

**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 city court shall be presided over by a city judge appointed by the board of commissioners. (1995 Code, § 3-101)

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<sup>1</sup>Charter references

For provisions of the charter governing the city judge and city court operations, see Tennessee Code Annotated, title 6, chapter 21, part 5. For specific charter provisions in part 5 related to the following subjects, see the sections indicated:

City judge:

Appointment and term: § 6-21-501.

Jurisdiction: § 6-21-501.

Qualifications: § 6-21-501.

City court operations:

Appeals from judgment: § 6-21-508.

Appearance bonds: § 6-21-505.

Arrest warrants: § 6-21-504.

Docket maintenance: § 6-21-503.

Fines and costs:

Amounts: §§ 6-21-502, 6-21-507.

Collection: § 6-21-507.

Disposition: § 6-21-506.

## 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.

**3-201. 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, penalties, and costs imposed and whether collected; and all other information which may be relevant. (1995 Code, § 3-201)

**3-202. Imposition of fines, penalties, and costs.** All fines, penalties, and costs shall be imposed and recorded by the city judge on the city court docket in open court.

In all cases heard and determined by him/her, the city judge shall impose court costs in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100.00). 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 state litigation tax in the amount of thirteen dollars seventy-five cents (\$13.75) in all cases in which the state litigation tax is required. In addition, the municipal court clerk shall levy a thirteen dollar seventy-five cent (\$13.75) city litigation tax in all cases where the defendant fails to pay or appear.<sup>1</sup> (1995 Code, § 3-202, as amended by Ord. #10-05, Sept. 2010, and Ord. #20-01, July 2020 *Ch2\_7-27-20*)

**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 city. At the end of each month he shall submit to the board of commissioners a report accounting for the collection or non-collection of all fines, penalties and costs imposed by his court during the current month and to date for the current fiscal year. (1995 Code, § 3-203)

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<sup>1</sup>Charter reference

Collection of fines and costs: § 6-21-507.

**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. (1995 Code, § 3-204)

**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. (1995 Code, § 3-205)

**CHAPTER 3****WARRANTS, SUMMONSES AND SUBPOENAS****SECTION**

3-301. Issuance of subpoenas.

**3-301. 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. (1995 Code, § 3-302)

**CHAPTER 4****BONDS AND APPEALS****SECTION**

3-401. Appeals.

**3-401. Appeals.** Any defendant who is dissatisfied with any judgment of the city court against him may, within ten (10) days, (Sundays exclusive) next after such judgment is rendered, appeal to the next term of the circuit court upon posting a proper appeal bond.<sup>1</sup> (1995 Code, § 3-402)

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<sup>1</sup>Charter reference

Appeal from city judge's judgment: § 6-21-508.

State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, § 27-5-101.