

Privilege Licenses

The City of Yazoo City defers to the laws of the State of Mississippi in regard to legally operating a business within the city limits. According to State Code 27-17-9, in order to lawfully operate a business, a tax shall be paid to the municipality within which the business shall operate, and a license must be obtained for the privilege of engaging, or continuing to engage, in business within the municipality. Business owners must apply for a privilege license, pay the associated tax, and obtain the license prior to operating a business within the City of Yazoo City.

Below is a checklist of requirements for obtaining a Privilege Tax License:

1. The City Building Inspector and Fire Marshall must approve all new businesses, and an appointment must be scheduled with the City Building Inspector at (662) 590-6108, and with the Fire Marshall at (662) 746-2841.
2. If the business will be collecting sales tax, you must apply for and receive a State Sales Tax identification number from the Mississippi Department of Revenue by calling (601) 923-7700.
3. If the business is a restaurant, you are required to supply a copy of your food permit issued by the State Health Department by calling (601) 576-7400 or by emailing food@msdh.ms.gov. The permit must be obtained before opening and every year when you renew your city privilege license.
4. If the business is serving beer, you are required to supply a copy of the beer permit issued to the business. This permit is obtained by contacting the MS Department of Revenue or by going to their website and accessing the permit through the Mississippi Taxpayer Access Point (TAP). This permit must be renewed on a yearly basis.
5. If opening a wrecker service, you must contact the City of Yazoo City Police Chief upon opening for approval. The Yazoo City Police Department is located at 305 Mike Espy Drive. The Police Department contact number is (662) 746-1131. If you desire to become a wrecker service for the City of Yazoo City you will be required to sign a Wrecker Service Agreement and all equipment must be inspected and approved by the Fire Marshall and Safety & Risk Manager.
6. Some businesses require additional or alternate licenses. For example, certain contractors, particularly those conducting home improvement, electrical, plumbing, mechanical or sign and tree repair must have a license from the City of Yazoo City Building Inspector. For a list of specific business requirements, call the City Building and Zoning Inspector at (662) 590-6108.
7. When you close your business, you must contact the City Clerk's Office within 30 days of closing to terminate your account.

Amount of Tax

The amount of a privilege license tax depends upon the number of employees and the type of business. Service businesses include non-manufacturing and manufacturing types of business. Retail/wholesale businesses include those operating a store for the sale of goods, wares, and merchandise.

Tax Rates

- For any service business having 3 or fewer employees, the annual tax is \$20.
- For any service business having more than 3, but fewer than 11 employees, the annual tax is \$30.
- For a non-manufacturing business, the annual tax is \$30, plus an additional assessment of \$3 for each employee over 10 employees. The tax will not exceed \$150.
- For a manufacturing business having 11 or more employees, the annual tax is \$80.
- For a wholesale or retail business, the amount of tax depends on the value of the store's stock. For example, if the value of the stock is \$7,000 or below, the annual privilege tax is \$20.
- For the store's exact tax amount, please contact the City Clerk's office.