

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE
TOWN OF KIMBALL, TENNESSEE TO ADOPT A PUBLIC RECORDS
POLICY FOR THE TOWN

WHEREAS, Tenn. Code Ann. § 10-7-503(g), 2016 Public Chapter 722, requires local governments including municipalities to adopt a public records policy by July 1, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-4-604(a)(4), 2016 Public Chapter 722, requires the Office of Open Records Counsel (OORC) to establish a model public records policy; and

WHEREAS, the OORC's model public records policy requires municipal entities to make certain selections under the policy; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Kimball desires to adopt the OORC's model public records policy with the necessary selections.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Kimball, Tennessee, meeting in regular session on this 2nd day of March, 2017, that:

SECTION 1. The model public records policy developed by the OORC with the selections and revisions chosen by the Town of Kimball is attached to this Resolution and is hereby adopted as the Public Records Policy for the Town of Kimball.

SECTION 2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage as required by law, the public welfare requiring it.

ADOPTED this 2nd day of March, 2017.

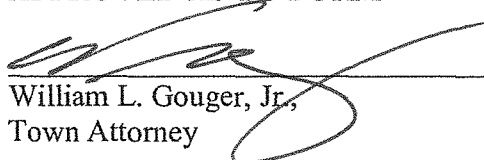
TOWN OF KIMBALL, TENNESSEE

By: 
Rex Pesnell, Mayor

ATTESTED:


Tonia May, Town Recorder

APPROVED AS TO FORM


William L. Gouger, Jr.,
Town Attorney



STATE OF TENNESSEE
COMPTROLLER OF THE TREASURY
OFFICE OF OPEN RECORDS COUNSEL

MODEL PUBLIC RECORDS POLICY

PURPOSE:

Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 10-7-503(g), every governmental entity subject to the Tennessee Public Records Act ("TPRA") (Tenn. Code Ann. § 10-7-501 et seq.), must establish a written public records policy properly adopted by the appropriate governing authority by July 1, 2017. The policy adopted shall not impose requirements on those requesting records that are more burdensome than state law and shall include:

- The process for requesting access to public records and any required form(s);
- The process for responding to requests, including redaction practices;
- A statement of any fees charged for copies of public records and the procedures for billing and payment; and
- The name or title and contact information of the individual or individuals designated as the Public Records Request Coordinator(s).

Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-4-604(a)(1)(4), the Office of Open Records Counsel ("OORC") is required to establish a model best practices and public records policy for use by a records custodian in compliance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 10-7-503. The following Model Public Records Policy serves as guidance for records custodians and their respective governmental entities in developing a public records policy and fulfilling their duties under the TPRA. The OORC encourages and will provide assistance for governmental associations and groups to develop model public records policies tailored to their specific governmental entity subgroup.

**PUBLIC RECORDS POLICY
FOR
THE TOWN OF KIMBALL, TENNESSEE**

Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 10-7-503(g), the following Public Records Policy for the Town of Kimball, Tennessee is hereby adopted by the Kimball Board of Mayor and Aldermen to provide economical and efficient access to public records as provided under the Tennessee Public Records Act ("TPRA") in Tenn. Code Ann. § 10-7-501, et seq.

The TPRA provides that all state, county and municipal records shall, at all times during business hours, which for public hospitals shall be during the business hours of their administrative offices, be open for personal inspection by any citizen of this state, and those in charge of the records shall not refuse such right of inspection to any citizen, unless otherwise provided by state law. See Tenn. Code Ann. § 10-7-503(a)(2)(A). Accordingly, the public records of the Town of Kimball, Tennessee are presumed to be open for inspection unless otherwise provided by law.

Personnel of the Town of Kimball shall timely and efficiently provide access and assistance to persons requesting to view or receive copies of public records. No provisions of this Policy shall be used to hinder access to open public records. However, the integrity and organization of public records, as well as the efficient and safe operation of the Town of Kimball shall be protected as provided by current law. Concerns about this Policy should be addressed to the Public Records Request Coordinator for the Town of Kimball or to the Tennessee Office of Open Records Counsel ("OORC").

This Policy is available for inspection and duplication in the office of Kimball Town Hall, 675 Main Street, Kimball, Tennessee 37347. This Policy is posted online at www.townofkimball.com. This Policy shall be reviewed every two (2) years.

This Policy shall be applied consistently throughout the various offices, departments, and/or divisions of the Town of Kimball except the following offices, departments, or divisions of the Town of Kimball, which have separate public records policies:

NONE

I. Definitions:

- A. Records Custodian: The office, official or employee lawfully responsible for the direct custody and care of a public record. See Tenn. Code Ann. § 10-7-503(a)(1)(C). The records custodian is not necessarily the original preparer or receiver of the record.
- B. Public Records: All documents, papers, letters, maps, books, photographs, microfilms, electronic data processing files and output, films, sound recordings, or other material, regardless of physical form or characteristics, made or received pursuant to law or ordinance or in connection with the transaction of official business by any governmental agency. See Tenn. Code Ann. § 10-7-503(a)(1)(A).
- C. Public Records Request Coordinator: The individual, or individuals, designated in Section III, A.3 of this Policy who has, or have, the responsibility to ensure public record requests are routed to the appropriate records custodian and are fulfilled in accordance with the TPRA. See Tenn. Code Ann. § 10-7-503(a)(1)(B). The Public Records Request Coordinator may also be a records custodian.

- D. *Requestor*. A person seeking access to a public record, whether it is for inspection or duplication.

II. Requesting Access to Public Records

- A. Public record requests shall be made to the Public Records Request Coordinator ("PRRC") or his/her designee or via online submission in order to ensure public record requests are routed to the appropriate records custodian and fulfilled in a timely manner.
- B. Requests for inspection only cannot be required to be made in writing. The PRRC should request a mailing or email address from the requestor for providing any written communication required under the TPRA.
- C. Requests for inspection may be made orally or in writing using the attached Form at Kimball Town Hall, 675 Main Street, Kimball, Tennessee 37347 or by phone at 423-837-7040.
- D. Requests for copies, or requests for inspection and copies, shall be made in writing using the attached Form at Kimball Town Hall, 675 Main Street, Kimball, Tennessee 37347.
- E. Proof of Tennessee citizenship by presentation of a valid Tennessee driver's license or alternative acceptable form of ID showing the Requestor's residential address is required as a condition to inspect or receive copies of public records.

III. Responding to Public Records Requests

- A. Public Record Request Coordinator
 - 1. The PRRC shall review public record requests and make an initial determination of the following:
 - a. If the requestor provided evidence of Tennessee citizenship;
 - b. If the records requested are described with sufficient specificity to identify them; and
 - c. If the Governmental Entity is the custodian of the records.
 - 2. The PRRC shall acknowledge receipt of the request and take any of the following appropriate action(s):
 - a. Advise the requestor of this Policy and the elections made regarding:
 - i. Proof of Tennessee citizenship;
 - ii. Form(s) required for copies;
 - iii. Fees (and labor threshold and waivers, if applicable); and
 - iv. Aggregation of multiple or frequent requests.

- b. If appropriate, deny the request in writing, providing the appropriate ground such as one of the following:
 - i. The requestor is not, or has not presented evidence of being, a Tennessee citizen.
 - ii. The request lacks specificity. (Offer to assist in clarification)
 - iii. An exemption makes the record not subject to disclosure under the TPRA. (Provide the exemption in written denial)
 - iv. The Governmental Entity is not the custodian of the requested records.
 - v. The records do not exist.
 - c. If appropriate, contact the requestor to see if the request can be narrowed.
 - d. Forward the records request to the appropriate records custodian in the Town of Kimball, Tennessee.
 - e. If requested records are in the custody of a different governmental entity, and the PRRC knows the correct governmental entity, advise the requestor of the correct governmental entity and PRRC for that entity if known.
3. The designated PRRC(s) is(are):
 - a. Name or title: Tonia May, Town Recorder
 - b. Contact information: *Kimball Town Hall, 675 Main Street, Kimball, Tennessee 37347. Phone number 423-837-7040. Fax Number 423-837-1039.*
 4. The PRRC(s) shall report to the governing authority on an annual basis about the Governmental Entity's compliance with the TPRA pursuant to this Policy and shall make recommendations, if any, for improvement or changes to this Policy.

B. Records Custodian

1. Upon receiving a public records request, a records custodian shall promptly make requested public records available in accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 10-7-503. If the records custodian is uncertain that an applicable exemption applies, the custodian may consult with the PRRC, counsel, or the OORC.
2. If not practicable to promptly provide requested records because additional time is necessary to determine whether the requested records exist; to search for, retrieve, or otherwise gain access to records; to determine whether the records are open; to redact records; or for other similar reasons, then a records custodian shall, within seven (7) business days from the records custodian's receipt of the request, send the requestor a completed Public Records Request Response Form which is based on the form developed by the OORC.

3. If a records custodian denies a public record request, he or she shall deny the request in writing as provided in Section III.A.2.b using the Public Records Request Response Form.
4. If a records custodian reasonably determines production of records should be segmented because the records request is for a large volume of records, or additional time is necessary to prepare the records for access, the records custodian shall use the Public Records Request Response Form to notify the requestor that production of the records will be in segments and that a records production schedule will be provided as expeditiously as practicable. If appropriate, the records custodian should contact the requestor to see if the request can be narrowed.
5. If a records custodian discovers records responsive to a records request were omitted, the records custodian should contact the requestor concerning the omission and produce the records as quickly as practicable.

C. Redaction

1. If a record contains confidential information or information that is not open for public inspection, the records custodian shall prepare a redacted copy prior to providing access. If questions arise concerning redaction, the records custodian should coordinate with counsel or other appropriate parties regarding review and redaction of records. The records custodian and the PRRC may also consult with the OORC.

IV. Whenever a redacted record is provided, a records custodian should provide the requestor with the basis for redaction. The basis given for redaction shall be general in nature and not disclose confidential information. Inspection of Records

- A. There shall be no charge for inspection of open public records unless specifically authorized by law.
- B. The location for inspection of records within the offices of the Town of Kimball, Tennessee should be determined by either the PRRC or the records custodian.
- C. Under reasonable circumstances, the PRRC or a records custodian may require an appointment for inspection or may require inspection of records at an alternate location.

V. Copies of Records

- A. A records custodian shall promptly respond to a public record request for copies in the most economic and efficient manner practicable.
- B. Copies will be available for pickup at a location specified by the records custodian.
- C. Upon payment for postage, copies will be delivered to the requestor's home address by the United States Postal Service, or upon payment of any applicable charges, copies will be delivered to an email address provided by requestor.

- D. A requestor will not be allowed to make copies of records with personal equipment.

VI. Fees and Charges and Procedures for Billing and Payment

- A. Fees and charges for copies of public records should not be used to hinder access to public records.
- B. Records custodians shall provide requestors with an itemized estimate of the charges prior to producing copies of records and may require pre-payment of such charges before producing requested records.
- C. When fees for copies and labor do not exceed \$10.00, the fees may be waived.

Requests for waivers for fees above \$10.00 must be presented to the Town's Mayor, who is authorized to determine if such waiver is in the best interest of the Town and for the public good. Fees associated with aggregated records requests will not be waived.

- D. Fees and charges for copies are as follows:

1. \$0.15 per page for letter- and legal-size black and white copies.
2. \$0.50 per page for letter- and legal-size color copies.
3. Other: Offices or departments of the Town with specific statutory copy or document charges may charge according to those statutes.
4. Labor when time exceeds one (1) hour.
5. If an outside vendor is used, the actual costs assessed by the vendor.

- E. No duplication costs will be charged for requests for less than ten (10) pages that require no redaction.

- F. Payment is to be made in cash, by personal check, or by credit/debit card payable to the Town of Kimball and presented to Town Recorder or Clerk/Deputy Recorder.

- G. Payment in advance will be required when costs are estimated to exceed \$25.00.

- I. Aggregation of Frequent and Multiple Requests

1. The Town of Kimball will aggregate record requests in accordance with the Frequent and Multiple Request Policy promulgated by the OORC when more than (4) requests are received within a calendar month (either from a single individual or a group of individuals deemed working in concert).
2. If aggregating:
 - a. The level at which records requests will be aggregated is four (4) requests, *whether by agency, entity, department, office or otherwise.*

- b. The PRRC is responsible for making the determination that a group of individuals are working in concert. The PRRC or the records custodian must inform the individuals that they have been deemed to be working in concert and that they have the right to appeal the decision to the OORC.

- c. Routinely released and readily accessible records excluded from aggregation include, but are not limited to: Minutes of regular and special meetings of the Town's Board of Mayor and Aldermen, and the Town's Charter.

PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST FORM

The Tennessee Public Records Act (TPRA) grants Tennessee citizens the right to access open public records that exist at the time of the request. The TPRA does not require records custodians to compile information or create or recreate records that do not exist.

To: **The Town of Kimball, Tennessee**
 Tonia May, Town Recorder/Public Records Request Coordinator
 675 Main Street
 Kimball, TN 37347
 423-837-7040
 Fax 423-837-1039

From: **Name:** _____
 Address: _____
 Phone Number: _____

Is the requestor a Tennessee citizen? Yes No

Request: Inspection (The TPRA does not permit fees or require a written request for inspection only.)
 Copy/Duplicate

If costs for copies are assessed, the requestor has a right to receive an estimate. Do you wish to waive your right to an estimate and agree to pay copying and duplication costs in an amount not to exceed \$25.00? If so, initial here: _____.

Delivery preference: On-Site Pick-Up USPS First-Class Mail
 Electronic Other: _____

Records Requested:

Provide a detailed description of the record(s) requested, including: (1) type of record; (2) timeframe or dates for the records sought; and (3) subject matter or key words related to the records. Under the TPRA, record requests must be sufficiently detailed to enable a governmental entity to identify the specific records sought. As such, your record request must provide enough detail to enable the records custodian responding to the request to identify the specific records you are seeking.

Signature of Requestor and Date Submitted

Signature of Public Records Request Coordinator and Date Received

¹Note, Tenn. Code Ann. § 10-7-504(a)(20)(C) permits charging for redaction of private records of a utility.

PUBLIC RECORD REQUEST RESPONSE FORM
Town of Kimball, Tennessee

[Date]

Requestor's Name and Contact Information:

In response to your records request received on _____, our office is taking the action(s)¹ indicated below:

The public record(s) responsive to your request will be made available for inspection:

Location: _____

Date & Time: _____

Copies of public record(s) responsive to your request are:

Attached;

Available for pickup at the following location:

_____ ; or

Being delivered via: USPS First-Class Mail Electronically Other: _____.

Your request is denied on the following grounds:

Your request was not sufficiently detailed to enable identification of the specific requested record(s).
You need to provide additional information to identify the requested record(s).

No such record(s) exists or this office does not maintain record(s) responsive to your request.

No proof of Tennessee citizenship was presented with your request. Your request will be reconsidered upon presentation of an adequate form of identification.

You are not a Tennessee citizen.

You have not paid the estimated copying/production fees.

The following state, federal, or other applicable law prohibits disclosure of the requested records:

_____.

It is not practicable for the records you requested to be made promptly available for inspection and/or copying because:

It has not yet been determined that records responsive to your request exist; or

The office is still in the process of retrieving, reviewing, and/or redacting the requested records.

The time reasonably necessary to produce the record(s) or information and/or to make a determination of a proper response to your request is: _____.

If you have any additional questions regarding your record request, please contact the Records Custodian or Public Records Request Coordinator ("PRRC") named below.

Sincerely,

Tonia May, Town Recorder
Town of Kimball Records Custodian/PRRC
675 Main Street, Kimball, TN 37347
423-837-7040
