ORDINANCE 2005-5

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 11-812 OF THE BELLE MEADE MUNICIPAL CODE RELATIVE TO COURT COSTS

WHEREAS:

- 1. The City Court of the City of Belle Meade regularly hears cases involving traffic and other violations of the Ordinances of the City, which result in some instances in the imposition of a fine upon the guilty party.
- 2. TCA § 6-21-507 authorizes the City Judge "for offenses against the corporate laws and ordinances" of the City to "tax in the bill of costs the same amounts and for the same items allowed in courts of General Sessions for similar work in state cases".
- 3. In addition, the Commissioners are advised that the Clerk currently charges a cost of \$51.00 for each conviction of a moving traffic and/or other violations of the ordinances of the city, based on a guilty plea. In compliance with TCA § 6-21-507, the Commissioners shall establish rates of court costs. This amount shall be \$52.00.
- 4. TCA § 16–18-304 provides that \$1.00 of the Court Costs be for the sole purpose of providing training and continuing education for municipal court judges and municipal court clerks. This \$1.00 shall be forwarded by the municipal court clerk to the state treasurer for deposit to provide training and continuing education for municipal court judges and municipal court clerks.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF BELLE MEADE, as follows:

Section 1. That Section 11-812 of the Belle Meade Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

"11-812. Court Costs. A court cost of \$52.00 per offense is hereby established for all moving traffic and other criminal offenses in violation of ordinances of the City of Belle Meade, which cost shall be in addition to any fine that may be assessed by the Court, or in addition to any fine that may be due in the form of an Appearance Bond paid in advance of, and/or in lieu of, a trial.

A court cost of \$13.00 per offense is hereby established for any violation which has been dismissed, without a hearing, after a guilty plea, which cost shall be payable at the time of, and as a condition of, the dismissal."

Section 2. This Ordinance shall become effective fifteen days after its passage.

Passed on first reading: June 15, 2005

Passed on second reading: August 3, 2005

Mayor George V. Crook

City Recorder Dorothy L. Wheeler