

**SYNOPSIS OF AMENDING THE CODE OF SOUTH BETHANY  
CHAPTER 84, LICENCES & PERMITS, ARTICLE I,  
MERCANTILE LICENSES, TO UPDATE LANGUAGE  
PERTAINING TO MERCANTILE LICENSES, AND  
ARTICLE II, RENTERS LICENSES, TO UPDATE LANGUAGE  
PERTAINING TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF  
RENTAL LICENSE APPLICATIONS**

**ORDINANCE 204-21 (SECOND READING)**  
(Sponsored by Councilmember Tim Shaw)

This ordinance amends Chapter 84 to:

- In Article I, remove mercantile license “valid date” parameters set in section 84-2, (Scope), from the Code of South Bethany to allow the Town the flexibility of setting mercantile license dates.
- In Article I, §84-3, adds definition for annual license and thirty-day license
- In Article I, §84-4, removing references to time periods in the license application.
- In Article II, §84-13, remove the specific month of mail distribution of rental application forms to residents so said forms may be distributed earlier.



**ORDINANCE NO. 204-21**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND** the Code of the Town of South Bethany, Chapter 84, Licenses and Permits, §84-2, §84-3, §84-4 and §84-13, to update language pertaining to mercantile and rental licenses.

**BE IT HEREBY ENACTED** by the Council of the Town of South Bethany, Sussex County, Delaware, a majority thereof concurring in Council duly met, that the following ordinance be and hereby is amended as follows: (additions are in red text and deletions are bold and ~~marked through~~):

§ 84-2 Scope.

No person shall engage in or carry on any business, occupation and/or activity or use of any wagon, vehicle, stand, store or other place or thing for profit-making purposes without first having obtained from the Town of South Bethany a license for permission to conduct such business, occupation and/or activity and having paid the prescribed fee for such license. Specifically included are all persons, firms, partnerships and corporations engaged for profit in selling any and all products, merchandise or commodities, providing facilities, and/or food or other services within the corporate limits. ~~The Town of South Bethany may issue licenses for the following time periods:~~

- ~~A. An annual license covering the time period from May 1 through April 30;~~
- ~~B. A six month license covering the time period November 1 through April 30; or~~
- ~~C. A thirty day license that may be purchased once per fiscal year (May 1 through April 30).~~

§ 84-3. Definitions.

As used in this article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

ANNUAL LICENSE – Covers the time period from January 1 to December 31.

ESTABLISHMENT, ESTABLISHMENTS or PLACE OF BUSINESS — A building or part thereof or each motor, horse drawn and/or human drawn vehicle or each stand at or from which any product, merchandise or commodity is dispensed or facilities or services are provided to members of the general public.

PERSON or PERSONS — Meaning, including and embracing individuals, partnerships, firms, associations and corporations.

THIRTY-DAY LICENSE – Upon issuance, covers a thirty-day period with defined dates.

§ 84-4. Application. [Amended 4-13-2012 by Ord. No. 161-12]

The application for a license required by § 84-2 hereof shall be made on a prescribed form to the Town of South Bethany. ~~The applicant shall choose the appropriate application form depending on the time period to be covered by the application.~~ Each such application shall specify to whom such license shall be issued and include the following additional information:

- A. The ~~home~~ name and business address of the applicant.

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- B. If applicant is a partnership, the names, telephone numbers and addresses of the partners.
- C. If applicant is a corporation, the names, telephone numbers and addresses of the principal officers and/or general managers.
- D. A full description of the nature of the business, occupation and/or activity for which a license is desired.
- E. The specific location of the business, occupation and/or activity, including lot and block number, if located within the corporate limits of the Town of South Bethany.
- F. ~~For thirty day licenses, the start date and expiration date of the thirty day term to be covered by the license.~~

§ 84-13 Annual license and fee.

- A. There is hereby imposed a requirement for an annual license for each rental property. A fee required for the rental license shall be set by resolution of the Town Council and available in the Town office. The rental license fee shall be paid at the time the application is submitted.
- B. ~~Each February~~ **Annually**, the Town will send all property owners the application for rental license and a nonrental declaration form. Property owners must complete the rental license application or nonrental declaration form, under penalty of perjury, and return the same to Town Hall by the due date specified therein. Parking permits will not be issued until the Town receives a properly completed rental license application or nonrental declaration form.
- C. No property owner shall lease or rent to another any residential or commercial property without first obtaining a valid annual rental license.
- D. No property owner shall advertise to lease or rent to another any residential or commercial property without first obtaining a valid annual rental license.
- E. Rental license applicants shall certify, under penalty of perjury, that all prior rental tax forms have been filed and that all rental tax and penalties due have been paid in full and that all information provided, and statements made in the application are true and accurate.
- F. Anyone having any delinquent tax, penalty, or other financial obligation due the Town shall be denied a rental license until the obligation is satisfied.

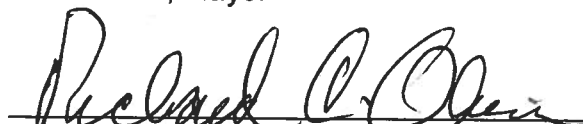
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**Effective date:** This ordinance shall become effective upon the date of adoption.

**ADOPTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY, SUSSEX COUNTY, DELAWARE, ON THE 10 OF December 2021.**

SEAL:

  
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Tim Saxton, Mayor

  
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Richard Oliver, Council Secretary

ATTEST:

  
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1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 11/12/2021  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 12/10/2021

Sponsored by Councilmember Shaw  
MA:jp Ordinance 204-21  
Second Reading