

TITLE 4

MUNICIPAL PERSONNEL

CHAPTER

1. SOCIAL SECURITY FOR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.
2. PERSONNEL POLICY.
3. OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH PROGRAM.
4. INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL POLICY.
5. TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT REGULATIONS.
6. EMPLOYEE TERMINATION POLICY.
7. CODE OF ETHICS.
8. NEPOTISM POLICY.

CHAPTER 1

SOCIAL SECURITY FOR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

SECTION

- 4-101. Policy and purpose as to coverage.
- 4-102. Necessary agreements to be executed.
- 4-103. Withholdings from salaries or wages.
- 4-104. Appropriations for employer's contributions.
- 4-105. Records and reports to be made.

4-101. Policy and purpose as to coverage. It is hereby declared to be the policy and purpose of the Town of White Bluff to provide for all eligible employees and officials of the municipality, whether employed in connection with a governmental or proprietary function, the benefits of the system of federal old age and survivors insurance. In pursuance of said policy, and for that purpose, the Town of White Bluff shall take such action as may be required by applicable state and federal laws or regulations. (1983 Code, § 1-701)

4-102. Necessary agreements to be executed. The mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute all the necessary agreements and amendments thereto with the state executive director of old age insurance, as agent or agency, to secure coverage of employees and officials as provided in the preceding section. (1983 Code, § 1-702)

4-103. Withholdings from salaries or wages. Withholdings from the salaries or wages of employees and officials for the purpose provided in the first section of this chapter are hereby authorized to be made in the amounts and at such times as may be required by applicable state or federal laws or regulations,

and shall be paid over to the state or federal agency designated by said laws or regulations. (1983 Code, § 1-703)

4-104. Appropriations for employer's contributions. There shall be appropriated from available funds such amounts at such times as may be required by applicable state or federal laws or regulations for employer's contributions, and the same shall be paid over to the state or federal agency designated by said laws or regulations. (1983 Code, § 1-704)

4-105. Records and reports to be made. The recorder shall keep such records and make such reports as may be required by applicable state and federal laws or regulations. (1983 Code, § 1-705)

CHAPTER 2

PERSONNEL POLICY

SECTION

- 4-201. Personnel policy.
- 4-202. Employees.
- 4-203. Hiring procedures.
- 4-204. Benefits.
- 4-205. Grievance procedures.
- 4-206. State and federal personnel mandates.
- 4-207. Miscellaneous.
- 4-208. Dismissal.
- 4-209. Personnel policy changes.
- 4-210.--4-211. Deleted.

4-201. Personnel policy. (1) Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to establish a system of personnel administration in the Town of White Bluff, Tennessee.

(2) At-will employer. The Town of White Bluff, Tennessee is an at-will employer. Nothing in this chapter may be construed as creating a property right or contract right to any job for any employee.

(3) Coverage. The following personnel are not covered by this policy, unless otherwise provided:

- (a) All elected officials.
- (b) Members of appointed boards and commissions.
- (c) Consultants, advisers, and legal counsel rendering temporary professional service.
- (d) The city attorney.
- (e) Independent contractors and/or contract employees.
- (f) Volunteer personnel.
- (g) The city judge.

All other employees of the municipal government are covered by this personnel policy. (as replaced by Ord. #333, Oct. 2011 *Ch2_5-7-19*)

4-202. Employees. (1) Full-time. Full-time employees are individuals employed by the municipal government who normally work forty (40) hours per week.

(2) Part-time. Part-time employees are individuals who may not work on a daily basis or work on a daily basis fewer than eight (8) hours a day and may work fewer than twenty-eight (28) hours per week or who are temporary and/or seasonal employees. (as replaced by Ord. #333, Oct. 2011 *Ch2_5-7-19*)

4-203. Hiring procedures. (1) Policy statement. The primary objective of this hiring policy is to ensure compliance with the law and to obtain qualified personnel to serve the citizens of the municipality. The municipality shall make reasonable accommodations in all hiring procedures for all persons with disabilities.

(2) Application. All persons seeking appointment or employment with the municipality must complete a standard application form provided by the municipal government. Applications for employment shall be accepted in the town hall during regular office hours only. Applications will remain on active status for six (6) months after accepted or until the job for which the application is submitted is filled, whichever period of time is less.

(3) Interviews. All appointments will be preceded by an interview with the department head.

(4) Pre-appointment exams. For certain positions, the employee may be required to undergo a validated physical agility examination related to the essential functions of the job, validated written and/or oral tests related to the essential functions of the job, drug testing, and, upon a conditional offer of employment, a medical examination to determine the employee's ability to perform the essential functions of the job. Reasonable accommodations shall be made in the physical agility exam for applicants with disabilities making a request for accommodations.

(5) Appointments, etc. All appointments shall be made in accordance with lawful provisions of the municipal charter if there are applicable provisions in the charter. (as replaced by Ord. #333, Oct. 2011 *Ch2_5-7-19*)

4-204. Benefits. (1) Holidays. Generally, full-time employees are allowed a day off with pay on the following holidays:

- (a) New Year's Day;
- (b) Martin Luther King Day;
- (c) Presidents Day;
- (d) Good Friday;
- (e) Memorial Day;
- (f) Independence Day;
- (g) Labor Day;
- (h) Veteran's Day;
- (i) Thanksgiving Day;
- (j) Day after Thanksgiving Day;
- (k) Christmas Eve;
- (l) Christmas Day; and
- (m) Day after Christmas Day (unless this day falls on a Saturday or Sunday).

Employees must be in a pay status on a work day before and on the work day after holiday, unless otherwise excused by the supervisor, to receive compensation for the holiday.

Any employee required to work on a regular holiday shall be granted eight (8) hours off on an alternate day approved by the supervisor or an additional eight (8) hours pay for the holiday.

(2) Vacation leave. All full-time employees of the municipality shall accrue vacation leave monthly upon the completion of each calendar month of service. Vacation leave will begin to accrue as of the first full month of employment, but cannot be taken until the employee has completed six (6) months of employment. As the number of years of service increases, the amount of leave granted increases and may accumulate to the maximum vacation hours accrued as shown in the table below:

Years of Service	Vacation Hours Accrued	
	Per Month	Per Yr.
1 full year up to 5 years	6.66	80
5 years up to 10 years	10	120
10 years and over	13.33	160

Unused vacation time does not carry over from year to year and shall be forfeited. Upon request of an employee, and with the approval of the employee's department head and the mayor, an employee may be paid for unused vacation time in lieu of paid vacation in the event of personnel shortages.

Vacation leave shall be taken at a time approved by the employee's supervisor. Upon separation, employees are entitled to be reimbursed for any unused vacation leave, not to exceed the maximum allowed for the years and months of service completed.

(3) Sick leave. All full-time employees shall accumulate eight (8) hours of sick leave with pay for each month of work completed for the municipality. Sick leave may be granted for any of the following reasons:

- (a) Personal illness or physical incapacity resulting from causes beyond the employee's control.
- (b) Exposure to contagious disease so that employee's presence at work might jeopardize the health of other employees.
- (c) Medical, dental, optical or other professional treatments or examinations.
- (d) Acute illness.

Sick leave shall be taken in one-half (1/2) day increments. An employee may accumulate up to a maximum of one hundred twenty (120) sick days. Employees shall not be paid for unused sick leave upon the employee's termination, resignation or retirement. A doctor's statement is required after three (3) days' absence.

(4) Bereavement leave. Employees shall be allowed bereavement leave up to a maximum of three (3) days in the event of the death of an immediate family member. An immediate family member is considered one (1) of the following; spouse, mother, father, brother, sister, grandparents, children, including stepchildren and adopted children, mother or father-in-law. (as replaced by Ord. #333, Oct. 2011 *Ch2_5-7-19*; and amended by Ord. #401, May 2019 *Ch2_5-7-19*)

4-205. Grievance procedures. (1) Grievance policy. The purpose of this section is to prescribe uniform disposition procedures of grievances presented by individual employees. A grievance is a written question, disagreement, or misunderstanding concerning administrative orders involving only the employee's work area, reasonable accommodations under Americans with Disabilities Act, physical facilities, unsafe equipment, or unsafe material used. The grievance must be submitted within five (5) working days of the incident causing the grievance.

(2) Employees must remember that there is no grievance until the department head or other appropriate person has been made aware of the dissatisfaction by written notice. Once this is done, the following steps are to be taken:

(a) Step 1. Discuss the problem with the immediate supervisor. If satisfaction is not obtained, the grievance is advanced to the second step.

(b) Step 2. Discuss the problem with the appropriate department head. If the Step 2 grievance is not resolved, it is advanced to the third step along with all documentation.

(c) Step 3. Discuss the problem with the mayor of the municipality. The mayor's decision may be the last and final step in the process. The decision of the mayor is final and binding to all parties involved.

(d) Step 4. At the mayor's discretion, any unresolved grievance may be referred to an arbitrator for resolution. The decision of the arbitration shall be binding on all parties. (as replaced by Ord. #333, Oct. 2011 *Ch2_5-7-19*)

4-206. State and federal personnel mandates. (1) Discrimination prohibited. The municipality is an equal opportunity employer. Except as otherwise permitted by law, the municipality will not discharge or fail or refuse to hire any individual, or otherwise discriminate against any individual with respect to compensation, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment because of the individual's race, color, religion, gender, or national origin, or because the individual is forty (40) or more years of age. The municipality will not discriminate against a qualified individual with a disability because of the disability in regard to job application procedures, hiring or discharge, employee

compensation, job training, or other terms, conditions, and privileges of employment. (Title VII of Civil Rights Act of 1964 - 42 U.S.C. section 2000e-2000e-15; Equal Pay Act 1963 - 29 U.S.C. section 206(d); Age Discrimination in Employment Act - 29 U.S.C. sections 621 et seq.; Americans With Disabilities Act 42 U.S.C. sections 506 et seq.)

(2) Workplace violence and sexual harassment prohibited.

(a) Workplace violence. The town is committed to preventing workplace violence and to maintaining a safe work environment. It is the policy of the Town of White Bluff to promote a productive, safe and healthy work environment for all employees, customers, vendors, contractors and members of the general public and to provide for the efficient and effective operation of the local government's activities. Employees and customers are to be treated with courtesy and respect at all times.

Employees are expected to maintain a productive work environment free from harassing or disruptive activity including threats of physical violence. No form of harassment will be tolerated, including sexual harassment and harassment based on race, national origin, religion, disability, pregnancy, age, military status, sex or other protected category, as provided by law. This policy applies to all town employees, elected officials, appointed officials, part-time/temporary employees, and contractors.

The Town of White Bluff will not tolerate verbal or physical conduct by an employee which harasses, disrupts or interferes with another's work performance or which creates an intimidating, offensive or hostile environment.

(i) No employee or non-employee shall be allowed to harass any other employee or non-employee by exhibiting behavior including, but not limited to, the following:

(A) Verbal harassment - Verbal threats toward persons or property; the use of vulgar or profane language directed towards others; disparaging or derogatory comments or slur; offensive flirtations or propositions; verbal intimidation; exaggerated criticism or name-calling; spreading untrue or malicious gossip about others.

(B) Physical harassment - Any physical assault, such as hitting, pushing, kicking, holding, impeding or blocking the movement of another person.

(C) Visual harassment - Displaying derogatory or offensive posters, cartoons, publications or drawings.

(ii) All weapons, and other dangerous or hazardous devices or substances are prohibited from town property, unless in the control of law enforcement or emergency personnel. Under no circumstances are the following items permitted on local

government property, including local government-owned parking areas, except when issued or sanctioned by the local government for use in the performance of the employee's job:

- (A) All types of firearms, switchblade knives, and knives with a blade longer than four inches (4");
- (B) Dangerous chemicals;
- (C) Explosives or blasting caps;
- (D) Chains; or
- (E) Other objects carried for the purposes of injury or intimidation.

(iii) Charges of violence and harassment may be reported to any supervisory employee of the local government, including the city recorder, human resource manager and the mayor. The town will promptly investigate reports of workplace violence including suspicious individuals or activities. The city recorder or human resource manager will be charged with investigating all cases of workplace violence and harassment. Depending on the severity of the charges or whether a crime is committed, the mayor may request that the police chief provide assistance to the city recorder or human resource manager or assume responsibility for the investigation. All employees are required to assist in the course of the investigation by providing testimony, statements and evidence, as required. Failure to cooperate may result in disciplinary action.

(iv) Copies of the investigative report with recommendations for appropriate action will be turned over to the mayor as appropriate for further action.

(v) Anyone determined to be responsible for threats of or actual violence or other conduct that is in violation of this policy will be subject to prompt disciplinary action up to and including termination.

(vi) Employees are encouraged to bring their disputes or differences with other employees to the attention of their supervisors or the human resource department before the situation escalates into potential violence. The town is eager to assist in the resolution of employee disputes, and will not discipline employees for raising such concerns. Employees have the right to file a police report at their own discretion.

(b) Sexual harassment. (Note - The courts have determined that one of the best defenses to a sexual harassment claim is proof of a policy prohibiting the behavior and adequate training. Because the sexual harassment policy is so comprehensive, cities may want to consider passing this policy as an ordinance or resolution and use Option B [below] in the policy document.)

(i) Purpose. The Town of White Bluff may be held liable for the actions of all employees with regard to sexual harassment and will not tolerate sexual harassment of its employees. The local government will take immediate, positive steps to stop such harassment when it occurs.

The local government is responsible for acts of sexual harassment in the workplace when the local government (or its agents or supervisory employees) knows or should have known of the conduct, unless it can be shown that the local government took immediate and appropriate corrective action. The local government may also be responsible for the acts of non-employees, with respect to sexual harassment of employees in the workplace, where the local government (or its agents or supervisory employees) knows or should have known of the conduct and failed to take immediate and appropriate corrective action.

This policy applies to all officers and employees of the Town of White Bluff including, but not limited to: full and part-time employees, elected officials, seasonal and temporary employees, employees covered or exempt from the personnel rules or regulations of the local government, and employees working under contract for the local government. The following rules shall be strictly enforced.

(ii) Definitions. The following actions constitute an unlawful employment practice and are absolutely prohibited by the local government when they affect employment decisions, create a hostile job environment, cause distractions, or unreasonably interfere with work performance. They are:

- (A) Sexual harassment or unwelcome sexual advances;
- (B) Requests for sexual favors;
- (C) Explicit or implied job threats or promises in return for submission to sexual favors;
- (D) Verbal harassment of a sexual nature, such as lewd comments, sexual jokes or references, and offensive personal references;
- (E) Sex-oriented stories;
- (F) Displaying sexually explicit or pornographic material, no matter how the material is displayed;
- (G) Sexual assault on the job by supervisors, fellow employees, or, on occasion, non-employees; and/or
- (H) Demeaning insulting, intimidating or sexually suggestive written, recorded or electronically transmitted materials (such as email, instant message, and Internet materials).

Sexual harassment includes conduct directed by men toward women, conduct directed by men toward men, conduct directed by women toward men, and conduct directed by women toward women.

(iii) Making sexual harassment complaints. An employee who feels he/she is subjected to sexual harassment should immediately contact a person (listed below) with whom the employee feels the most comfortable. (Any number of individuals may be chosen. The object is to give several options to a harassment victim in the event the harasser is the immediate supervisor.) Complaints may be made orally or in writing to:

- (A) The employee's immediate supervisor;
- (B) The employee's department head;
- (C) The human resource manager;
- (D) The city recorder;
- (E) The mayor; and/or
- (F) A member of the board of mayor and aldermen/commission/council.

Employees have the right to circumvent the employee chain-of-command when selecting the person to complain to about sexual harassment. The employee should be prepared to provide the following information:

- (A) His/her name, department, and position title;
- (B) The name of the person or people committing the sexual harassment, including their title(s), if known;
- (C) The specific nature of the sexual harassment, how long it has gone on, any employment action (demotion, failure to promote, dismissal, refusal to hire, transfer, etc.) taken against the employee as a result of the harassment, or any other threats made against the employee as a result of the harassment;
- (D) Witnesses to the harassment; and
- (E) Whether the employee has previously reported the harassment and, if so, when and to whom.

(iv) Employee obligation. Employees are obligated to report instances of harassment. Employees are also obligated to cooperate in every investigation of harassment. The obligation includes, but is not limited to, coming forward with evidence, both favorable and unfavorable, for a person accused of such conduct; fully and truthfully make written reports or verbally answer questions when required to do so by an investigator. Employees are to refrain from making bad faith accusations of harassment.

Disciplinary action may be taken against an employee who fails to report instances of harassment, or who fails or refuses to cooperate in the investigation of a complaint of harassment, or who files a complaint of harassment in bad faith. Employees are

prohibited from interfering or attempting to interfere with any departmental investigation. False allegations will be dealt with on a case by case basis, and depending on the outcome, may include disciplinary action up to and including termination.

(v) Reporting and investigating sexual harassment complaints. The city recorder or human resource manager is the entity the local government designates as the investigator of sexual harassment complaints against employees. In the event the sexual harassment complaint is against the person named above, the investigator shall be a local government employee appointed by the mayor.

When an allegation of sexual harassment is made by any employee, the person to whom the complaint is made shall:

(A) Separate the complainant and accused party for the duration of the investigation; upon the approval of the department head and mayor.

(B) Meet with the employees, any witnesses, the supervisor(s), any other members of management considered appropriate and other individuals that may have relevant information. The investigator may elect to conduct a hearing as part of the investigation process.

(C) Immediately prepare a report of the complaint according to the preceding section and submit it to the mayor;

(D) Make and keep a written record of the investigation at the time the verbal interview is in progress, including notes on:

(1) Verbal responses made to the investigator by the person complaining of sexual harassment;

(2) Witnesses interviewed during the investigation;

(3) The person against whom the complaint of sexual harassment was made; and

(4) Any other person contacted by the investigator in connection with the investigation

(E) Within fifteen (15) working days of receiving the complaint, the city recorder or human resource manager prepares and presents the findings to the mayor in a report, which will include:

(1) The written statement of the person complaining of sexual harassment;

(2) The written statements of witnesses;

(3) The written statement of the person against whom the complaint of sexual harassment was made; and

(4) All the investigator's notes connected to the investigation.

(F) Action on complaints of sexual harassment.

Upon receiving an investigation report of a sexual harassment complaint, the mayor shall immediately review the report. If the mayor determines that the report is not complete in some respect, he/she may question the person complaining of sexual harassment, the person against whom the complaint has been made, witnesses to the conduct in question, or any other person who may have knowledge about the harassment.

Based upon the report and his/her own investigation (where a separate investigation is made), the mayor shall, within a reasonable time, determine whether the conduct in question constitutes sexual harassment. In making that determination, the mayor shall look at the record as a whole and at the totality of circumstances, including the nature of the conduct, the context in which the alleged actions occurred, and the behavior of the person complaining. The decision of whether sexual harassment actually took place will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

If the mayor determines that the harassment complaint is founded, he/she shall take immediate and appropriate disciplinary action against the guilty employee, consistent with his/her authority under the local government charter, ordinances, resolutions, or rules governing his/her authority to discipline employees. The disciplinary action may include oral counseling, written reprimand, suspension, demotion, or termination depending upon the severity of the matter and circumstances surrounding the incident (s). A written record of disciplinary actions shall be maintained by the human resource department in the employee's personnel file.

If the mayor feels that the harassment warrants disciplinary action stronger than he/she is authorized to impose by the charter, ordinances, resolutions, or rules governing employee discipline, he/she shall make that determination known, along with the report of the investigator, to the governing body of the local government. If the governing body determines that the sexual harassment complaint is founded, it may discipline the employee consistent with its authority under the local government charter, ordinances, resolutions, or rules governing employee discipline.

The disciplinary action shall be consistent with the nature and severity of the offense, the employee's rank, and any other

factors the governing body believes relate to fair and efficient administration of the local government. This includes, but is not limited to, the effect of the offense on employee morale, public perception of the offense, and the light in which it casts the local government. The disciplinary action may include demotion, suspension, dismissal, warning, or reprimand. Determining the level of disciplinary action shall also be made on a case-by-case basis. A written record shall be kept of imposed disciplinary actions, including verbal reprimands.

In all events, an employee found guilty of sexual harassment shall be warned not to retaliate in any way against the person making the complaint, witnesses, or any other person connected with the investigation. All other town employees are also warned not to retaliate in any way to the above mentioned parties. Any such retaliation or harassment will be dealt with immediately and may include disciplinary action.

If the employee complaining of harassment is not satisfied with the manner in which the town addressed the complaint, the employee shall be given an opportunity to present a written appeal. The written appeal must specifically identify what aspect of the town's response was not satisfactory and why it was not satisfactory. The appeal must be submitted to the mayor within fifteen (15) business days from the date on which the disciplinary action was rendered. The mayor will render a written determination in the matter within fifteen (15) business days from receipt of the appeal. The decision of the mayor will be final in all such matters. The mayor has the authority to appoint a neutral third party (arbitrator) to be the final decision maker in lieu of the mayor when the mayor determines that a neutral third party is in the best interest of the town. In all cases where the complaint is filed against the mayor, a neutral third party, appointed by the town council, shall be used as a final decision-maker.

In cases where sexual harassment is committed by a non-employee against a local government employee in the workplace, the city recorder or human resource manager shall take whatever lawful action is necessary against the non-employee to bring the sexual harassment to an immediate end.

(vii) Obligation of employees.

Employees are not only encouraged to report instances of sexual harassment; they are obligated to report them. Employees are also obligated to cooperate in every harassment investigation. The obligation includes, but is not necessarily limited to, coming forward with evidence (both favorable and unfavorable) about a person accused of such conduct, fully and truthfully making

written reports, or verbally answering questions when required to do so by an investigator. Employees are also obligated to refrain from making bad faith accusations of sexual harassment.

Disciplinary action, up to and including termination, may be taken against employees who fail to report instances of sexual harassment, fail or refuse to cooperate in the sexual harassment investigation, or file a complaint of sexual harassment in bad faith.

(3) Occupational safety and health. The municipality shall provide job safety and health protection for all employees in accordance with the Occupation Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Legislation (29 U.S.C. sections 656 *et seq.*) and the Tennessee OSHA Law (Tennessee Code Annotated, § 50-3-101 *et seq.*).

(4) Overtime compensation. The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) shall govern the overtime compensation of municipal employees (29 C.F.R. sections 553.1 *et seq.*).

(5) Military leave/veterans' re-employment. All employees who are members of reserve components of the armed forces, including the National Guard, are entitled to leave while engaged in "duty or training in the service of this state, or of the United States, under competent orders," and they must be given such leave with pay not exceeding twenty (20) working days in any one (1) calendar year (Tennessee Code Annotated, § 8-33-109). All eligible employees shall be covered under the Uniform Services Employment and Re-Employment Rights Act as set forth in 38 U.S.C. 4301-4333.

(6) Family and medical leave. If the municipality has fifty (50) or more employees on the payroll an eligible employee (one who has been employed at least twelve (12) months and worked at least one thousand two hundred fifty (1,250) hours in the preceding twelve (12) months) will be provided twelve (12) calendar weeks of unpaid leave for medical conditions of the employee or his/her family members in accordance with the Family and Medical Leave Act (P.L. 103-3). The rights available to all municipal employees eligible for family and medical leave shall run concurrent with any other sick leave provided herein.

(7) Commercial driver's license. All employees that drive:

(a) A vehicle with a gross weight of more than twenty-six thousand (26,000) pounds;

(b) A trailer with a gross weight of more than ten thousand (10,000) pounds;

(c) A vehicle designed to transport more than fifteen (15) passengers, including the driver; and

(d) Any size vehicle hauling hazardous waste requiring placards are required to have a Tennessee Commercial Driver's License in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-50-101 *et seq.* Fire truck, police vehicle, and emergency medical vehicle operators are exempt from the C.D.L. requirements.

(8) Employee drug testing. All employees in safety-sensitive positions (such as gas employees, equipment/vehicle operators that require a commercial drivers license, etc.) are subject to alcohol and drug testing in accordance with the Department of Transportation (DOT) Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991 (P.L. 102-143, Tide V) and the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act (49 CFR part 199). Other employees may be subject to drug testing in accordance with the drug testing policy of the municipality. The municipality's procedure for drug testing can be found in Resolution 07-03.

(9) Employee right to contact elected officials. No employee shall be disciplined or discriminated against for communicating with an elected official. However an employee may be reprimanded for making untrue allegations concerning any job-related matter (Tennessee Code Annotated, § 8-50-601-604).

(10) Civil leave. Civil leave with pay shall be granted to employees for the following reasons:

(a) Jury duty (Tennessee Code Annotated, § 22-4-108);

(b) To answer a subpoena to testify for the municipality.

(11) Voting. When elections are held in the state, leave for the purpose of voting, if requested, shall be in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, § 2-1-106.

(12) Political activity. Employees have the same rights as other citizens to be a candidate for state or local political office (except for membership on the municipal governing body) and to participate in political activities by supporting or opposing political parties, political candidates and petitions to government entities. No employee may campaign on municipal time or in municipal uniform nor use municipal equipment or supplies in any campaign or election. (Tennessee Code Annotated, § 7-51-1501).

(13) Travel policy. All employees, including elected and appointed officials, are required to comply with the municipality's travel policy, Ordinance No. 146, as required by Tennessee Code Annotated, § 6-54-901. (as replaced by Ord. #333, Oct. 2011 *Ch2_5-7-19*, and amended by Ord. #341, April 2012 *Ch2_5-7-19*)

4-207. Miscellaneous. (1) Outside employment. No full-time employee of the municipality may accept any outside employment without written authorization from the mayor.

(2) Use of municipal time, vehicles, facilities, etc. No employee may use or authorize the use of municipal time, facilities, equipment, or supplies for private gain or advantage to oneself or any other person, group, or organization other than the municipality. Decisions about aid to charitable, civic or other organizations will be made exclusively by the governing body.

(3) Accepting of gratuities. No employee shall accept any money, other considerations, or favors from anyone other than the municipality for performing an act that he/she would be required or expected to perform in the regular course of his/her duties. No employee shall accept, directly or indirectly,

any gift, gratuity, or favor of any kind that might reasonably be interpreted as an attempt to influence his/her actions with respect to the municipality's business. (as replaced by Ord. #333, Oct. 2011 *Ch2_5-7-19*)

4-208. Dismissal. At-will. Employees may be dismissed for cause, for no cause, or for any cause as long as it does not violate federal and/or state law or the municipal charter. (as replaced by Ord. #333, Oct. 2011 *Ch2_5-7-19*)

4-209. Personnel policy changes. Nothing in this chapter may be construed as creating a property right or contract right to the job for any employee. The provisions of this personnel policy may be unilaterally changed by ordinance of the governing body from time to time as the need arises. (as replaced by Ord. #333, Oct. 2011 *Ch2_5-7-19*)

4-210.—4-211. Deleted. (as deleted by Ord. #333, Oct. 2011 *Ch2_5-7-19*)

CHAPTER 3

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH PROGRAM

SECTION

- 4-301. Title.
- 4-302. Purpose.
- 4-303. Coverage.
- 4-304. Standards authorized.
- 4-305. Variances from standards authorized.
- 4-306. Administration.
- 4-307. Funding the program.

4-301. Title. This section shall provide authority for establishing and administering the occupational safety and health program plan for the employees of the Town of White Bluff. (Ord. #215, March 2002, as replaced by Ord. #317, Oct. 2010 *Ch2_5-7-19*)

4-302. Purpose. The White Bluff Town Council, in electing to update their established program plan will maintain an effective occupational safety and health program for its employees and shall:

- (1) Provide a safe and healthful place and condition of employment that includes:
 - (a) Top management commitment and employee involvement;
 - (b) Continually analyze the worksite to identify all hazards and potential hazards;
 - (c) Develop and maintain methods for preventing or controlling existing or potential hazards; and
 - (d) Train managers, supervisors, and employees to understand and deal with worksite hazards.
- (2) Acquire, maintain and require the use of safety equipment, personal protective equipment and devices reasonably necessary to protect employees.
- (3) Make, keep, preserve, and make available to the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development of the State of Tennessee, his designated representatives, or persons within the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development to whom such responsibilities have been delegated, adequate records of all occupational accidents and illnesses and personal injuries for proper evaluation and necessary corrective action as required.
- (4) Consult with the state commissioner of labor and workforce development with regard to the adequacy of the form and content of records.
- (5) Consult with the state commissioner of labor and workforce development, as appropriate, regarding safety and health problems which are

considered to be unusual or peculiar and are such that they cannot be achieved under a standard promulgated by the state.

(6) Provide reasonable opportunity for the participation of employees in the effectuation of the objectives of this program, including the opportunity to make anonymous complaints concerning conditions or practices injurious to employee safety and health.

(7) Provide for education and training of personnel for the fair and efficient administration of occupational safety and health standards, and provide for education and notification of all employees of the existence of this program. (Ord. #215, March 2002, as replaced by Ord. #317, Oct. 2010 *Ch2_5-7-19*)

4-303. Coverage. The provisions of the occupational safety and health program plan for the employees of the Town of White Bluff shall apply to all employees of each administrative department, commission, board, division, or other agency of the Town of White Bluff whether part-time or full-time, seasonal or permanent. (Ord. #215, March 2002, as replaced by Ord. #317, Oct. 2010 *Ch2_5-7-19*)

4-304. Standards authorized. The occupational safety and health standards adopted by the White Bluff Town Council are the same as, but not limited to, the State of Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Standards promulgated, or which may be promulgated, in accordance with section 6 of the Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1972 (Tennessee Code Annotated, title 50, chapter 3). (Ord. #215, March 2002, as replaced by Ord. #317, Oct. 2010 *Ch2_5-7-19*)

4-305. Variances from standards authorized. The White Bluff Town Council may, upon written application to the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development of the State of Tennessee, request an order granting a temporary variance from any approved standards. Applications for variances shall be in accordance with Rules of Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Occupational Safety, Chapter 0800-1-2, as authorized by Tennessee Code Annotated, title 50. Prior to requesting such temporary variance, the White Bluff Town Council shall notify or serve notice to employees, their designated representatives, or interested parties and present them with an opportunity for a hearing. The posting of notice on the main bulletin board as designated by the White Bluff Town Council shall be deemed sufficient notice to employees. (Ord. #215, March 2002, as replaced by Ord. #317, Oct. 2010 *Ch2_5-7-19*)

4-306. Administration. For the purposes of this chapter, the street department superintendent is designated as the director of occupational safety and health to perform duties and to exercise powers assigned so as to plan,

develop, and administer this chapter. The director shall develop a plan of operation for the program and said plan shall become a part of this chapter when it satisfies all applicable sections of the Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1972 and Part IV of the Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Plan. (Ord. #215, March 2002, as replaced by Ord. #317, Oct. 2010 *Ch2_5-7-19*)

4-307. Funding the program. Sufficient funds for administering and staffing the program pursuant to this chapter shall be made available as authorized by the White Bluff Town Council. (Ord. #215, March 2002, as replaced by Ord. #317, Oct. 2010 *Ch2_5-7-19*)

CHAPTER 4

INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL POLICY

SECTION

- 4-401. Purpose.
- 4-402. Coverage.
- 4-403. Administration.
- 4-404. Definitions.
- 4-405. Policy statement.
- 4-406. General guidelines.
- 4-407. Hepatitis B vaccinations.
- 4-408. Reporting potential exposure.
- 4-409. Hepatitis B virus post-exposure management.
- 4-410. Human immunodeficiency virus post-exposure management.
- 4-411. Disability benefits.
- 4-412. Training regular employees.
- 4-413. Training high risk employees.
- 4-414. Training new employees.
- 4-415. Records and reports.
- 4-416. Legal rights of victims of communicable diseases.
- 4-417. Fire and emergency medical services.
- 4-418. Law enforcement and security officers.
- 4-419. Housekeeping and sanitation.
- 4-420. Amendments.
- 4-421. Repeal.

4-401. Purpose. It is the responsibility of the Town of White Bluff to provide employees a place of employment which is free from recognized hazards that may cause death or serious physical harm. In providing services to the citizens of the Town of White Bluff, employees may come in contact with life-threatening infectious diseases which can be transmitted through job related activities. It is important that both citizens and employees are protected from the transmission of diseases just as it is equally important that neither is discriminated against because of basic misconceptions about various diseases and illnesses.

The purpose of this policy is to establish a comprehensive set of rules and regulations governing the prevention of discrimination and potential occupational exposure to Hepatitis B Virus (HBV), the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), and Tuberculosis (TB). (Ord. #127, March 1992)

4-402. Coverage. Occupational exposures may occur in many ways, including needle sticks, cut injuries or blood spills. Several classes of employees are assumed to be at high risk for blood borne infections due to their routinely

increased exposure to body fluids from potentially infected individuals. Those high risk occupations include but are not limited to:

- (1) Paramedics and emergency medical technicians;
- (2) Occupational nurses;
- (3) Housekeeping and laundry workers;
- (4) Police and security personnel;
- (5) Firefighters;
- (6) Sanitation and landfill workers; and
- (7) Any other employee deemed to be at high risk per this policy and an exposure determination. (Ord. #127, March 1992)

4-403. Administration. This infection control policy shall be administered by the mayor or his/her designated representative who shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- (1) Exercise leadership in implementation and maintenance of an effective infection control policy subject to the provisions of this chapter, other ordinances, the town charter, and federal and state law relating to OSHA regulations;
- (2) Make an exposure determination for all employee positions to determine a possible exposure to blood or body fluids;
- (3) Maintain records of all employees and incidents subject to the provisions of this chapter;
- (4) Conduct periodic inspections to determine compliance with the infection control policy by municipal employees;
- (5) Coordinate and document all relevant training activities in support of the infection control policy;
- (6) Prepare and recommend to the town council any amendments or changes to the infection control policy;
- (7) Identify any and all housekeeping operations involving substantial risk of direct exposure to body fluids and shall address the proper precautions to be taken while cleaning rooms and blood spills; and
- (8) Perform such other duties and exercise such other authority as may be prescribed by the town council. (Ord. #127, March 1992)

4-404. Definitions. (1) "Body fluids" - fluids that have been recognized by the Center for Disease Control as directly linked to the transmission of HIV and/or HBV and/or to which universal precautions apply: blood, semen, blood products, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pericardial fluid, amniotic fluid, and concentrated HIV or HBV viruses.

(2) "Exposure" - the contact with blood or other body fluids to which universal precautions apply through contact with open wounds, non-intact skin, or mucous membranes during the performance of an individual's normal job duties.

(3) "Hepatitis B Virus (HBV)" - a serious blood-borne virus with potential for life-threatening complications. Possible complications include: massive hepatic necrosis, cirrhosis of the liver, chronic active hepatitis, and hepatocellular carcinoma.

(4) "Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)" - the virus that causes acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). HIV is transmitted through sexual contact and exposure to infected blood or blood components and perinatally from mother to neonate.

(5) "Tuberculosis (TB)" - an acute or chronic communicable disease that usually affects the respiratory system, but may involve any system in the body.

(6) "Universal precautions" - refers to a system of infectious disease control which assumes that every direct contact with body fluid is infectious and requires every employee exposed to direct contact with potentially infectious materials to be protected as though such body fluid were HBV or HIV infected. (Ord. #127, March 1992)

4-405. Policy statement. All blood and other body fluids are potentially infectious for several blood-borne pathogens. Some body fluids can also transmit infections. For this reason, the Center for Disease Control developed the strategy that everyone should always take particular care when there is a potential exposure. These precautions have been termed "universal precautions."

Universal precautions stress that all persons should be assumed to be infectious for HIV and/or other blood-borne pathogens. Universal precautions apply to blood, tissues, and other body fluids which contain visible blood. Universal precautions also apply to semen, (although occupational risk or exposure is quite limited), vaginal secretions, and to cerebrospinal, synovial, pleural, peritoneal, pericardial and amniotic fluids. Universal precautions do not apply to feces, nasal secretions, human breast milk, sputum, saliva, sweat, tears, urine, and vomitus unless these substances contain visible blood. (Ord. #127, March 1992)

4-406. General guidelines. General guidelines which shall be used by everyone include:

(1) Think when responding to emergency calls and exercise common sense when there is potential exposure to blood or body fluids which require universal precautions.

(2) Keep all open cuts and abrasions covered with adhesive bandages which repel liquids.

(3) Soap and water kill many bacteria and viruses on contact. If hands are contaminated with blood or body fluids to which universal precautions apply, then wash immediately and thoroughly. Hands shall also be washed after gloves are removed even if the gloves appear to be intact. When soap and water

or handwashing facilities are not available, then use a waterless antiseptic hand cleaner according to the manufacturers recommendation for the product.

(4) All workers shall take precautions to prevent injuries caused by needles, scalpel blades, and other sharp instruments. To prevent needle stick injuries, needles shall not be recapped, purposely bent or broken by hand, removed from disposable syringes, or otherwise manipulated by hand. After they are used, disposable syringes and needles, scalpel blades and other sharp items shall be placed in puncture resistant containers for disposal. The puncture resistant container shall be located as close as practical to the use area.

(5) The town will provide gloves of appropriate material, quality and size for each affected employee. The gloves are to be worn when there is contact (or when there is a potential contact) with blood or body fluids to which universal precautions apply:

- (a) While handling an individual where exposure is possible;
- (b) While cleaning or handling contaminated items or equipment;
- (c) While cleaning up an area that has been contaminated with one of the above;

Gloves shall not be used if they are peeling, cracked, or discolored, or if they have punctures, tears, or other evidence of deterioration. Employees shall not wash or disinfect surgical or examination gloves for reuse.

(6) Resuscitation equipment shall be used when necessary. (No transmission of HBV or HIV infection during mouth-to-mouth resuscitation has been documented.) However, because of the risk of salivary transmission of other infectious diseases and the theoretical risk of HIV or HBV transmission during artificial resuscitation, bags shall be used. Pocket mouth-to-mouth resuscitation masks designed to isolate emergency response personnel from contact with a victims' blood and blood contaminated saliva, respiratory secretion, and vomitus, are available to all personnel to provide or potentially provide emergency treatment.

(7) Masks or protective eyewear or face shields shall be worn during procedures that are likely to generate droplets of blood or body fluids to prevent exposure to mucous membranes of the mouth, nose, and eyes. They are not required for routine care.

(8) Gowns, aprons, or lab coats shall be worn during procedures that are likely to generate splashes of blood or body fluids.

(9) Areas and equipment contaminated with blood shall be cleaned as soon as possible. A household (chlorine) bleach solution (1 part chlorine to 10 parts water) shall be applied to the contaminated surface as a disinfectant leaving it on for a least thirty (30) seconds. A solution must be changed and re-mixed every twenty-four (24) hours to be effective.

(10) Contaminated clothing (or other articles) shall be handled carefully and washed as soon as possible. Laundry and dish washing cycles at 120° are adequate for decontamination.

(11) Place all disposable equipment (gloves, masks, gowns, etc...) in a clearly marked plastic bag. Place the bag in a second clearly marked bag (double bag). Seal and dispose of by placing in a designated "hazardous" dumpster. NOTE: Sharp objects must be placed in an impervious container and then taken to a hospital for disposal.

(12) Tags shall be used as a means of preventing accidental injury or illness to employees who are exposed to hazardous or potentially hazardous conditions, equipment or operations which are out of the ordinary, unexpected or not readily apparent. Tags shall be used until such time as the identified hazard is eliminated or the hazardous operation is completed.

All required tags shall meet the following criteria:

(a) Tags shall contain a signal word and a major message. The signal word shall be "BIOHAZARD", or the biological hazard symbol. The major message shall indicate the specific hazardous condition or the instruction to be communicated to employees.

(b) The signal word shall be readable at a minimum distance of five (5) feet or such greater distance as warranted by the hazard.

(c) All employees shall be informed of the meaning of the various tags used throughout the workplace and what special precautions are necessary.

(13) Linen soiled with blood or other potentially infectious materials shall be handled as little as possible and with minimum agitation to prevent contamination of the person handling the linen. All soiled linen shall be bagged at the location where it was used. It shall not be sorted or rinsed in the area. Soiled linen shall be placed and transported in bags that prevent leakage.

The employee responsible for transported soiled linen should always wear protective gloves to prevent possible contamination. After removing the gloves, hands or other skin surfaces shall be washed thoroughly and immediately after contact with body fluids.

(14) Whenever possible, disposable equipment shall be used to minimize and contain clean-up. (Ord. #127, March 1992)

4-407. Hepatitis B vaccinations. The Town of White Bluff shall offer the appropriate Hepatitis B vaccination to employees at risk of exposure free of charge and in amounts and at times prescribed by standard medical practices. The vaccination shall be voluntarily administered. High risk employees who wish to take the HBV vaccination should notify their department head who shall make the appropriate arrangements through the Infectious Disease Control Coordinator. (Ord. #127, March 1992)

4-408. Reporting potential exposure. Town employees shall observe the following procedures for reporting a job exposure incident that may put them at risk for HIV or HBV infections (i.e., needle sticks, blood contact on broken skin, body fluid contact with eyes or mouth, etc...):

(1) Notify the infectious disease control coordinator of the contact incident and details thereof.

(2) Complete the appropriate accident reports and any other specific form required.

(3) Arrangements will be made for the person to be seen by a physician as with any job-related injury.

Once an exposure has occurred, a blood sample should be drawn after consent is obtained from the individual from whom exposure occurred and tested for Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) and/or antibody to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV antibody). Testing of the source individual should be done at a location where appropriate pretest counseling is available. Post-test counseling and referral for treatment should also be provided. (Ord. #127, March 1992)

4-409. Hepatitis B virus post-exposure management. For an exposure to a source individual found to be positive for HBsAg, the worker who has not previously been given the hepatitis B vaccine should receive the vaccine series. A single dose of hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) is also recommended, if it can be given within seven (7) days of exposure.

For exposure from an HBsAg-positive source to workers who have previously received the vaccine, the exposed worker should be tested for antibodies to hepatitis B surface antigen (anti-HBs), and given one dose of vaccine and one dose of HBIG if the antibody level in the worker's blood sample is inadequate (i.e., ten (10) SRU by RIA, negative by EIA).

If the source individual is negative for HBsAg and the worker has not been vaccinated, this opportunity should be taken to provide the hepatitis B vaccine series. HBIG administration should be considered on an individual basis when the source individual is known or suspected to be at high risk of HBV infection. Management and treatment, if any, of previously vaccinated workers who receive an exposure from a source who refuses testing or is not identifiable should be individualized. (Ord. #127, March 1992)

4-410. Human immunodeficiency virus post-exposure management. For any exposure to a source individual who has AIDS, who is found to be positive for HIV infection, or who refuses testing, the worker should be counseled regarding the risk of infection and evaluated clinically and serologically for evidence of HIV infection as soon as possible after the exposure. The worker should be advised to report and seek medical evaluation for any acute febrile illness that occurs within twelve (12) weeks after the exposure.

Such an illness, particularly one characterized by fever, rash, or lymphadenopathy, may be indicative of recent HIV infection.

Following the initial test at the time of exposure, seronegative workers should be retested 6 weeks, 12 weeks, and 6 months after exposure to determine whether transmission has occurred. During this follow-up period (especially the first six to twelve (6 - 12) weeks after exposure) exposed workers should follow the U.S. Public Health service recommendation for preventing transmission of HIV. These include refraining from blood donations and using appropriate protection during sexual intercourse. During all phases of follow-up, it is vital that worker confidentiality be protected.

If the source individual was tested and found to be seronegative, baseline testing of the exposed worker with follow-up testing 12 weeks later may be performed if desired by the worker or recommended by the health care provider. If the source individual cannot be identified, decisions regarding appropriate follow-up should be individualized. Serologic testing should be made available by the town to all workers who may be concerned they have been infected with HIV through an occupational exposure. (Ord. #127, March 1992)

4-411. Disability benefits. Entitlement to disability benefits and any other benefits available for employees who suffer from on-the-job injuries will be determined by the Tennessee Worker's Compensations Bureau in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, § 50-6-303. (Ord. #127, March 1992)

4-412. Training regular employees. On an annual basis all employees shall receive training and education on precautionary measures, epidemiology, modes of transmission and prevention of HIV/HBV infection and procedures to be used if they are exposed to needle sticks or body fluids. They shall also be counseled regarding possible risks to the fetus from HIV/HBV and other associated infectious agents. (Ord. #127, March 1992)

4-413. Training high risk employees. In addition to the above, high risk employees shall also receive training regarding the location and proper use of personal protective equipment. They shall be trained concerning proper work practices and understand the concept of "universal precautions" as it applies to their work situation. They shall also be trained about the meaning of color coding and other methods used to designate contaminated material. Where tags are used, training shall cover precautions to be used in handling contaminated material as per this policy. (Ord. #127, March 1992)

4-414. Training new employees. During the new employee's orientation to his/her job, all new employee will be trained on the effects of infectious disease prior to putting them to work. (Ord. #127, March 1992)

4-415. Records and reports. (1) Reports. Occupational injury and illness records shall be maintained by the infectious disease control coordinator. Statistics shall be maintained on the OSHA-200 report. Only those work-related injuries that involve loss of consciousness, transfer to another job, restriction of work or motion, or medical treatment are required to be put on the OSHA-200.

(2) Needle sticks. Needle sticks, like any other puncture wound, are considered injuries for recordkeeping purposes due to the instantaneous nature of the event. Therefore, any needle stick requiring medical treatment (i.e., gamma globulin, hepatitis B immune globulin, hepatitis B vaccine, etc.) shall be recorded.

(3) Prescription medication. Likewise, the use of prescription medication (beyond a single dose for minor injury or discomfort) is considered medical treatment. Since these types of treatment are considered necessary, and must be administered by physician or licensed medical personnel, such injuries cannot be considered minor and must be reported.

(4) Employee interviews. Should the town be inspected by the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Health Compliance, the compliance safety and health officer may wish to interview employees. Employees are expected to cooperate fully with the compliance officers. (Ord. #127, March 1992)

4-416. Legal rights of victims of communicable diseases. Victims of communicable diseases have the legal right to expect, and municipal employees, including police and emergency service officers are duty bound to provide, the same level of service and enforcement as any other individual would receive.

(1) Officers assume that a certain degree of risk exists in law enforcement and emergency service work and accept those risks with their individual appointments. This holds true with any potential risks of contacting a communicable disease as surely as it does with the risks of confronting an armed criminal.

(2) Any officer who refuses to take proper action in regard to victims of a communicable disease, when appropriate protective equipment is available, shall be subject to disciplinary measures along with civil and, or criminal prosecution.

(3) Whenever an officer mentions in a report that an individual has or may have a communicable disease, he shall write "contains confidential medical information" across the top margin of the first page of the report.

(4) The officer's supervisor shall ensure that the above statement is on all reports requiring that statement at the time the report is reviewed and initiated by the supervisor.

(5) The supervisor disseminating newspaper releases shall make certain the confidential information is not given out to the news media.

(6) All requests (including subpoenas) for copies of reports marked "contains confidential medical information" shall be referred to the city attorney when the incident involves an indictable or juvenile offense.

(7) Prior approval shall be obtained from the city attorney before advising a victim of sexual assault that the suspect has, or is suspected of having a communicable disease.

(8) All circumstance, not covered in this policy, that may arise concerning releasing confidential information regarding a victim, or suspected victim, of a communicable disease shall be referred directly to the appropriate department head or city attorney.

(9) Victims of a communicable disease and their families have a right to conduct their lives without fear of discrimination. An employee shall not make public, directly or indirectly, the identity of a victim or suspected victim of a communicable disease.

(10) Whenever an employee finds it necessary to notify another employee, police officer, firefighter, emergency service officer, or health care provider that a victim has or is suspected of having a communicable disease, that information shall be conveyed in a dignified, discrete and confidential manner. The person to whom the information is being conveyed should be reminded that the information is confidential and that it should not be treated as public information.

(11) Any employee who disseminates confidential information in regard to a victim, or suspected victim of a communicable disease in violation of this policy shall be subject to serious disciplinary action and/or civil/and/or criminal prosecution. (Ord. #127, March 1992)

4-417. Fire and emergency medical services. These guidelines apply to fire and emergency medical services. This includes structural fire fighters, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, and advanced life support personnel. Fire and emergency medical services personnel are engaged in the delivery of medical care in the pre-hospital setting. The following guidelines are intended to assist these personnel in making decisions concerning use of personal protective equipment and resuscitation equipment, as well as for decontamination, disinfection, and disposal procedures.

(1) Appropriate personal protective equipment shall be made available routinely by the city to reduce the risk of exposure as defined above. For many situations, the chance that the rescuer will be exposed to blood and other body fluids can be determined in advance. Therefore, if the chances of being exposed to blood is high (e.g., CPR, IV insertion, trauma, delivering babies, etc.), the employee shall put on protective attire before beginning patient care.

(2) Disposable gloves shall be a standard component of emergency response equipment, and shall be donned by all personnel prior to initiating any emergency patient care tasks involving exposure to blood or other body fluids. Extra pairs shall always be available. For situations where large amounts of

blood are likely to be encountered, it is important that gloves fit tightly at the wrist to prevent blood contamination of hands around the cuff. For multiple trauma victims, gloves should be changed between patient contacts, if the emergency situation allows.

Greater personal protective equipment measures are indicated for situations where broken glass and sharp edges are likely to be encountered, such as extricating a person from an automobile wreck. Structural fire-fighting gloves that meet the Federal OSHA requirements for fire-fighters gloves shall be worn in any situation where sharp or rough surfaces are likely to be encountered.

While wearing gloves, avoid handling personal items, such as combs and pens, that could become soiled or contaminated. Gloves that have become contaminated with blood or other body fluids should be removed as soon as possible, taking care to avoid skin contact with the exterior surface. Contaminated gloves shall be placed and transported in bags that prevent leakage and shall be disposed of properly. Reusable gloves shall be cleaned and disinfected immediately.

(3) Masks, eyewear, and gowns shall be present on all emergency vehicles that respond or potentially respond to medical emergencies or victim rescues. These protective barriers shall be used in accordance with the level of exposure encountered. Minor lacerations or small amounts of blood do not merit the same extent of barrier use as required for exsanguinating victims or massive arterial bleeding.

Management of the patient who is not bleeding, and who has no bloody body fluids present, should not routinely require use of barrier precautions. Masks and eyewear shall be worn together, or a faceshield shall be used by all personnel prior to any situation where splashes of blood or other body fluids are likely to occur. Gowns or aprons shall be worn to protect clothing from splashes with blood. If large splashes or quantities of blood are present or anticipated, impervious gowns or aprons shall be worn. An extra change of work clothing should also be available at all times.

(4) Disposable resuscitation equipment and devices shall be used once and disposed of or, if reusable, thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after each use. Mechanical respiratory assist devices such as bag-valve masks or oxygen demand valve resuscitators shall be available on all emergency vehicles and to all emergency response personnel who respond or potentially respond to medical emergencies of victim rescues. Pocket mouth-to-mouth resuscitation masks designed to isolate emergency response personnel from contact with a victims' blood and blood contaminated saliva, respiratory secretions, and vomitus shall be provided to all personnel who provide or potentially provide emergency treatment. (Ord. #127, March 1992)

4-418. Law enforcement and security officers. Law enforcement officers and security personnel may face the risk of exposure to blood during the

conduct of their duties. There is an extremely diverse range of potential situations which may occur in the control of persons with unpredictable, violent, or psychotic behaviors. Therefore, informed judgment of the individual officer is paramount when unusual circumstances or events arise.

The following guidelines are intended to serve as adjunct to rational decision making in those situations where specific guidelines do not exist, particularly where immediate action is required to preserve life or prevent significant injury.

(1) Law enforcement and security personnel are exposed to a range of assaultive and disruptive behavior through which they may potentially become exposed to blood or other body fluids containing blood. Behaviors of particular concern are biting, attacks resulting in blood exposure, and attacks with sharp objects. Such behavior may occur in a range of law-enforcement situations including arrests, routine interrogations, domestic disputes, and lockup operations. Hand-to-hand combat may result in bleeding and may thus incur a greater chance for blood-to-blood exposure.

In all cases, extreme caution must be used in dealing with suspects if there is any indication of assaultive or combative behavior. When blood is present and a suspect is combative or threatening to staff, gloves should always be put on as soon as conditions permit. In case of blood contamination of clothing, an extra change of clothing should be available at all times.

(2) Law enforcement personnel should also be concerned about infection through the administration of cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Protective masks or airways shall also be available to officers and provided with the proper training in their use.

(3) An officer should use great caution in searching the clothing of suspects. Individual discretion, based on the circumstances at hand, should determine if a suspect or prisoner should empty his/her own pockets or if the officer should use his own skills in determining the contents of a suspect's clothing. When a search is warranted the following guidelines shall be used.:

(a) A safe distance should always be maintained between the officer and the suspect.

(b) Protective gloves should be worn if exposure to blood is likely to be encountered.

(c) Protective gloves should be used for all body cavity searches.

(d) If cotton gloves are to be worn when working with evidence of potential latent fingerprints value at the crime scene, they can be worn over protective disposable gloves when exposure to blood may occur.

(e) Always carry a flashlight, even during the daylight shifts, to search hidden areas. Whenever possible, use long-handled mirrors and flashlights to search under car seats.

(f) If searching a purse, carefully empty contents directly from the purse, by turning it upside down over a table.

(g) Use puncture-proof containers to store sharp instruments and clearly mark plastic bags to store other possibly contaminated items.

(h) To avoid tearing gloves, use evidence tape instead of metal staples to seal evidence.

(i) When possible evidence items should be air dried before sealing in plastic.

(4) Officers and crime scene technicians may confront unusual hazards, especially when the crime scene involves violent behavior, such as a homicide where large amounts of blood are present. Protective gloves shall be available and worn in this setting. In addition, for very large spills, consideration should be given to other protective clothing, such as overalls, aprons, boots, or protective shoe covers. They should be changed if torn or soiled, and always remove prior to leaving the scene. While wearing gloves, avoid handling personal items, such as combs and pens, that could become soiled or contaminated.

(5) Face masks and eye protection or a face shield are required for laboratory and evidence technicians whose jobs entail potential exposure to blood via a splash to the face, mouth, nose, or eyes. Airborne particles of dried blood may be generated when a stain is scraped.

(6) While processing the crime scene, personnel should be alert for the presence of sharp objects such as hypodermic needles, knives, razors, broken glass, nails, or other sharp objects.

(7) For detectives, investigators, evidence technicians, and others who may have to touch or remove a body, the response should be the same as for situations requiring CPR or first aid;

(a) Wear gloves and cover all cuts and abrasions to create a barrier and carefully wash all exposed areas after any contact with blood.

(b) The precautions to be used with blood and deceased persons should also be used when handling amputated limbs, hands, or other body parts.

(8) Protective masks and eyewear, laboratory coats, gloves, and waterproof aprons should be worn when performing or attending all autopsies. All autopsy materials should be considered infectious for both HIV and HBV. Onlookers with an opportunity for exposure to blood splashes should be similarly protected. (Ord. #127, March 1992)

4-419. Housekeeping and sanitation. All places of employment, passageways, storerooms, and service rooms shall be kept clean and orderly and in a sanitary condition. When a blood or body fluid spill occurs, one of the following disinfecting techniques shall be used:

(1) A chemical germicide that is approved for use as a hospital disinfectant shall be used.

(2) A product registered by the Environmental Protection Agency as being effective against HIV shall be used.

(3) A solution of 5.25% sodium hypochlorite (household bleach) diluted between 1:10 and 1:100 with water.

Any receptacle used for decaying or rotten solids or liquid waste or refuse shall be so constricted that it does not leak and may be thoroughly cleaned and maintained in a sanitary condition. Such a receptacle shall be equipped with a solid, tight-fitting cover, unless it can be maintained in a sanitary condition with a cover.

All sweeping, solid or liquid wastes, refuse, and garbage shall be removed in such a manner to avoid creating a menace to health and as often as necessary or appropriate to maintain the place of employment in a sanitary condition. (Ord. #127, March 1992)

4-420. Amendments. Amendments or revisions of these rules may be recommended for adoption by any elected official or by department heads. Such amendments or revisions of these rules shall be by ordinance and shall become effective after public hearing and approval by the governing body. (Ord. #127, March 1992)

4-421. Repeal. If any provision of this chapter, or if any policy or order thereunder, or the application of any provision to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the remainder of the chapter, and the application of the provision of this chapter, or of the policy or order to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid, shall not be affected thereby. (Ord. #127, March 1992)

CHAPTER 5

TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT REGULATIONS

SECTION

- 4-501. Enforcement.
- 4-502. Travel policy.
- 4-503. Travel reimbursement rate schedules.
- 4-504. Administrative procedures.

4-501. Enforcement. The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of the town or his or her designee shall be responsible for the enforcement of these travel regulations. (Ord. #146, Dec. 1995)

4-502. Travel policy. (1) In the interpretation and application of this chapter, the term "traveler" or "authorized travel" means any elected or appointed municipal officer or employee, including members of municipal boards and committees appointed by the mayor or the municipal governing body, and the employees of such boards and committees who are traveling on official municipal business and whose travel was authorized in accordance with this chapter. "Authorized traveler" shall not include the spouse, children, other relatives, friends, or companions accompanying the authorized traveler on town business, unless the person(s) otherwise qualifies as an authorized traveler under this chapter.

(2) Authorized travelers are entitled to reimbursement of certain expenditures incurred while traveling on official business for the town. Reimbursable expenses shall include expenses for transportation; lodging; meals; registration fees for conferences, conventions, and seminars; and other actual and necessary expenses related to official business as determined by the CAO. Under certain conditions, entertainment expenses may be eligible for reimbursement.

(3) Authorized travelers can request either a travel advance for the projected cost of authorized travel, or advance billing directly to the town for registration fees, air fares, meals, lodging, conferences, and similar expenses.

Travel advance requests aren't considered documentation of travel expenses. If travel advances exceed documented expenses, the traveler must immediately reimburse the town. It will be the responsibility of the CAO to initiate action to recover any undocumented travel advances.

(4) Travel advances are available only for special travel and only after completion and approval of the travel authorization form.

(5) The travel expense reimbursement form will be used to document all expense claims.

(6) To qualify for reimbursement, travel expenses must be:

(a) Directly related to the conduct of the town business for which travel was authorized; and

(b) Actual, reasonable, and necessary under the circumstances. The CAO may make exceptions for unusual circumstances.

Expenses considered excessive won't be allowed.

(7) Claims of five dollars (\$5.00) or more for travel expense reimbursement must be supported by the original paid receipt for lodging, vehicle rental, phone call, public carrier travel, conference fee, and other reimbursable costs.

(8) Any person attempting to defraud the town or misuse town travel funds is subject to legal action for recovery of fraudulent travel claims and/or advances.

(9) Mileage and motel expenses incurred within the town aren't ordinarily considered eligible expenses for reimbursement. (Ord. #146, Dec. 1995)

4-503. Travel reimbursement rate schedules. Authorized travelers shall be reimbursed according to the federal travel regulation rates. The town's travel reimbursement rates will automatically change when the federal rates are adjusted.

The municipality may pay directly to the provider for expenses such as meals, lodging, and registration fees for conferences, conventions, seminars, and other education programs. (Ord. #146, Dec. 1995)

4-504. Administrative procedures. The town adopts and incorporates by reference--as if fully set out herein--the administrative procedures submitted by MTAS to, and approved by letter by, the Comptroller of the Treasury, State of Tennessee, in June 1993. A copy of the administrative procedures is on file in the office of the town recorder.

This chapter shall take effect upon its final reading by the municipal governing body. It shall cover all travel and expenses occurring on or after October 1, 1995. (Ord. #146, Dec. 1995)

CHAPTER 6**EMPLOYEE TERMINATION POLICY****SECTION**

4-601. Termination policy.

4-601. Termination policy. (1) An employee with any length of service may be terminated without notice or consideration for, but not limited to, theft, failure to fulfill duties and job requirements, insubordination, and/or conduct unbecoming a city employee.

(2) An employee with any length of service shall have the right to stand and face his accuser. The employee can at this time answer any and all charges placed against him.

(3) The terminated aggrieved employee shall, at his own expense, be allowed to carry his case before a mutually agreed arbitrator. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding upon both the employee and the city.

(4) New employees must serve a one year probation period. During the probation period an employee may be dismissed for any reason with no appeal rights.

(5) An employee with five years or more continuous full-time service shall be entitled to one month of severance pay for every full year worked, should he be terminated without just cause or should the city have a reduction in force.

(6) No employee shall be terminated solely to avoid severance rights of five years.

(7) This policy shall apply to all current and future employees.
(Ord. #104, June 1990)

CHAPTER 7**CODE OF ETHICS****SECTION**

- 4-701. Applicability.
- 4-702. Definition of "personal interest."
- 4-703. Disclosure of personal interest by official with vote.
- 4-704. Disclosure of personal interest in non-voting matters.
- 4-705. Acceptance of gratuities, etc.
- 4-706. Use of information.
- 4-707. Use of municipal time, facilities, etc.
- 4-708. Use of position or authority.
- 4-709. Outside employment.
- 4-710. Ethics complaints.
- 4-711. Violations.

4-701. Applicability. This chapter is the code of ethics for personnel of the municipality. It applies to all full-time and part-time elected or appointed officials and employees, whether compensated or not, including those of any separate board, commission, committee, authority, corporation, or other instrumentality appointed or created by the municipality. The words "municipal" and "municipality" include these separate entities. (as added by Ord. #259, Sept. 2006)

4-702. Definition of "personal interest." (1) For purposes of §§ 4-703 and 4-704, "personal interest" means:

(a) Any financial, ownership, or employment interest in the subject of a vote by a municipal board not otherwise regulated by state statutes on conflicts of interests;

(b) Any financial, ownership, or employment interest in a matter to be regulated or supervised; or

(c) Any such financial, ownership, or employment interest of the official's or employee's spouse, parent(s), stepparent(s), grandparent(s), sibling(s), child(ren), or stepchild(ren).

(2) The words "employment interest" include a situation in which an official or employee or a designated family member is negotiating possible employment with a person or organization that is the subject of the vote or that is to be regulated or supervised.

(3) In any situation in which a personal interest is also a conflict of interest under state law, the provisions of the state law take precedence over the provisions of this chapter. (as added by Ord. #259, Sept. 2006)

4-703. Disclosure of personal interest by official with vote. An official with the responsibility to vote on a measure shall disclose during the meeting at which the vote takes place, before the vote and so it appears in the minutes, any personal interest that affects or that would lead a reasonable person to infer that it affects the official's vote on the measure. In addition, the official may recuse himself from voting on the measure. (as added by Ord. #259, Sept. 2006)

4-704. Disclosure of personal interest in non-voting matters. An official or employee who must exercise discretion relative to any matter, other than casting a vote, and who has a personal interest in the matter that affects or that would lead a reasonable person to infer that it affects the exercise of the discretion shall disclose, before the exercise of the discretion when possible, the interest on a form provided by and filed with the recorder. In addition, the official or employee may, to the extent allowed by law, charter, ordinance, or policy, recuse himself from the exercise of discretion in the matter. (as added by Ord. #259, Sept. 2006)

4-705. Acceptance of gratuities, etc. An official or employee may not accept, directly or indirectly, any money, gift, gratuity, or other consideration or favor of any kind from anyone other than the municipality:

(1) For the performance of an act, or refraining from performance of an act, that he would be expected to perform, or refrain from performing, in the regular course of his duties; or

(2) That might reasonably be interpreted as an attempt to influence his action, or reward him for past action, in executing municipal business. (as added by Ord. #259, Sept. 2006)

4-706. Use of information. (1) An official or employee may not disclose any information obtained in his official capacity or position of employment that is made confidential under state or federal law except as authorized by law.

(2) An official or employee may not use or disclose information obtained in his official capacity or position of employment with the intent to result in financial gain for himself or any other person or entity. (as added by Ord. #259, Sept. 2006)

4-707. Use of municipal time, facilities, etc. (1) An official or employee may not use or authorize the use of municipal time, facilities, equipment, or supplies for private gain or advantage to himself.

(2) An official or employee may not use or authorize the use of municipal time, facilities, equipment, or supplies for private gain or advantage to any private person or entity, except as authorized by legitimate contract or lease that is determined by the governing body to be in the best interests of the municipality. (as added by Ord. #259, Sept. 2006)

4-708. Use of position or authority. (1) An official or employee may not make or attempt to make private purchases, for cash or otherwise, in the name of the municipality.

(2) An official or employee may not use or attempt to use his position to secure any privilege or exemption for himself or others that is not authorized by the charter, general law, or ordinance or policy of the municipality. (as added by Ord. #259, Sept. 2006)

4-709. Outside employment. An official or employee may not accept or continue any outside employment if the work unreasonably inhibits the performance of any affirmative duty of the municipal position or conflicts with any provision of the municipality's charter or any ordinance or policy. (as added by Ord. #259, Sept. 2006)

4-710. Ethics complaints. (1) The city attorney is designated as the ethics officer of the municipality. Upon the written request of an official or employee potentially affected by a provision of this charter, the city attorney may render an oral or written advisory ethics opinion based upon this chapter and other applicable law.

(2) (a) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the city attorney shall investigate any credible complaint against an appointed official or employee charging any violation of this chapter, or may undertake an investigation on his own initiative when he acquires information indicating a possible violation, and make recommendations for action to end or seek retribution for any activity that, in the attorney's judgment, constitutes a violation of this code of ethics.

(b) The city attorney may request the governing body to hire another attorney, individual, or entity to act as ethics officer when he has or will have a conflict of interests in a particular matter.

(c) When a complaint of a violation of any provision of this chapter is lodged against a member of the municipality's governing body, the governing body shall either determine that the complaint has merit, determine that the complaint does not have merit, or determine that the complaint has sufficient merit to warrant further investigation. If the governing body determines that a complaint warrants further investigation, it shall authorize an investigation by the city attorney or other individual or entity chosen by the governing body.

(3) The interpretation that a reasonable person in the circumstances would apply shall be used in interpreting and enforcing this code of ethics.

(4) When a violation of this code of ethics also constitutes a violation of a personnel policy, rule, or regulation or a civil service policy, rule, or regulation, the violation shall be dealt with as a violation of the personnel or civil service provisions rather than as a violation of this code of ethics. (as added by Ord. #259, Sept. 2006)

4-711. Violations. An elected official or appointed member of a separate municipal board, commission, committee, authority, corporation, or other instrumentality who violates any provision of this chapter is subject to punishment as provided by the municipality's charter or other applicable law, and in addition is subject to censure by the governing body. An appointed official or an employee who violates any provision of this chapter is subject to disciplinary action. (as added by Ord. #259, Sept. 2006)

CHAPTER 8

NEPOTISM POLICY

SECTION

4-801. Nepotism policy.

4-801. Nepotism policy. (1) For the purposes of this chapter, the term "immediate family member" shall mean the spouse, mother, father, brother, sister, children, grandparents, grandchildren, guardian, step-mother, step-father, stepbrother, step-sister, half-brother, half-sister, child or stepchild, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece or any person having the same relationship with the mayor's or a councilperson's spouse.

(2) No officer or employee of the town or a town agency shall advocate, recommend, or cause the employment, appointment, promotion, transfer, or advancement of a family member to an office or position of employment with the town or a town agency unless no other qualified applicants are available.

(3) No officer or employee of the town or a town agency shall supervise or manage the work of a family member.

(4) No officer or employee shall participate in any action relating to the employment or discipline of a family member, except that this prohibition shall not prevent an elected or appointed official from voting on or participating in the development of a budget which includes compensation for a family member, provided that the family member is included only as a member of a class of persons or a group and that the family member benefits to no greater extent than any other similarly situated member of the class or group.

(5) The prohibitions in this section shall not apply to any relationship or situation that would violate the prohibition, but which existed prior to the final adoption of this ordinance.

(6) Should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this chapter, or its application to any person or circumstance, be declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid for any reason, or should any portion of this chapter be pre-empted by state or federal law or regulation, such decision or legislation shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this chapter or its application to other persons or circumstances.

(7) All ordinances or parts of ordinances which are inconsistent with this section are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency. (as added by Ord. #316, Oct. 2010 *Ch2 5-7-19*)