the purposes of this chapter, "catered" means food or refreshments that are purchased ready to consume which are delivered by any means.

(8) Food, refreshments, lodging, transportation, and other benefits resulting from the outside business or employment activities (or outside activities that are not connected to the official duties of an officer or employee), if the benefits have not been offered or enhanced because of the official position or employment of the officer or employee, and are customarily provided to others in similar circumstances.

(9) Intra-governmental and intergovernmental gifts. For the purpose of this chapter, "intra-governmental gift" means any gift that is given to an officer or employee from another officer or employee, and "intergovernmental gift" means any gift given to an officer or employee by an officer or employee of another governmental entity.

(10) Bequests, inheritances, and other transfers at death.

(11) Ceremonial gifts or awards which have insignificant monetary value.

(12) Unsolicited gifts of nominal value or trivial items of informational value. (as added by Ord. #267, May 2007)

**1-405. Disposition of gifts.** An officer or employee, his or her spouse or an immediate family member, does not violate this chapter if the recipient promptly takes reasonable action to return a prohibited gift to its source or gives the gift or an amount equal to its value to an appropriate charity that is exempt from income taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as now or hereafter amended, renumbered, or succeeded. (as added by Ord. #267, May 2007)

**1-406. Disclosure of personal interests by official with a 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 the official's vote on the measure. Additionally, the official may recuse himself or herself from voting on the measure. (as added by Ord. #267, May 2007)

**1-407. Disclosure of personal interests 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

the exercise of discretion shall disclose, before the exercise of the discretion when possible, the interest on a form provided by and filed with the city recorder. In addition, the official or employee may, to the extent allowed by law, charter, ordinance, or policy, recuse himself or herself from the exercise of discretion in the matter. (as added by Ord. #267, May 2007)

**1-408. City recorder to maintain a disclosure file.** The city recorder shall keep and maintain all financial disclosure statements required to be filed herein as public records and shall retain them for a period of five (5) years after which the statements shall be destroyed. (as added by Ord. #267, May 2007)

**1-409. Ethics complaints.** (1) The city attorney is designated as the ethics officer of the city. Upon the written request of an official or employee potentially affected by a provision of this chapter, the city attorney may render an oral or written advisory ethics opinion based upon this chapter and other applicable laws.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the city 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 chapter. The city attorney may request that the city 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.

(3) When a complaint of a violation of any provision of this chapter is lodged against the mayor or a member of the city council, the city council 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 city council determines that a complaint warrants further investigation, it shall authorize an investigation by the city attorney or another individual or entity chosen by the city council.

(4) When a violation of this chapter also constitutes a violation of the city's personnel policies, rules, or regulations, the violation shall be dealt with as a violation of the personnel provisions rather than as a violation of this chapter. (as added by Ord. #267, May 2007)

**1-410. 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 city charter or other applicable law and, in addition, is subject to censure by the city council. An appointed official or employee who violates any provision of this chapter is subject to disciplinary

action up to, and including, termination of employment. (as added by Ord. #267, May 2007)

**1-411. Repealer clause.** Ordinances and parts of ordinances which are inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency. (as added by Ord. #267, May 2007)

**1-412. City recorder to file copy of ordinance with Tennessee Ethics Commission.** Upon adoption by the board of mayor and aldermen, the city recorder is hereby directed to file a duly signed and attested copy of the ordinance creating this chapter with the Tennessee Ethics Commission, in compliance with section 49 of Public Chapter No.1 of the Extraordinary Sessions of the 2006 Tennessee General Assembly. (as added by Ord. #267, May 2007)