

TITLE 9

BUSINESS, PEDDLERS, SOLICITORS, ETC.¹

CHAPTER

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

PEDDLERS, ETC.²

SECTION

- 9-101. Permit required.
- 9-102. Exemptions.
- 9-103. Application for permit.
- 9-104. Issuance or refusal of permit.
- 9-105. Appeal.
- 9-106. Bond.
- 9-107. Loud noises and speaking devices.
- 9-108. Use of streets.
- 9-109. Exhibition of permit.
- 9-110. Policemen to enforce.
- 9-111. Revocation or suspension of permit.
- 9-112. Reapplication.
- 9-113. Expiration and renewal of permit.

9-101. Permit required. It shall be unlawful for any peddler, canvasser, or solicitor, or transient merchant to ply his trade within the corporate limits without first obtaining a permit in compliance with the

¹Municipal code references

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

Junkyards: title 13.

Liquor and beer regulations: title 8.

Noise reductions: title 11.

Zoning: title 14.

²Municipal code reference

Privilege taxes: title 5.

provisions of this chapter. No permit shall be used at any time by any person other than the one to whom it is issued. (1977 Code, § 5-201)

9-102. 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. (1977 Code, § 5-202)

9-103. Application for permit. Applicants for a permit under this chapter must file with the city 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.
- (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 to properly 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 municipality to cover the cost of investigating the facts stated therein. (1977 Code, § 5-203)

9-104. 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 city 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 city

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 city recorder shall issue a permit upon the payment of all applicable privilege taxes and the filing of the bond required by § 9-206. The city recorder shall keep a permanent record of all permits issued. (1977 Code, § 5-204)

9-105. Appeal. Any person aggrieved by the action of the chief of police and/or the city recorder in the denial of a permit shall have the right to appeal to the governing body. 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. (1977 Code, § 5-205)

9-106. Bond. Every permittee shall file with the city recorder a surety bond running to the city 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 this city 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 city 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 city 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. (1977 Code, § 5-206)

9-107. 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 city 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. (1977 Code, § 5-207)

9-108. 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 the 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. (1977 Code, § 5-208)

9-109. Exhibition of permit. Permittees are required to exhibit their permits at the request of any policeman or citizen. (1977 Code, § 5-209)

9-110. Policemen to enforce. It shall be the duty of all policemen to see that the provisions of this chapter are enforced. (1977 Code, § 5-210)

9-111. 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 city 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 reasonably necessary in the public interest the mayor may suspend a permit pending the revocation hearing. (1977 Code, § 5-211)

9-112. 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. (1977 Code, § 5-212)

9-113. 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. (1977 Code, § 5-213)

CHAPTER 2

CHARITABLE SOLICITORS

SECTION

- 9-201. Permit required.
- 9-202. Prerequisites for a permit.
- 9-203. Denial of a permit.
- 9-204. Exhibition of permit.

9-201. 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 city recorder authorizing such solicitation. Provided, however, that this section shall not apply to any locally established organization or church operated exclusively for charitable or religious purposes 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. (1977 Code, § 5-301)

9-202. 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. (1977 Code, § 5-302)

9-203. 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. (1977 Code, § 5-303)

9-204. 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. (1977 Code, § 5-304)

CHAPTER 3

TAXICABS¹

SECTION

- 9-301. Taxicab franchise and privilege license required.
- 9-302. Requirements as to application and hearing.
- 9-303. Liability insurance or bond required.
- 9-304. Revocation or suspension of franchise.
- 9-305. Mechanical condition of vehicles.
- 9-306. Cleanliness of vehicles.
- 9-307. Inspection of vehicles.
- 9-308. License and permit required for drivers.
- 9-309. Qualifications for driver's permit.
- 9-310. Revocation or suspension of driver's permit.
- 9-311. Drivers not to solicit business.
- 9-312. Parking restricted.
- 9-313. Drivers to use direct routes.
- 9-314. Taxicabs not to be used for illegal purposes.
- 9-315. Miscellaneous prohibited conduct by drivers.
- 9-316. Transportation of more than one passenger at the same time.
- 9-317. Fares.

9-301. Taxicab franchise and privilege license required. It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the taxicab business unless he has first obtained a taxicab franchise from the city and has a currently effective privilege license. (1977 Code, § 5-401)

9-302. Requirements as to application and hearing. No person shall be eligible to apply for a taxicab franchise if he has a bad character or has been convicted of a felony within the last ten (10) years. Applications for taxicab franchises shall be made under oath and in writing to the chief of police. The application shall state the name and address of the applicant, the name and address of the proposed place of business, the number of cabs the applicant desires to operate, the makes and models of said cabs, and such other pertinent information as the chief of police may require. The application shall be accompanied by at least two (2) affidavits of reputable local citizens attesting to the good character and reputation of the applicant. Within ten (10) days after receipt of an application the chief of police shall make a thorough investigation of the applicant; determine if there is a public need for additional taxicab

¹Municipal code reference
Privilege taxes: title 5.

service; present the application to the governing body; and make a recommendation to either grant or refuse a franchise to the applicant. The governing body shall thereupon hold a public hearing at which time witnesses for and against the granting of the franchise shall be heard. In deciding whether or not to grant the franchise the board of mayor and aldermen shall consider the public need for additional service, the increased traffic congestion, parking space requirements, and whether or not the safe use of the streets by the public, both vehicular and pedestrian, will be preserved by the granting of such an additional franchise. Those persons already operating taxicabs when this code is adopted shall not be required to make applications under this section but shall be required to comply with all of the other provisions hereof. (1977 Code, § 5-402)

9-303. Liability insurance or bond required. No taxicab franchise shall be issued or continued in operation unless there is in full force and effect a liability insurance policy for each vehicle authorized in an amount equal to that required by the state's financial responsibility law as set out in Tennessee Code Annotated, title 55, chapter 12. The insurance policy or bond required by this section shall contain a provision that it shall not be cancelled except after at least twenty (20) days' written notice is given by the insurer to both the insured and the recorder of the city. (1977 Code, § 5-403)

9-304. Revocation or suspension of franchise. The board of mayor and aldermen, after a public hearing, may revoke or suspend any taxicab franchise for misrepresentations or false statements made in the application therefor or for traffic violations or violations of this chapter by the taxicab owner or any driver. (1977 Code, § 5-404)

9-305. Mechanical condition of vehicles. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any taxicab in the city unless it is equipped with four (4) wheel brakes, front and rear lights, safe tires, horn, muffler, windshield wipers, and rear view mirror, all of which shall conform to the requirements of state motor vehicle law. Each taxicab shall be equipped with a handle or latch or other opening device attached to each door of the passenger compartment so that such doors may be operated by the passenger from the inside of the taxicab without the intervention or assistance of the driver. The motor and all mechanical parts shall be kept in such condition or repair as may be reasonably necessary to provide for the safety of the public and the continuous satisfactory operation of the taxicab. (1977 Code, § 5-405)

9-306. Cleanliness of vehicles. All taxicabs operated in the city shall, at all times, be kept in a reasonably clean and sanitary condition. They shall be thoroughly swept and dusted at least once each day. At least once every week

they shall be thoroughly washed and the interior cleaned with a suitable antiseptic solution. (1977 Code, § 5-406)

9-307. Inspection of vehicles. All taxicabs shall be inspected at least semiannually by the chief of police to insure that they comply with the requirements of this chapter with respect to mechanical condition, cleanliness, etc. (1977 Code, § 5-407)

9-308. License and permit required for drivers. No person shall drive a taxicab unless he is in possession of a state special chauffeur's license and a taxicab driver's permit issued by the chief of police. (1977 Code, § 5-408)

9-309. Qualifications for driver's permit. No person shall be issued a taxicab driver's permit unless he complies with the following to the satisfaction of the chief of police:

- (1) Makes written application to the chief of police.
- (2) Is at least eighteen (18) years of age and holds a state special chauffeur's license.
- (3) Undergoes an examination by a physician and is found to be of sound physique, with good eyesight and hearing and not subject to epilepsy, vertigo, heart trouble or any other infirmity of body or mind which might render him unfit for the safe operation of a public vehicle.
- (4) Is clean in dress and person and is not addicted to the use of intoxicating liquor or drugs.
- (5) Produces affidavits of good character from two (2) reputable citizens of the city who have known him personally and have observed his conduct for at least two (2) years next preceding the date of his application.
- (6) Has not been convicted of a felony, drunk driving, driving under the influence of an intoxicant or drug, or of frequent minor traffic offenses.
- (7) Is familiar with the state and local traffic laws. (1977 Code, § 5-409)

9-310. Revocation or suspension of driver's permit. The board of mayor and aldermen, after a public hearing, may revoke or suspend any taxicab driver's permit for violation of traffic regulations, for violation of this chapter, or when the driver ceases to possess the qualifications as prescribed in § 9-309. (1977 Code, § 5-410)

9-311. Drivers not to solicit business. All taxicab drivers are expressly prohibited from indiscriminately soliciting passengers or from cruising upon the streets of the city for the purpose of obtaining patronage for their cabs. (1977 Code, § 5-411)

9-312. Parking restricted. It shall be unlawful to park any taxicab on any street except in such places as have been specifically designated and marked by the municipality for the use of taxicabs. It is provided, however, that taxicabs may stop upon any street for the purpose of picking up or discharging passengers if such stops are made in such manner as not to unreasonably interfere with or obstruct other traffic and provided the passenger loading or discharging is promptly accomplished. (1977 Code, § 5-412)

9-313. Drivers to use direct routes. Taxicab drivers shall always deliver their passengers to their destinations by the most direct available route. (1977 Code, § 5-413)

9-314. Taxicabs not to be used for illegal purposes. No taxicab shall be used for or in the commission of any illegal act, business, or purpose. (1977 Code, § 5-414)

9-315. Miscellaneous prohibited conduct by drivers. It shall be unlawful for any taxicab driver, while on duty, to be under the influence of, or to drink any intoxicating beverage or beer; to use profane or obscene language; to shout or call to prospective passengers; to unnecessarily blow the automobile horn; or to otherwise unreasonably disturb the peace, quiet and tranquility of the municipality in any way. (1977 Code, § 5-415)

9-316. Transportation of more than one passenger at the same time. No person shall be admitted to a taxicab already occupied by a passenger without the consent of such other passenger. (1977 Code, § 5-416)

9-317. Fares.¹ The taxicab fares for taxicabs transporting passengers within the corporate limits of the City of Ridgetop shall be established by the board of mayor and aldermen by ordinance from time to time as the need for change may arise. (1977 Code, § 5-417)

¹Administrative ordinances are of record in the office of the city recorder.

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.

9-401. 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. (1977 Code, § 5-501)

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 at any time on Sunday or between the hours of 11:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M. on other days. (1977 Code, § 5-502)

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. (1977 Code, § 5-503)

¹Municipal code reference
Privilege taxes: title 5.

CHAPTER 5

CABLE TELEVISION

SECTION

9-501. To be furnished under franchise.

9-501. To be furnished under franchise. Cable television service shall be furnished to the City of Ridgetop and its inhabitants under franchise as the board of mayor and aldermen shall grant. The rights, powers, duties and obligations of the City of Ridgetop and its inhabitants and the grantee of the franchise shall be clearly stated in the franchise agreement which shall be binding upon the parties concerned.¹

¹For complete details relating to the cable television franchise agreement see Ord. #2021-113, January 2022, in the office of the city recorder.