

PORTSMOUTH TAXI COMMISSION
Minutes of the June 16, 2003 meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sanford called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

II. ATTENDANCE

Officials Present: Chair Sanford, Members Daggett, Whitehouse, Feehley, Bresciano; Ex-Officio's Barnaby, Sullivan, Winsor; Parking and Transportation Director Burke.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 8, 2003

Frank Daggett moved to accept and approve the minutes of the April 8th Taxi Commission meeting. Seconded by Councilor Whitehouse and voted.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Request for medallion from Sunshine Taxi

Chairman Sanford informed the Commissioners that Sunshine Taxi is requesting two taxi medallions, not one medallion as indicated in his letter dated May 14, 2003.

Frank Daggett moved to approve the request of two medallions for Sunshine Taxi. Seconded by Councilor Whitehouse and voted.

2. Complaint against Gary Moran, A-1 Taxi

Lt. Winsor discussed the complaint received by Mr. Pullino against Gary Moran. He highlighted on the e-mail message presented. He requested that Mr. Pullino put his concerns in writing to the Taxi Commission and asked if any such document was received. City Clerk Barnaby indicated that nothing was received.

Peter Bresciano expressed concern if this is something that could be addressed. City Attorney Sullivan advised the Commissioners that this matter should be addressed through the Hampton Police Department as that is the complaint origination.

Frank Daggett moved to table this matter until the next meeting. Seconded by Councilor Whitehouse and voted. Peter Bresciano voted opposed.

Gary Moran spoke with Mr. Pullino and invited him to the meeting. Gary said that Mr. Pullino has indicated that he would change the name of his company to correct the problem.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Renewal of Licenses and Permits

Chair Sanford asked the status of the renewal process. City Clerk Barnaby indicated that paperwork from Blue Star Taxi was received.

2. John Burke, Taxi Stand on Market Street follow-up report

Director Burke reviewed the taxi stand survey conducted from May 5-12th. A parking enforcement officer monitored the use of the taxi stands on Market and High Streets from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. His memorandum indicated that the stand on Market Street was not utilized simultaneously. He noted that the use increases in the evening.

James Feehley indicated that the location is ideal for visibility.

Frank Daggett felt that the trial period was established at the wrong time of the year due to the weather.

Frank Daggett moved to keep the taxi stand on Market Street until Labor Day with the possibility of allowing fifteen-minute parking from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Seconded by Councilor Whitehouse.

Matt Govini, Breaking New Grounds, expressed his displeasure with the use of the two parking spots to be used through Labor Day. He said that the spots are not being used by the taxis and could be used by the patrons to the downtown businesses.

Peter Bresciano said if we allow fifteen-minute parking, individuals will not put money in the meters and the City will lose revenue.

Councilor Whitehouse said he frequents the downtown daily and both taxi spots are used. He said that the taxis need the visibility and feels that they are good for the businesses downtown. Further, he said that it would be looked at again and the results could change the setup to one taxi spot on Market Street and the other spot be dedicated to a fifteen-minute parking spot for patrons.

Director Burke indicated that the Parking Committee would be taking this matter up at Thursday's meeting. He said that this program is a one-year trial period and permanent change would require a vote of the City Council.

Motion passed.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilor Whitehouse asked if taxi companies were allowed to transport liquor to patrons. James Feehley indicated that it is allowed however, each company may have their own policies.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:40 a.m., Frank Daggett moved to adjourn. Seconded by Peter Bresciano and voted.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kelli L. Barnaby, City Clerk