

TITLE 3
MUNICIPAL COURT¹

CHAPTER

1. CITY JUDGE.
2. COURT ADMINISTRATION.
3. WARRANTS, SUMMONSES AND SUBPOENAS.
4. BONDS AND APPEALS.

CHAPTER 1

CITY JUDGE

SECTION

- 3-101. Office established.
3-102. Duties.
3-103. Session of city court.

3-101. Office established. The office of city judge is hereby established and said city judge is charged with all the duties, responsibilities, and obligations set forth in article 1, sections 501 through 511. (Ord. #156, March 1981)

3-102. Duties. The city judge shall further be charged with those duties formerly given to the city recorder in article VI, sections 5 through 9. Moreover, the city recorder is hereby relieved of the aforesaid duties, responsibilities and obligations. (Ord. #156, March 1981)

3-103. Session of city court. The city judge shall hold session of the city court no less than once each month as required by the caseload. (Ord. #156, March 1981)

¹Charter reference
City judge: art. VI, § 10a.

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. Contempt of court.

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 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. All fines, penalties and costs shall be imposed and recorded by the city judge on the city court docket in open court.

Twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) shall be taxed against each defendant found guilty of violating a city ordinance and further in the event the defendant has to be transported to the Sumner County, Tennessee jail there shall be an additional sum of ten dollars (\$10.00) assessed against said defendant. (1978 Code, § 1-507, as amended by Ord. #140, July 1979)

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 municipality to go in the general fund. At the end of each month he shall submit to the city council 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. (1978 Code, § 1-510)

3-204. Contempt of court. Contempt of court is punishable by a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00), or such lesser amount as may be imposed in the judge's discretion.

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, § 1-505)

CHAPTER 3

WARRANTS, SUMMONSES AND SUBPOENAS

SECTION

3-301. Issuance of arrest warrants.

3-302. 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. (1978 Code, § 1-503)

3-302. 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, § 1-504)

¹State 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, § 1-506)

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, appeal to the next term of the circuit court upon posting a proper appeal bond.¹ (1978 Code, § 1-508)

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 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, § 1-509)

¹State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, § 27-5-101.