

TITLE 9

BUSINESS, PEDDLERS, SOLICITORS, ETC.

CHAPTER

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CHAPTER 1

GENERALLY

SECTION

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

9-101. "Going out of business" sales. it shall be unlawful for any person to falsely 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.

CHAPTER 2

PEDDLERS, SOLICITORS, ETC.¹

SECTION

- 9-201. Definitions.
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- 9-207. Display of permit.
- 9-208. Suspension or revocation of permit.
- 9-209. Expiration and renewal of permit.
- 9-210. Violation and penalty.

9-201. 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 town, 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, 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 town 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 of the following conditions:

¹Municipal code references

Privilege taxes: title 5.

Trespass by peddlers, etc.: § 11-501.

(a) Has a current exemption certificate from the Internal Revenue Service issued under Section 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" organizations for charitable or religious organizations.

(c) Has been in continued existence as a charitable or religious organization in Gibson 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 town, 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) "Transient vendor¹" means any person who brings into temporary premises and exhibits stocks of merchandise to the public for the purpose of 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.

(6) "Street barker" means any peddler who does business during recognized festival or parade days in the town and who limits his business to

¹State law references

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, § 62-30-101(3). Note also that Tennessee Code Annotated, § 67-4-709(a) prescribes that transient vendors shall pay a tax of \$50.00 for each 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 novelty items and similar goods in the area of the festival or parade.

9-202. Exemptions. The terms of this chapter shall neither 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.

9-203. 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 town unless the same has obtained a permit from the town in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

9-204. Permit procedure. (1) Application form. A sworn application containing the following information shall be completed and filed with the town recorder 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 town.

(e) The make, model, complete description, and license tag number and state of issue, of each vehicle to be used to make sales or solicitations, 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.

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

(2) Permit fee. Each applicant for a permit as a peddler, transient vendor, solicitor or street barker shall submit with his application a nonrefundable 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.

(4) Submission of application form to chief of police. Immediately after the applicant obtains a permit from the town recorder, the town recorder shall submit to the chief of police a copy of the application form and the permit.

9-205. 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 town.

(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 town.

(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.

9-206. 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.

9-207. 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.

9-208. Suspension or revocation of permit. (1) Suspension by the recorder. The permit issued to any person or organization under this chapter may be suspended by the town recorder 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 mayor and aldermen. The permit issued to any person or organization under this chapter may be suspended or revoked by the board of mayor and aldermen, after notice and hearing, for the same causes set out in paragraph (1) above. Notice of the hearing for suspension or revocation of a permit shall be given by the town recorder 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.

9-209. 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 town. 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.

9-210. Violation and penalty. In addition to any other action the town may take against a permit holder in violation of this chapter, such violation shall be punishable by a penalty of up to one hundred dollars (\$100) for each offense. Each day a violation occurs shall constitute a separate offense.

CHAPTER 3

TAXICABS¹

SECTION

- 9-301. Taxicab franchise and privilege license required.
- 9-302. Requirements as to application and hearing.
- 9-303. Liability insurance 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.

9-301. 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 municipality and has a currently effective privilege license. (1968 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 governing body 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. (1968 Code, § 5-402)

9-303. Liability insurance 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 the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) for bodily injury or death to any one person, twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00) for bodily injuries or death to more than one person which are sustained in the same accident, and five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) for property damage resulting from any one accident. The insurance policy 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 municipality. (1968 Code, § 5-403)

9-304. Revocation or suspension of franchise. The governing body, 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. (1968 Code, § 5-404)

9-305. Mechanical condition of vehicles. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any taxicab in the town unless such taxicab is equipped with four (4) wheel brakes, front and rear lights, safe tires, horn, muffler, windshield wipers, and rear vision mirror, all of which shall conform to the requirements of state 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. (1968 Code, § 5-405)

9-306. Cleanliness of vehicles. All taxicabs operated in the municipality 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. (1968 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. (1968 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. (1968 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 municipality 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. (1968 Code, § 5-409)

9-310. Revocation or suspension of driver's permit. The governing body, 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. (1968 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 municipality for the purpose of obtaining patronage for their cabs. (1968 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. (1968 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. (1968 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. (1968 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 disturb the peace, quiet and tranquility of the municipality in any way. (1968 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. (1968 Code, § 5-416)

CHAPTER 4

POOL ROOMS

SECTION

- 9-401. Permit required.
- 9-402. Application for permit.
- 9-403. Standards regulating the issuance of a permit.
- 9-404. Renewal of a permit.
- 9-405. Hours of operation regulated.
- 9-406. Minors to be kept out; exception.
- 9-407. Revocation of permit.

9-401. Permit required. It shall be unlawful for any person to open, maintain, or conduct any place where pool tables or billiard tables are kept for public use for hire unless such person shall have first applied for and obtained a permit or license to do so. (1968 Code, § 5-501)

9-402. Application for permit. Any person desiring to open, maintain or conduct a place where pool tables or billiard tables are kept for public use for hire shall make application in writing to the board of mayor and aldermen, which application shall contain the following information:

- (1) Name and address of applicant, age, and date and place of birth.
- (2) Names of all persons having a financial interest in the business.
- (3) Prior convictions, if any, of the applicant, or any person financially interested in the business, of violating any state law or municipal ordinance, with details as to time, place and nature of offense of each such conviction.
- (4) Address of the place where the business is to be operated. (1968 Code, § 5-502)

9-403. Standards regulating the issuance of a permit. The board of mayor and aldermen may issue a permit or license to any person making application as provided in § 9-402 hereof, in accordance with the following regulations:

- (1) No permit or license shall be granted to any person under twenty-one (21) years of age at the date of application.
- (2) No permit or license shall be granted if the applicant or any person financially interested in the business has been convicted of violating any state law or municipal ordinance relating to alcoholic beverages or gambling or has been convicted of any felony.
- (3) No permit or license shall be granted if the proposed place of business is on the north side of Main Street between Front Street and Trenton Street.

(4) No permit or license shall be granted if the proposed place of business is located in any block where fifty percent (50%) or more of the land is used or zoned for residential purposes.

(5) No permit or license shall be granted if the applicant or any person financially interested in the business has had such permit or license revoked as provided in § 9-408 hereof.

(6) If the applicant meets the foregoing regulations, the permit or license shall be issued upon the payment of a fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) per table,¹ and said permit or license shall be valid for a term of one (1) year unless sooner revoked. (1968 Code, § 5-503)

9-404. Renewal of a permit. Said permit or license may be renewed annually, upon submission of an application as provided in § 9-402 hereof, at least thirty (30) days in advance of the renewal date, provided there is compliance with the regulations set forth in § 9-403. Continuation of the business without such annual renewal of the permit or license shall be unlawful. (1968 Code, § 5-504)

9-405. 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 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. on other days. (1968 Code, § 5-505)

9-406. 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 sixteen (16) 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. (1968 Code, § 5-506)

9-407. Revocation of permit. Any permit or license granted under this chapter shall be subject to revocation:

(1) If any false statement is made in the application provided for in §§ 9-402 and 9-404; or

¹See Title 6 in this code for privilege tax provisions.

(2) If the permit holder or any person financially interested in the business is convicted of violating any state law or municipal ordinance relating to alcoholic beverages or gambling or is convicted of any felony, or if any employee of the business is continued in such employment after having been so convicted; or

(3) If, with the knowledge of the permit holder, any person becomes financially interested or is employed in the business who has been convicted of violating any state law or municipal ordinance relating to alcoholic beverages or gambling or has been convicted of any felony. (1968 Code, § 5-508)