

## Chapter 19

### MUNICIPAL COURT

#### **Sec. 19-1. Terms.**

The Municipal Court shall be convened according to a regular schedule set by the Chief Judge and at such other times as shall be ordered by the Chief Judge when he deems it necessary to keep the dockets thereof current.

#### **Sec. 19-2. Where sessions held.**

Sessions of the Municipal Court shall be held in the council chamber at City Hall unless otherwise provided by City Council. If it becomes necessary to hold a session of the Municipal Court somewhere other than City Hall, then City Council may adopt a resolution designating an alternative court location for that session. Upon any change in the location of a session of the Municipal Court, adequate notice must be given to all relevant parties in accordance with state law.

#### **Sec. 19-3. Rules of procedure.**

The rules of procedure of the Municipal Court shall be as provided by law and as supplemented by appropriate orders and rulings of the court.

#### **Sec. 19-4. Defendant must be present for trial, sentence, or discharge.**

In no case shall any person charged with violating any ordinance of the city be tried, sentenced or discharged, unless such person is actually present before the Municipal Court at the time of such trial, sentence, or discharge.

#### **Sec. 19-5. Appearance bonds generally.**

Any person arrested under a warrant may give the arresting officer a bond with good security, to be approved by such officer or a judge of the Municipal Court. The bond shall be joint and several, and in the amount designated on the warrant by the issuing officer. If no amount is designated on the warrant, the arresting officer may take bond in a sum equal to double the highest fine that could be imposed for the offense charged in the warrant and a Municipal Court judge may fix the amount of the bond at any reasonable sum. The conditions of the bond shall be for the appearance of the defendant at the Municipal Court at a specified time, and from time to time thereafter as required, to stand to and abide to trial on the charge, and not to depart the court without permission from an officer of the court.

#### **Sec. 19-6. Forfeiture of bond.**

Upon the failure to appear by any person charged with a penal offense, the principal and sureties on any relevant bond shall be called in the manner practiced in the superior courts of this state. Upon the failure of the principal to appear at once in court, such bond shall be forfeited. Upon such forfeiture, the court shall order *scire facias* to issue, calling upon the principal and sureties to show cause why judgment should not be entered against them for the amount of the bond.