

August 21, 2014

City of Minor Hill
Ms. Mabel Thornton
City Recorder
13200 Minor Hill Highway
Minor Hill, Tennessee 38473

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Ms. Thornton:

In response to your inquiry, the following city charter provision sets forth the process for the swearing-in of members of your governing body:

6-3-105. Oaths of office.--The mayor, after his election, shall take an oath of office to support the constitution of the state and faithfully discharge the duties of the mayor's office, before any officer authorized to administer oaths. This officer or the mayor shall then induct the aldermen into office by administering to them a similar oath of office. Oaths of office shall be filed in the archives of the municipality. [Acts 1991, ch. 154, § 1.]

Officers authorized to administer oaths in Tennessee include a state court judge or a state court clerk, and no other. Accordingly, once one of these officers administers the oath of office to the mayor, then that officer or the mayor is permitted to administer a similar oath to each of the newly elected aldermen.

Although not presently the situation in Minor Hill, you will be interested in knowing that the mayor, once sworn into office, is authorized to administer the oath to any newly elected or appointed alderman at any time during the four-year term of office of the mayor.

Very truly yours,



Jeffrey J. Broughton
Municipal Management Consultant

Cc: Melissa Ashburn