

TITLE 9

BUSINESS, PEDDLERS, SOLICITORS, ETC.¹

CHAPTER

1. MISCELLANEOUS.
2. PEDDLERS, ETC.
3. CHARITABLE SOLICITORS.
4. POOL ROOMS.

CHAPTER 1

MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION

9-101. "Going out of business" sales.

9-101. "Going out of business" sales. It shall be unlawful for any person falsely to represent a sale as being a "going out of business" sale. A "going out of business" sale, for the purposes of this section, shall be a "fire sale," "bankrupt sale," "loss of lease sale," or any other sale made in anticipation of the termination of a business at its present location. When any person after advertising a "going out of business" sale adds to his stock or fails to go out of business within ninety (90) days, he shall prima facie be deemed to have violated this section. (1979 Code, § 5-101)

¹Municipal code references

Beer business regulations: title 8, chapter 2.

Building, plumbing, wiring and housing regulations: title 12.

Privilege tax provisions: title 5.

Junkyards: title 13.

Restrictions on posting notices, etc.: title 11.

Zoning: title 14.

CHAPTER 2

PEDDLERS, ETC.¹

SECTION

- 9-201. Permit required.
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9-201. Permit required. It shall be unlawful for any peddler, canvasser, solicitor, or transient merchant to ply his trade within the corporate limits without first obtaining a permit therefor in compliance with the provisions of this chapter. No permit shall be used at any time by any person other than the one to whom it is issued. (1979 Code, § 5-201)

9-202. Exemptions. The terms of this chapter shall not be applicable 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 bona fide charitable, religious, patriotic, or philanthropic organizations. (1979 Code, § 5-202)

9-203. Application for permit. Applicants for a permit under this chapter must file with the recorder a sworn written application containing the following:

- (1) Name and physical description of applicant.
- (2) Complete permanent home address and local address of the applicant and, in the case of transient merchants, the local address from which proposed sales will be made.

¹Municipal code reference

Privilege tax provisions, etc.: title 5.

(3) A brief description of the nature of the business and the goods to be sold.

(4) If employed, the name and address of the employer, together with credentials therefrom establishing the exact relationship.

(5) The length of time for which the right to do business is desired.

(6) A recent clear photograph approximately two (2) inches square showing the head and shoulders of the applicant.

(7) The names of at least two (2) reputable local property owners who will certify as to the applicant's good moral reputation and business responsibility, or in lieu of the names of references, such other available evidence as will enable an investigator properly to evaluate the applicant's moral reputation and business responsibility.

(8) A statement as to whether or not the applicant has been convicted of any crime or misdemeanor or for violating any municipal ordinance, the nature of the offense, and the punishment or penalty assessed therefor.

(9) The last three (3) cities or towns, if that many, where applicant carried on business immediately preceding the date of application and, in the case of transient merchants, the addresses from which such business was conducted in those municipalities.

(10) At the time of filing the application, a fee of five dollars (\$5.00) shall be paid to the town to cover the cost of investigating the facts stated therein. (1979 Code, § 5-203)

9-204. Issuance or refusal of permit. (1) Each application shall be referred to the chief of police for investigation. The chief shall report his findings to the recorder within seventy-two (72) hours.

(2) If as a result of such investigation the chief reports the applicant's moral reputation and/or business responsibility to be unsatisfactory, the recorder shall notify the applicant that his application is disapproved and that no permit will be issued.

(3) If, on the other hand, the chief's report indicates that the moral reputation and business responsibility of the applicant are satisfactory, the recorder shall issue a permit upon the payment of all applicable privilege taxes and the filing of the bond required by section 9-206. The recorder shall keep a permanent record of all permits issued. (1979 Code, § 5-204)

9-205. Appeal. Any person aggrieved by the action of the chief of police and/or the recorder in the denial of a permit shall have the right to appeal to the board of mayor and aldermen. Such appeal shall be taken by filing with the mayor within fourteen (14) days after notice of the action complained of, a written statement setting forth fully the grounds for the appeal. The mayor shall set a time and place for a hearing on such appeal and notice of the time and place of such hearing shall be given to the appellant. The notice shall be in

writing and shall be mailed, postage prepaid, to the applicant at his last known address at least five (5) days prior to the date set for hearing, or 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. (1979 Code, § 5-205)

9-206. Bond. Every permittee shall file with the recorder a surety bond running to the town in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00). The bond shall be conditioned that the permittee shall comply fully with all the provisions of the ordinances of the Town of Whiteville and the statutes of the state regulating peddlers, canvassers, solicitors, transient merchants, itinerant merchants, or itinerant vendors, as the case may be, and shall guarantee to any citizen of the town that all money paid as a down payment will be accounted for and applied according to the representations of the permittee, and further guaranteeing to any citizen of the town doing business with said permittee that the property purchased will be delivered according to the representations of the permittee. Action on such bond may be brought by any person aggrieved and for whose benefit, among others, the bond is given, but the surety may, by paying, pursuant to order of the court, the face amount of the bond to the clerk of the court in which the suit is commenced, be relieved without costs of all further liability. (1979 Code, § 5-206)

9-207. Loud noises and speaking devices. No permittee, nor any person in his behalf, shall shout, cry out, blow a horn, ring a bell, or use any sound amplifying device upon any of the sidewalks, streets, alleys, parks, or other public places of the town or upon private premises where sound of sufficient volume is emitted or produced therefrom to be capable of being plainly heard upon the adjacent sidewalks, streets, alleys, parks, or other public places, for the purpose of attracting attention to any goods, wares, or merchandise which such permittee proposes to sell. (1979 Code, § 5-207)

9-208. Use of streets. No permittee shall have any exclusive right to any location in the public streets, nor shall any be permitted a stationary location thereon, nor shall any be permitted to operate in a congested area where such operation might impede or inconvenience the public use of such streets. For the purpose of this chapter, the judgment of a police officer, exercised in good faith, shall be deemed conclusive as to whether the area is congested and the public impeded or inconvenienced. (1979 Code, § 5-208)

9-209. Exhibition of permit. Permittees are required to exhibit their permits at the request of any policeman or citizen. (1979 Code, § 5-209)

9-210. Policemen to enforce. It shall be the duty of all policemen to see that the provisions of this chapter are enforced. (1979 Code, § 5-210)

9-211. Revocation or suspension of permit. (1) Permits issued under the provisions of this chapter may be revoked by the board of mayor and aldermen after notice and hearing, for any of the following causes:

(a) Fraud, misrepresentation, or incorrect statement contained in the application for permit or made in the course of carrying on the business of solicitor, canvasser, peddler, transient merchant, itinerant merchant, or itinerant vendor.

(b) Any violation of this chapter.

(c) Conviction of any crime or misdemeanor.

(d) Conducting the business of peddler, canvasser, solicitor, transient merchant, itinerant merchant, or itinerant vendor, as the case may be, in an unlawful manner or in such a manner as to constitute a breach of the peace or to constitute a menace to the health, safety, or general welfare of the public.

(2) Notice of the hearing for revocation of a permit shall be given by the recorder in writing, setting forth specifically the grounds of complaint and the time and place of hearing. Such notice shall be mailed to the permittee 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.

(3) When it is reasonably necessary in the public interest, the mayor may suspend a permit pending the revocation hearing. (1979 Code, § 5-211)

9-212. Reapplication. No permittee whose permit has been revoked shall make further application until a period of at least six (6) months has elapsed since the last revocation. (1979 Code, § 5-212)

9-213. Expiration and renewal of permit. Permits issued under the provisions of this chapter shall expire on the same date that the permittee's privilege license expires and shall be renewed without cost if the permittee applies for and obtains a new privilege license within thirty (30) days thereafter. Permits issued to permittees who are not subject to a privilege tax shall be issued for one (1) year. An application for a renewal shall be made substantially in the same form as an original application. However, only so much of the application shall be completed as is necessary to reflect conditions which have changed since the last application was filed. (1979 Code, § 5-213)

9-214. Hours regulated. Permittees acting under this chapter may engage in the permitted business between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on any day. Conducting such business at any other time is unlawful. (1979 Code, § 5-214)

CHAPTER 3

CHARITABLE SOLICITORS

SECTION

- 9-301. Permit required.
- 9-302. Prerequisites for a permit.
- 9-303. Denial of a permit.
- 9-304. Exhibition of permit.
- 9-305. Trespassing.
- 9-306. Violations.

9-301. Permit required. No person shall solicit contributions or anything else of value for any real or alleged charitable or religious purpose without a permit from the recorder authorizing such solicitation. Provided, however, that this chapter shall not apply to any locally established organization or church operated exclusively for charitable or religious purpose if the solicitations are conducted exclusively among the members thereof, voluntarily and without remuneration for making such solicitations, or if the solicitations are in the form of collections or contributions at the regular assemblies of any such established organization or church. (1979 Code, § 5-301)

9-302. Prerequisites for a permit. The recorder shall, upon application, issue a permit authorizing charitable or religious solicitations when, after a reasonable investigation, he finds the following facts to exist:

(1) The applicant has a good character and reputation for honesty and integrity, or if the applicant is not an individual person, that every member, managing officer, or agent of the applicant has a good character or reputation for honesty and integrity.

(2) The control and supervision of the solicitation will be under responsible and reliable persons.

(3) The applicant has not engaged in any fraudulent transaction or enterprise.

(4) The solicitation will not be a fraud on the public but will be for a bona fide charitable or religious purpose.

(5) The solicitation is prompted solely by a desire to finance the charitable cause described by the applicant. (1979 Code, § 5-302)

9-303. Denial of a permit. Any applicant for a permit to make charitable or religious solicitations may appeal to the board of mayor and aldermen if he has not been granted a permit within fifteen (15) days after he makes application therefor. (1979 Code, § 5-303)

9-304. Exhibition of permit. Any solicitor required by this chapter to have a permit shall exhibit such permit at the request of any policeman or person solicited. (1979 Code, § 5-304)

9-305. Trespassing. It shall be unlawful and deemed to be a trespass for any permittee acting under this chapter to fail to leave promptly the private premises of any person who requests or directs him to leave. (1979 Code, § 5-305)

9-306. Violations. Any person violating any provision of this chapter or making a false or fraudulent statement either in his application for a permit or in the process of making a solicitation shall be subject to the penalty provided for violations of this municipal code. In addition to or in lieu of any pecuniary penalty, if a violator has been issued a permit, his permit shall be cancelled and revoked by the court. (1979 Code, § 5-306)

CHAPTER 4

POOL ROOMS¹

SECTION

9-401. Prohibited in residential areas.

9-402. Hours of operation regulated.

9-403. Minors to be kept out; exception.

9-404. Gambling, etc., not to be allowed.

9-401. Prohibited in residential areas. It shall be unlawful for any person to open, maintain, conduct, or operate any place where pool tables or billiard tables are kept for public use or hire on any premises located in any block where fifty percent (50%) or more of the land is used or zoned for residential purposes. (1979 Code, § 5-401)

9-402. Hours of operation regulated. It shall be unlawful for any person to open, maintain, conduct, or operate any place where pool tables or billiard tables are kept for public use or hire between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 6:00 a.m. during any night of the week. On Sunday, the hours for opening, maintaining, conducting or operating any place of business where pool tables or billiard tables are kept for public use or hire shall be from 12:00 noon until 12:00 midnight. (1979 Code, § 5-402)

9-403. Minors to be kept out; exception. It shall be unlawful for any person engaged regularly, or otherwise, in keeping billiard, bagatelle, or pool rooms or tables, their employees, agents, servants, or other persons for them, knowingly to permit any person under the age of eighteen (18) years to play on said tables at any game of billiards, bagatelle, pool, or other games requiring the use of cue and balls, without first having obtained the written consent of the father and mother of such minor, if living; if the father is dead, then the mother, guardian, or other person having legal control of such minor; or if the minor be in attendance as a student at some literary institution, then the written consent of the principal or person in charge of such school; provided that this section shall not apply to the use of billiards, bagatelle, and pool tables in private residences. (1979 Code, § 5-403)

9-404. Gambling, etc., not to be allowed. It shall be unlawful for any person operating, conducting, or maintaining any place where pool tables or

¹Municipal code reference

Privilege tax provisions, etc.: title 5.

billiard tables are kept for public use or hire, to permit any gambling or other unlawful or immoral conduct on such premises. (1979 Code, § 5-404)