

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 30 -29 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF KINGSPORT, TENNESSEE, RELATING TO COURT COSTS, REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCE IN CONFLICT HERewith; AND TO FIX THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE.

WHEREAS, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen finds that the operation of the Kingsport Municipal Court requires substantial expenditures for personnel, judicial administration, facilities, records management, information technology, security, and other operating expenses; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee law authorizes municipalities to establish reasonable court costs by ordinance and to levy a local litigation tax as authorized by state law; and

WHEREAS, Section 30-29, "Court Costs," of the Code of Ordinances establishes current court costs for the City of Kingsport, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen finds that an amendment to Section 30-29 is necessary for court costs assessed to more closely aligned with the cost of administering the Municipal Court and to promote the efficient administration of justice.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF KINGSPORT, TENNESSEE:

SECTION I. That Section 30-29, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Kingsport, Tennessee, is hereby amended in its entirety to read as follows:

Sec. 30-29. Municipal Court Costs.

- (a) In every case in which a defendant is found guilty, enters a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, forfeits bond, or otherwise incurs liability for court costs under applicable law, there shall be assessed and collected a Municipal Court Cost in the amount of One Hundred Six Dollars and fifty cents (\$106.50).
- (b) Pursuant to authority granted in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 67-4-601, the court shall additionally levy a local litigation tax in the amount of thirteen dollars and seventy-five cents (\$13.75) in all cases on which state litigation tax is levied.
- (c) Additionally, the court clerk of the city court is authorized and directed to collect and transmit any litigation tax, fee, or assessment required to be collected by the state on court citations or cases.
- (d) Two Dollars (\$2.00) of each Municipal Court Cost collected shall be remitted as required by Tennessee law for municipal court judge and clerk education.
- (e) This section shall automatically amend upon the effective date of any state law which assess a new, or modifies an existing, litigation tax, fee, or assessment.

SECTION II. Resolution No: 2026-272 is hereby amended to remove all references to court cost.

SECTION III. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION IV. That this ordinance shall take effect from and after the date of its passage and publication, as the law directs, the public welfare of the City of Kingsport, Tennessee requiring it.

PAUL W. MONTGOMERY
Mayor

ATTEST:

ANGELA MARSHALL
Deputy City Recorder

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

RODNEY B. ROWLETT, III
City Attorney

PASSED ON 1ST READING: _____
PASSED ON 2ND READING: _____