

TITLE 1

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION¹

CHAPTER

1. BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.
2. CODE OF ETHICS.

CHAPTER 1

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SECTION

- 1-101. Election of mayor, selection of treasurer and secretary.
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1-101. Election of mayor, selection of treasurer and secretary. In accordance with the Charter, the Ridgeside City Commission has three (3) commissioners. The term of office is four (4) years, and there are no term limits. Based on the voting at a regular election of the city commission, the commissioner elected by the largest vote count shall serve as mayor. At the first regular meeting of the newly elected commission, the commissioners will elect the treasurer and secretary from the remaining two (2) members. For the purposes of conformance with the city charter, the mayor is also designated the chairman of the city commission.

1-102. Duties of the mayor. The mayor shall preside at meetings of the commission, represent the town in intergovernmental relationships, and perform such duties as provided by the charter and any ordinances or resolutions enacted by the commission consistent with the charter. The mayor shall execute all contracts authorized by the city commission.

¹Municipal 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.

1-103. Acting mayor. During the absence or disability of the mayor, the commissioner who received the second highest vote count in the last regular election will serve as acting mayor. If the office of the mayor shall become vacant, this same commissioner shall become mayor and shall serve until the next general city election.

1-104. Time and place of regular meetings. The board of commissioners shall hold regular meetings at 7:00 P.M. on the third Tuesday of January, April, July, and October at a location to be determined. (modified)

1-105. Order of business. At each meeting of the board of commissioners, 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 of the previous meeting.
- (4) Communications from the mayor.
- (5) Reports from committees, members of the board of commissioners, and other officers.
- (6) Old business.
- (7) New business.
- (8) Adjournment. (modified)

1-106. 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 commissioners 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. (modified)

CHAPTER 2

CODE OF ETHICS¹

SECTION

- 1-201. Applicability.
- 1-202. Definition of "personal interest."
- 1-203. Disclosure of personal interest by official with vote.
- 1-204. Disclosure of personal interest in non-voting matters.
- 1-205. Acceptance of gratuities, etc.
- 1-206. Use of information.
- 1-207. Use of municipal time, facilities, etc.
- 1-208. Use of position or authority.
- 1-209. Outside employment.
- 1-210. Ethics complaints.
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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: *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.

1-201. 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. (Ord. #2007-02, May 2007)

1-202. Definition of "personal interest". (1) For the purposes of §§ 1-203 and 1-204, "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;

(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. #2007-02, May 2007)

1-203. 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. #2007-02, May 2007)

1-204. 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 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

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

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. #2007-02, May 2007)

1-205. 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. #2007-02, May 2007)

1-206. 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. #2007-02, May 2007)

1-207. 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. #2007-02, May 2007)

1-208. 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. #2007-02, May 2007)

1-209. 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. #2007-02, May 2007)

1-210. Ethics complaints. (1) The county 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 county 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 county 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 county 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 of 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 has merit, determine that the complaint does not have merit, or determine that the complaint has sufficient merit to warrant further investigation. If the governing body determines that a complaint warrants further investigation, it shall authorize an investigation by the county 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. #2007-02, May 2007)

1-211. 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 governing body. An appointed official or an employee who violates any provision of this chapter is subject to disciplinary action. (Ord. #2007-02, May 2007)