

TITLE 3

MUNICIPAL COURT

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.¹ (1974 Code, § 1-501)

¹Charter reference
Duties and powers: §§ 17 - 19.

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 that may be relevant. (1974 Code, § 1-502, modified)

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 or determined by him, the city judge shall tax in the bill of costs the same amounts and for the same items allowed in courts of justices of the peace¹ for similar work in state cases. (1974 Code, § 1-508)

3-203. Disposition and report of fines, penalties, and costs. All funds coming into the hands of the court in the form of fines, penalties, costs, and forfeitures shall be recorded by the court and paid over daily to the city. At the end of each month the court shall submit to the city council a report accounting for the collection or noncollection of all fines and costs imposed by the court during the current month. (1974 Code, § 1-511, modified)

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. (1974 Code, § 1-512)

3-205. Trial and disposition of cases. Every person charged with violating a municipal ordinance shall be entitled to a trial and disposition of his case, provided the city court is in session or the city judge is reasonably

¹State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, § 8-21-401.

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. (1974 Code, § 1-506, modified)

CHAPTER 3

WARRANTS, SUMMONSES AND SUBPOENAS

SECTION

3-301. Issuance of arrest warrants.

3-302. Issuance of summonses.

3-303. Issuance of subpoenas.

3-301. Issuance of arrest warrants.¹ The city judge shall have the power to issue warrants for the arrest of persons charged with violating municipal ordinances. (1974 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. Upon failure of any person to appear before the city court as commanded in a summons lawfully served on him, the cause may be proceeded with ex parte, and the judgment of the court shall be valid and binding subject to the defendant's right of appeal. (1974 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. (1974 Code, § 1-505)

¹State law reference

For authority to issue warrants, see Tennessee Code Annotated, title 40, chapter 6.

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 next after such judgment is rendered, appeal to the next term of the circuit court upon posting a proper appeal bond.¹ (1974 Code, § 1-509)

¹State law reference
Tennessee Code Annotated, § 27-5-101.