

TITLE 9

BUSINESS, PEDDLERS, SOLICITORS, ETC.¹

CHAPTER

1. PEDDLERS, SOLICITORS, ETC.

CHAPTER 1

PEDDLERS, SOLICITORS, ETC.²

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9-101. Definitions. Unless otherwise expressly stated, whenever used in this chapter, the following words shall have the meaning given to them in this section:

(1) "Peddler" means any person, firm or corporation, either a resident or a nonresident of the city, who has no permanent regular place of business and who goes from dwelling to dwelling, business to business, place to place, or from street to street, carrying or transporting goods, wares or merchandise and offering or exposing the same for sale.

(2) "Solicitor" means any person, firm or corporation who goes from dwelling to dwelling, business to business, place to place, or from street to street, taking or attempting to take orders for any goods, wares, or merchandise,

¹Municipal code references

Building, plumbing, wiring, and residential regulations: see title 12.

Junkyards: see title 13.

Liquor and beer regulations: see title 8.

Zoning: see title 14.

²Municipal code references

Privilege taxes: see title 5.

Trespass by peddlers, etc.: § 11-801.

or personal property of any nature whatever for future delivery, except that the term shall not include solicitors for charitable and religious purposes and solicitors for subscriptions as those terms are defined below.

(3) "Solicitor for charitable or religious purposes" means any person, firm, corporation, or organization who or which solicits contributions from the public, either on the streets of the city or from door to door, business to business, place to place, or from street to street, for any charitable or religious organization, and who does not sell or offer to sell any single item at a cost to the purchaser in excess of ten dollars (\$10.00). No organization shall qualify as a "charitable" or "religious" organization unless the organization meets one (1) of the following conditions:

(a) Has a current exemption certificate from the Internal Revenue Service issued under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code of 1954, as amended.

(b) Is a member of United Way, Community Chest, or similar "umbrella" organization for charitable or religious organizations.

(c) Has been in continued existence as a charitable or religious organization in Marion County for a period of two (2) years prior to the date of its application for registration under this chapter.

(4) "Solicitor for subscriptions" means any person who solicits subscriptions from the public, either on the streets of the city, or from door to door, business to business, place to place, or from street to street, and who offers for sale subscriptions to magazines or other materials protected by provisions of the Constitution of the United States.

(5) "Street barker" means any peddler who does business during recognized festival or parade days in the city and who limits his business to selling or offering to sell novelty items and similar goods in the area of the festival or parade.

(6) "Transient vendor¹" means any person who brings into temporary premises and exhibits stocks of merchandise to the public for the purpose of

¹State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, §§ 62-30-101, *et seq.* contains permit requirements for "transitory vendors."

The definition of "transient vendors" is taken from *Tennessee Code Annotated*, § 67-4-709(a)(19). Note also that *Tennessee Code Annotated*, § 67-4-709(a) prescribes that transient vendors shall pay a tax of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each fourteen (14) day period in each county and/or municipality in which such vendors sell or offer to sell merchandise for which they are issued a business license, but that they are not liable for the gross receipts portion of the tax provided for in *Tennessee Code Annotated*, § 67-4-709(b).

selling or offering to sell the merchandise to the public. "Transient vendor" does not include any person selling goods by sample, brochure, or sales catalog for future delivery; or to sales resulting from the prior invitation to the seller by the owner or occupant of a residence. For purposes of this definition, "merchandise" means any consumer item that is or is represented to be new or not previously owned by a consumer, and "temporary premises" means any public or quasi-public place including a hotel, rooming house, storeroom, building, or part of a building, tent, vacant lot, railroad car, or motor vehicle which is temporarily occupied for the purpose of exhibiting stocks of merchandise to the public. Premises are not temporary if the same person has conducted business at those premises for more than six (6) consecutive months or has occupied the premises as his or her permanent residence for more than six (6) consecutive months. (1994 Code, § 9-101)

9-102. Exemptions. The terms of this chapter shall not apply to persons selling at wholesale to dealers, nor to newsboys, nor to bona fide merchants who merely deliver goods in the regular course of business, nor to persons selling agricultural products, who, in fact, themselves produced the products being sold. (1994 Code, § 9-102)

9-103. Permit required. No person, firm, or corporation shall operate a business as a peddler, transient vendor, solicitor, or street barker, and no solicitor for charitable or religious purposes or solicitor for subscriptions shall solicit within the city unless the same has obtained a permit from the city in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. (1994 Code, § 9-103)

9-104. Permit procedure. (1) Application form. A sworn application containing the following information shall be completed and filed with the city manager by each applicant for a permit as a peddler, transient vendor, solicitor, or street barker and by each applicant for a permit as a solicitor for charitable or religious purposes or as a solicitor for subscriptions:

- (a) The complete name and permanent address of the business or organization the applicant represents;
- (b) A brief description of the type of business and the goods to be sold;
- (c) The dates for which the applicant intends to do business or make solicitations;
- (d) The names and permanent addresses of each person who will make sales or solicitations within the city;
- (e) The make, model, complete description, and license tag number and state of issue, of each vehicle to be used to make sales or solicitation, whether or not such vehicle is owned individually by the person making sales or solicitations, by the business or organization itself, or rented or borrowed from another business or person; and

(f) Tennessee State sales tax number, if applicable.

(2) Permit fee. Each application for a permit as a peddler, transient vendor, solicitor or street barker shall submit with his application a non-refundable fee of twenty dollars (\$20.00). There shall be no fee for an application for a permit as a solicitor for charitable purposes or as a solicitor for subscriptions.

(3) Permit issued. Upon the completion of the application form and the payment of the permit fee, where required, the recorder shall issue a permit and provide a copy of the same to the applicant. Said permit shall be valid for a period of thirty (30) days from the issuance date. Upon expiration of the permit, said application shall submit a new application and non-refundable fee.

(4) Submission of application form to chief of police. Immediately after the applicant obtains a permit from the city recorder, the city recorder shall submit to the chief of police a copy of the application form and the permit. (1994 Code, § 9-104, as amended by Ord. #275, Aug. 2009)

9-105. Restrictions on peddlers, street barkers, and solicitors. No peddler, street barker, solicitor, solicitor for charitable purposes, or solicitor for subscriptions shall:

(1) Be permitted to set up and operate a booth or stand on any street or sidewalk, or in any other public area within the city;

(2) Stand or sit in or near the entrance to any dwelling or place of business, or in any other place which may disrupt or impede pedestrian or vehicular traffic;

(3) Offer to sell goods or services or solicit in vehicular traffic lanes, or operate a "road block" of any kind;

(4) Call attention to his business or merchandise or to his solicitation efforts by crying out, by blowing a horn, by ringing a bell, or creating other noise, except that the street barker shall be allowed to cry out to call attention to his business or merchandise during recognized parade or festival days of the city; and

(5) Enter in or upon any premises or attempt to enter in or upon any premises wherein a sign or placard bearing the notice "Peddlers or Solicitors Prohibited," or similar language carrying the same meaning, is located. (1994 Code, § 9-105)

9-106. Restrictions on transient vendors. A transient vendor shall not advertise, represent, or hold forth a sale of goods, wares, or merchandise as an insurance, bankrupt, insolvent, assignee, trustee, estate, executor, administrator, receiver's manufacturer's wholesale, cancelled order, or misfit sale, or closing-out sale, or a sale of any goods damaged by smoke, fire, water or otherwise, unless such advertisement, representation or holding forth is actually of the character it is advertised, represented, or held forth. (1994 Code, § 9-106)

9-107. Display of permit. Each peddler, street barker, solicitor, solicitor for charitable purposes, or solicitor for subscriptions is required to have in his possession a valid permit while making sales or solicitations, and shall be required to display the same to any police officer upon demand. (1994 Code, § 9-107)

9-108. Suspension or revocation of permit. (1) Suspension by the city manager. The permit issued to any person or organization under this chapter may be suspended by the city manager for any of the following causes:

(a) Any false statement, material omission, or untrue or misleading information which is contained in or left out of the application; or

(b) Any violation of this chapter.

(2) Suspension or revocation by the board of commissioners. The permit issued to any person or organization under this chapter may be suspended or revoked by the board of commissioners, after notice and hearing, for the same causes set out in subsection (1) above. Notice of the hearing for suspension or revocation of a permit shall be given by the city manager in writing, setting forth specifically the grounds of complaint and the time and place of the hearing. Such notice shall be mailed to the permit holder at his last known address at least five (5) days prior to the date set for hearing, or it shall be delivered by a police officer in the same manner as a summons at least three (3) days prior to the date set for hearing. (1994 Code, § 9-108)

9-109. Expiration and renewal of permit. The permit of peddlers, solicitors, and transient vendors shall expire on the same date that the permit holder's privilege license expires. The registration of any peddler, solicitor, or transient vendor who for any reason is not subject to the privilege tax shall be issued for six (6) months. The permit of street barkers shall be for a period corresponding to the dates of the recognized parade or festival days of the city. The permit of solicitors for religious or charitable purposes and solicitors for subscriptions shall expire on the date provided in the permit, not to exceed thirty (30) days.

9-110. Roadblocks regulated. (1) Roadblocks are restricted to such organizations that are duly filed with the Internal Revenue Service as subchapter 501(c)3 organizations. The departments of the City of Whitwell, Tennessee are allowed to roadblock inside the city limits. The local Lions Club is allowed to roadblock inside the city limits.

(2) The following terms shall apply in the interpretation and application of this section.

(a) "Roadblock" shall mean the solicitation by any person of money or in the right-of-way of any street, road, highway, or any other

public way and place generally open to, and used by, the public for travel in or upon motor vehicles.

(b) "Street," "road," "highway," and "public way and place" shall include the paved or unpaved surface of any such street, road, highway or public place, the entire width of the public right-of-way extending laterally therefrom, dividers, medians, and abutting or adjoining sidewalks or other pedestrian pathways generally open to the public for pedestrian traffic.

(3) Any person violating this section shall be subject to punishment of a fifty dollar (\$50.00) fine. (1994 Code, § 9-111, as amended by Ord. #260, Aug. 2006 and Ord. #304, March 2013)

9-111. Violations and penalty. In addition to any other action the city may take against a permit holder in violation of this chapter, such violation shall be punishable according to the general penalty provision of this municipal code of ordinances.¹ (1994 Code, § 9-110)

¹§ 5, of the adopting ordinance.