



City of Tucker

MEMO

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

From: Ted Baggett, City Attorney

CC: John McHenry, City Manager

Date: April 7, 2026

RE: Memo for Ordinance O2026-04-05

Description for Agenda:

1st Read of an ordinance to amend Article IV of City Charter (Municipal Court).

Issue:

Should the city amend the City Charter to update certain provisions related to municipal court?

Recommendation:

If the City Council wishes to clarify intent, correct references, and reduce the length of judicial terms from four years to two years, it should approve the ordinance.

Background:

The City currently has three municipal court judges serving four-year terms which end on May 23, 2026. Given that the Mayor will be nominating judges for new terms soon, it seemed an appropriate time to revisit certain charter provisions related to the municipal court. State law provides that municipal judges have a minimum term of two years and two years is the typical length of a municipal court term for most cities, although there are some cities with four-year judicial terms. The other suggested changes would remove reference to a non-existent method of appeal, clarify the proper administration of oaths by and to the judges, and clarify that the court has jurisdiction over permit denial and suspension appeals when so granted by an ordinance.

Summary:

The issue presented is whether the City Council wishes to amend the Charter to provide clarity and to adjust the length of the judicial terms.

Financial Impact:

N/A