

TAXI COMMISSION MEETING
Minutes of the January 20, 2009 meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Frank Daggett called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

II. ATTENDANCE

Present: Members: Chair Frank Daggett; Councilor Eric Spear, Commissioners, James Feehley, Peter Bresciano, Joel Look, and Kent Kirkpatrick and Deputy City Clerk Dianne M. Kirby

Absent: Sergeant Michael Schwartz

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 15, 2008

Commissioner Feehley moved approve and accept the minutes of the December 15, 2008, Taxi Commission meeting. Seconded by Councilor Spear and voted.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Winter Vehicle Inspection

Chair Daggett stated that with the Police Department representative not available we would need to table this item until the next meeting.

2. New Year's Eve

Chair Daggett asked the Taxi owners if they had encountered any problems on New Year's Eve. Commissioner Feehley stated that Blue Star had no problems. Representatives from Sunshine Taxi stated that they did not have any problems either.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Review of Taxi Ordinance

Chair Daggett stated that he spoke to City Attorney Sullivan regarding the issue of annual taxi license renewal. He stated that City Attorney Sullivan suggested that these licenses could mirror the vehicle registration program. Commissioner Feehley stated that this is a good idea. He stated that it is unfair to make a driver who is hired in April/May to have to pay the \$50.00 for his license along with the charges for the various record checks and then expect him to turn around in June and do it all over again. Paul Ford, Taxi Owner suggested issuing the licenses and having them renewed using a 12 month calendar and having renewals done on the anniversary of their issue. Chair Daggett stated that he agrees, but it would need to go through the City Clerk's office for their input. Commissioner Bresciano stated that it would be the responsibility of the Taxi Company to ensure that each driver renews their license and therefore, there would be no added work for the City Clerk's office. Peter Bresciano suggested changing the Ordinance to read that the Taxi Driver's licenses would be renewed annually on the anniversary of its issuance. Chair Daggett requested that Councilor Spear bring this issue before the City Council for approval.

2. Handicap Taxi

Commissioner Look stated that he is gathering information and looking into which organizations handle handicap vehicles. He stated that there are a lot of organizations that have handicapped vans, but they only drive for their own people and they only operate during the day. He stated that there are none that will take handicapped people to evening events. He asked the taxi owners if they pick up handicapped fares. Commissioner Feehley stated that Blue Star will pick up handicapped in wheelchairs if the chair will fit in the trunk. Alan Ladd, Sunshine Taxi stated that they require that the customer be able to move themselves from the chair to the taxi. Commissioner Look stated that there are a couple of disabled groups that would like to be able to go places such as plays, ball games etc., but there isn't any available transportation for them. Commissioner Bresciano asked if a taxi would be economical for this type of thing. Commissioner Look stated that he did not know for sure, but he was looking into alternatives. He said he was looking into the possibility of getting a handicapped van that the taxi companies could share. Chair Daggett stated that insurance companies will want a designated driver and company and the insurance on this type of vehicle is very high. Commissioner Look stated that there is a non-profit organization that has handicapped vans that they lend out to taxi companies. Commissioner Bresciano stated that Commissioner Look will need to find out how this company pays their insurance. He further stated that another idea would be to see if there is a non-profit organization that would run this program. Commissioner Look stated that he would look into it and report back at the next meeting.

3. Market Street Downtown Improvement – Report Back

Chair Daggett stated that last year Public Works moved the Market Street Taxi stand across the street and stated that it would come up for review after one year. He asked if there have been any problems with this parking space. Commissioner Feehley stated that it is a bad spot and due to the safety issues many of his drivers do not use the space. Commissioner Bresciano stated that if it is not being used, then it is a wasted space. Commissioner Feehley stated that it is rarely used. Commissioner Feehley stated that it is a definite safety hazard. He further stated that it is hard for a driver to turn around from that space. Chair Daggett asked Commissioner Feehley if he would put these issues in writing for the next meeting.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VII. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:25 a.m., Commissioner Bresciano moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Feehley and voted.

Respectfully submitted by:

Dianne M. Kirby, Deputy City Clerk