

TAXI COMMISSION MEETING
Minutes of the October 19, 2009 meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Frank Daggett called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

II. ATTENDANCE

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

Absent: Commissioner Joel Look

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 17, 2009

Commissioner Bresciano moved to approve and accept the minutes of the August 17, 2009, Taxi Commission meeting. Seconded by Councilor Spear and voted.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Request for Permission to Operate a Taxi Company – Dirk R. Caire

Chair Daggett questioned Mr. Caire concerning make, model, year of his vehicles and how many vehicles he intended to start with. Mr. Caire outlined his intentions towards vehicles to be used. Chair Daggett asked Mr. Caire how he intended to pay his drivers. Mr. Caire stated he intended to pay with a 40/60 split. Chair Daggett stated this was considered a lease option and was not allowed under the City Ordinance. He stated the driver's had to be employees of the company. Mr. Caire asked what the rate was for taxi drivers on a per hour basis. Chair Daggett suggested he get with one of the present companies for assistance in this area. Commissioner Bresciano suggested Mr. Caire review the entire ordinance concerning metering, marking, and regulations. Chair Daggett stated that Portsmouth and Manchester are the only New Hampshire cities that have ordinances regulating taxi operations.

2. Request for Permission to Operate a Taxi Company – Stephen Gerrato

Chair Daggett asked Mr. Gerrato how many taxi cabs he would be operating. Mr. Gerrato stated he would be starting with one cab and would add more at a later date. He stated he uses mini vans and was considering a possible handicap taxi. Chair Daggett stated the ordinance does have a medallion for a handicapped taxi. He further stated the requirements for a handicapped taxi are specific and he would need to read the ordinance before making a decision.

Commissioner Feehley stated with the economy the way it is right now, the City cannot afford any new taxi companies. He stated he has turned in one medallion already due to lack of business to support having it. Councilor Spear stated as long as we have medallions available, we should issue them. Commissioner Bresciano stated if we went to the City Council to decrease the number of medallions allowed now, we would have a hard time getting them back when times get better.

Commissioner Bresciano moved to accept the applications to operate a taxi company from Mr. Caire and Mr. Gerrato. Seconded by Councilor Spear.

Taxi Owner Alan Ladd stated that he may not be allowed to certify taxi meters next year as the State was taking this over. Commissioner Bresciano asked how many State certified checkers are there presently. Mr. Ladd stated there are presently two. Commissioner Bresciano asked if they were based in Concord. Mr. Ladd stated they were, but they will usually come to the individual, but this is by appointment only and as their schedule permits.

Motion passed.

2. 2010 Schedule of Taxi Commission Meetings

Chair Daggett said the schedule of Taxi Commission meetings is on the agenda. He stated the meetings are on the third Monday of the month with the exception of January and February when it is held on the third Tuesday due to the holiday which lands on the Monday.

Councilor Spear moved to approve the 2010 Schedule of Taxi Commission meetings. Seconded by Captain Schwartz and voted.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Proposed Ordinance Change

Chair Daggett stated the proposed ordinance change is on the City Council agenda tonight for third and final reading. Councilor Spear stated it will pass tonight.

2. Taxi Vehicle Inspection Results

Chair Daggett stated he is very pleased with the inspection. He stated only four cabs failed first time, but they were repaired and pass by the end of the day. He said there were no medallions pulled.

Commissioner Feehley stated his cabs were inspected the day prior to this inspection and he still had two cabs fail. He said his maintenance supervisor would like to know what guidelines Lieutenant McQuate uses to inspect the vehicles so he can adopt these same guidelines. Captain Schwartz said he will check with Lieutenant McQuate on what they use, he believes they use the State Inspection standard. Chair Daggett suggested Commissioner Feehley and his Maintenance Supervisor contact Lieutenant McQuate and set up an appointment to discuss this matter.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chair Daggett stated there are a few major events coming that could impact our taxis. He said the Media Blitz will be held on Thursday and City Elections are November 3, 2009. He further stated next meeting we will need to talk about New Years Eve.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:24 a.m. Councilor Spear moved to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Bresciano and voted.

Respectfully submitted by:

Dianne M. Kirby, Deputy City Clerk