

TITLE 3 MUNICIPAL COURT

CHAPTER

1. CITY JUDGE.
2. COURT ADMINISTRATION.

CHAPTER 1 CITY JUDGE¹

SECTION

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3-101. City judge. The officer designated by the mayor and city council to handle judicial matters within the City of Dickson shall preside over the municipal court, and shall be known as the city judge, as authorized in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 16-18-301, et seq. (Ord.#1410 June 2017) (Ord. #1411, Sept. 2017, as amended by Ord. #1455, Aug. 2019)

3-102. Municipal jurisdiction. The city judge shall have the authority to try persons charged with the violation of municipal ordinances and any municipal law or ordinance that mirrors, substantially duplicates or incorporates by cross-reference the language of a state criminal statute, if and only if the state criminal statute mirrored, duplicated or cross-referenced is a Class C misdemeanor and the maximum penalty prescribed by municipal law or ordinance is a civil fine not in excess of fifty dollars (\$50.00). (Ord. #1411, Sept. 2017, as amended by Ord. #1455, Aug. 2019)

3-103. Qualifications. The city judge shall be a resident of the County of Dickson for at least one (1) year and a resident of the State of Tennessee for at least five (5) years immediately preceding his or her appointment, at least thirty (30) years old, and have sufficient knowledge to enforce the ordinances of the City of Dickson and the applicable statutes of the State of Tennessee. (Ord. #1411, Sept. 2017, as amended by Ord. #1455, Aug. 2019)

¹Charter references

Appointment and term: § 2.02. Duties: § 3.04.

3-104. Appointment and term. The city judge shall be appointed by the mayor and approved by the Council of the City of Dickson. The term of the city judge shall begin and end concurrently with the appointment of other department heads of the City of Dickson following each municipal election. The mayor and city council are authorized to make an interim appointment in the same manner to serve until such time as the next term is scheduled to begin. (Ord. #1411, Sept. 2017, as amended by Ord. #1455, Aug. 2019)

3-105. Vacancies. In the event of a vacancy as a result of death, resignation, retirement, removal for cause or any other reason, the mayor shall appoint and the city council approve a city judge to serve the unexpired portion of the term. In the event of a sudden vacancy, the mayor is authorized to appoint a temporary city judge to serve until such time as a nomination can be presented to and approved by the city council. (Ord. #1411, Sept. 2017, as amended by Ord. #1455, Aug. 2019)

3-106. Salary. The salary of the city judge shall be established as part of the City of Dickson's fiscal year budget and cannot be altered except at the beginning of a term of office. (Ord. #1411, Sept. 2017, as amended by Ord. #1455, Aug. 2019)

3-107. Appointing a Judge Pro Tempore. In the event that the duly appointed City Judge is unable to preside over a hearing due to a direct or indirect conflict, the objection of the defendant with legal foundation or in the event of recusal for any reason, the Municipal Court Clerk may arrange for a Judge Pro Tempore to preside only over the case(s) for which the City Judge is recused. As authorized by TCA § 16-18-312, municipal court judges and general sessions court judges are empowered to sit by interchange for other municipal court judges. The clerk may request any current or former municipal court judge or general sessions court judge within the judicial district encompassing the City of Dickson to serve as Judge Pro Tempore. The appointed Judge Pro Tempore will be compensated in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for presiding over a conflict docket regardless of the number of cases heard. In the event the Municipal Court Clerk is unable to secure a Judge Pro Tempore, he/she shall request one be appointed by the Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts. (Ord. #1443, March 2019)

CHAPTER 2

COURT ADMINISTRATION

SECTION

- 3-201. Municipal court established.
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- 3-205. Disturbance of proceedings.
- 3-206. Trial and disposition of cases.
- 3-207. Issuance of subpoenas.
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3-201. Municipal court established.

- 1) A Municipal Court for the City of Dickson is established, as authorized in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 16-17-301, et seq. (Ord. #1411, Sept. 2017, as amended by Ord. #1455, Aug. 2019)
- 2) The duly appointed city judge will determine a schedule for conducting said court. (Ord. #1411, Sept. 2017, as amended by Ord. #1455, Aug. 2019)

3-202. Maintenance of docket.

- 1) The city judge, with the assistance of the municipal court clerk and staff, shall keep a complete docket of all matters coming before him in his judicial capacity.
- 2) The docket shall include for each defendant such information as his name, warrant and/or summons numbers, alleged violations, dispositions, lines, and costs imposed, whether such fines and costs are collected and all other information that may be relevant. (Ord. #1411, Sept. 2017, as amended by Ord. #1455, Aug. 2019)

3-203. Imposition of Fines, Penalties and Costs.

- 1) All fines and costs shall be imposed by the city judge and recorded by the municipal court clerk on the municipal court docket.
- 2) Court Costs:
 - a) In all cases heard and determined by him or her, the city judge may impose court costs in the amount of one hundred fifty-five dollars (\$162.50). Two dollars (\$2.00) of the court costs shall be forwarded by the court clerk to the state treasurer in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated § 16-18-304(a) to be used by the Administrative Office of the Courts for training and continuing education courses for municipal court judges and municipal court clerks. (Ord. #1571 Aug. 2025)
 - b) When any person has been charged with violation of a law regarding vehicle equipment (including but not limited to inoperable headlights, tail lights, brake lights or turn signals), driver licensing, or vehicle licensing and registration, the charge may be dismissed if the

person charged with the violation submits evidence of compliance with such law on or before the court date; provided, however, that the city judge may establish a separate court cost not to exceed twenty-five dollars (\$32.00) to be collected from the person charged with the violation. This separate court costs will be assessed in lieu of the court costs detailed in Section 3-203(2)(a) above. Two dollars (\$2.00) of the court costs shall be forwarded by the court clerk to the state treasurer in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated § 16-18-304(a) to be used by the Administrative Office of the Courts for training and continuing education courses for municipal court judges and municipal court clerks. (Ord #1571 Aug. 2025)

- 3) Litigation Taxes and Electronic Citation Fee: In all cases where the defendant is charged with violation of a city ordinance or authorized state statute and is found guilty, whether by trial or plea of guilty, such defendant shall pay:
 - a) The city and state litigation taxes as defined in Title 5, Chapter 5 of the Dickson Municipal Code;
 - b) Any other taxes and/or fees imposed pursuant to state statutes and/or city ordinances. (Ord. #1411, Sept. 2017, as amended by Ord. #1455, Aug. 2019 and by Ord. #1523, Aug. 2022 and Ord#1571 Aug 2025)

3-204. Disposition of fines and costs.

- 1) All funds being paid into the municipal court in the form of fines, costs and other authorized fees shall be recorded by the municipal court clerk and deposited in the City of Dickson's accounts in accordance with state statutes and the policies of the City of Dickson.
- 2) At the end of each month, the municipal court clerk shall cause to be created a report accounting for the collection or non-collection of all fines and costs imposed by the court during the current month and to date for the current fiscal year to be submitted to the city administrator. (Ord. #1411, Sept. 2017, as amended by Ord. #1455, Aug. 2019)

3-205. Disturbance of proceedings. It shall be unlawful for any person to create any disturbance of any proceeding before the municipal court by making loud or unusual noises, by using indecorous, profane or blasphemous language or by any distracting conduct whatsoever. A violation of this section shall be punishable by a fine up to fifty dollars (\$50.00) plus applicable costs. (Ord. #1411, Sept. 2017, as amended by Ord. #1455, Aug. 2019)

3-206. Trial and disposition of cases. Every person charged with violating a city ordinance shall be entitled to a trial and disposition of the case in a reasonable time period according to the municipal court schedule established by the city judge. (Ord. #1411, Sept. 2017, as amended by (Ord. #1455, Aug. 2019)

3-207. Issuance of subpoenas. The city judge shall have the authority to issue subpoenas to all persons whose testimony as witnesses he believes will be relevant and material to matters coming before his court, and it shall be unlawful for any person properly served with such a subpoena to fail or neglect to comply therewith. (Ord. #1411, Sept. 2017, as amended by Ord. #1455, Aug. 2019)

3-208. Appeals. Any defendant who is dissatisfied with any judgment of the municipal court against him may, within ten (10) days after such judgment is rendered, appeal said judgment to the Circuit Court of Dickson County upon posting an appeal bond in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00). (Ord. #1411, Sept. 2017, as amended by Ord. #1455, Aug. 2019)