

**THE  
COLUMBIA  
MUNICIPAL  
CODE**

Prepared by the

**MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICE  
INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE**

in cooperation with the

**TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL LEAGUE**

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Change 1, April 16, 2009

**CITY OF COLUMBIA, TENNESSEE**

**MAYOR**

William E. Gentner

**VICE MAYOR**

Wayne Kennedy

**COUNCILMEMBERS**

Dean Dickey  
Christa S. Martin  
Debbie Matthews  
Carl McCullen  
Susan Stephenson

**RECORDER**

Betty R. Modrall

## PREFACE

The Columbia Municipal Code contains the codification and revision of the ordinances of the City of Columbia, Tennessee. By referring to the historical citation appearing at the end of each section, the user can determine the origin of each particular section. The absence of a historical citation means that the section was added by the codifier. The word "modified" in the historical citation indicates significant modification of the original ordinance.

The code is arranged into titles, chapters, and sections. Related matter is kept together, so far as possible, within the same title. Each section number is complete within itself, containing the title number, the chapter number, and the section of the chapter of which it is a part. Specifically, the first digit, followed by a hyphen, identifies the title number. The second digit identifies the chapter number, and the last two digits identify the section number. For example, title 2, chapter 1, section 6, is designated as section 2-106.

By utilizing the table of contents and the analysis preceding each title and chapter of the code, together with the cross references and explanations included as footnotes, the user should locate all the provisions in the code relating to any question that might arise. However, the user should note that most of the administrative ordinances (e.g. Annual Budget, Zoning Map Amendments, Tax Assessments, etc...) do not appear in the code. Likewise, ordinances that have been passed since the last update of the code do not appear here. Therefore, the user should refer to the city's ordinance book or the city recorder for a comprehensive and up to date review of the city's ordinances.

Following this preface is an outline of the ordinance adoption procedures, if any, prescribed by the city's charter.

The code has been arranged and prepared in loose-leaf form to facilitate keeping it up to date. MTAS will provide updating service under the following conditions:

- (1) That all ordinances relating to subjects treated in the code or which should be added to the code are adopted as amending, adding, or deleting specific chapters or sections of the code (see section 7 of the adopting ordinance).
- (2) That one copy of every ordinance adopted by the city is kept in a separate ordinance book and forwarded to MTAS annually.
- (3) That the city agrees to pay the annual update fee as provided in the MTAS codification service charges policy in effect at the time of the update.

When the foregoing conditions are met MTAS will reproduce replacement pages for the code to reflect the amendments and additions made by such ordinances. This service will be performed at least annually and more often if

justified by the volume of amendments. Replacement pages will be supplied with detailed instructions for utilizing them so as again to make the code complete and up to date.

The able assistance of Linda Dean, the Administrative Specialist who did all the typing on this project is gratefully acknowledged.

Steve Lobertini  
Codification Consultant

**ORDINANCE ADOPTION PROCEDURES PRESCRIBED BY THE  
CITY CHARTER**

ARTICLE VIII

Ordinances

Section 8.01: Action requiring an ordinance. In addition to other acts required by law or by specific provision of this charter to be done by ordinance, those acts of the City Council shall be by ordinance which:

- (1) Adopt or amend an administrative code or establish, alter or abolish any city department, office or agency;
- (2) Provide for a fine or other penalty or establish a rule or regulation for violation of which a fine or other penalty is imposed;
- (3) Levy taxes;
- (4) Grant, renew or extend a franchise;
- (5) Regulate the rate charged for its services by a public utility;
- (6) Authorize the borrowing of money, except the authorization for the issuance of bonds may be by resolution.
- (7) Convey or lease or authorize the conveyance or lease of any lands of the City;
- (8) Amend or repeal any ordinance previously adopted.

Acts other than those referred to in the preceding sentence may be done either by ordinance or by resolution.

Section 8.02: Form of ordinances. Every proposed ordinance shall be introduced in writing and in the form required for final adoption. No ordinance shall contain more than one subject which shall be clearly expressed in its title. The enacting clause shall be "Be it Ordained by the City of Columbia."

Section 8.03: Procedure for passage of ordinances; When Ordinances may become effective. Before its adoption, every ordinance shall be voted on by the City Council on three different days in open session. Not less than one week shall elapse between the first and third votes. Any ordinance not adopted in accordance with these provisions shall be null and void.

No Ordinance shall take effect until at least fifteen (15) days after the first passage thereof, except where required by the public welfare and upon the unanimous vote of all members of the Council present and voting, provided, however, that no Ordinance making a grant, renewal or extension of franchise or other special privilege, or regulating the rate to be charged for its services by any public utility, shall ever become effective until at least fifteen (15) days after the first passage thereof.

Section 8.04: Votes by ayes and nays. In all cases under the preceding Section the vote shall be determined by ayes and nays, and the names of the members voting for or against an Ordinance shall be entered upon the journal.

Section 8.05: Ordinances to be recorded. Every Ordinance shall be immediately taken charge of by the Recorder and by him numbered, copied in an Ordinance Book, filed and preserved in his office.

Section 8.06: Penal Ordinances must be published to put them in force. All Ordinances of a penal nature enacted as required herein shall be published at least once in an official newspaper of the City, and no such Ordinance shall be in force until it is published.