

TAXI COMMISSION EMERGENCY MEETING  
Minutes of the August 23, 2013 meeting

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Bresciano called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

**II. ATTENDANCE**

Present: Members: Commissioners Peter Bresciano, Aaron Lawson, Michael Barker, John Palreiro, Councilor Brad Lown, Sergeant Aaron Goodwin and Deputy City Clerk Dianne M. Kirby

**III. APPLICATION FOR TAXI MEDALLION – GREAT BAY TAXI, LLC**

City Attorney Sullivan stated Commissioner Palreiro was in attendance as a Commissioner to insure there was a quorum for the meeting, but could not vote or participate in any discussion.

City Attorney Sullivan stated he just received a telephone call from Councilor Ken Smith who was upset that Great Bay Taxi was using a handicapped parking space. He stated Councilor Smith stated he did not think the State Legislature created parking for cabs to operate their business out of.

**Commissioner Lawson moved to discuss the application for Taxi Medallion – Great Bay Taxi, LLC. Seconded by Commissioner Barker and voted.**

Councilor Lown stated he was not at the last meeting and asked if there had been any discussion pertaining to Great Bay Taxi, LLC receiving a medallion. Chair Bresciano stated there wasn't any discussion that should prevent Mr. Palreiro from getting a medallion only that we didn't have one to give him. He stated the motion was to approve the application for a medallion, if a medallion was available.

**Councillor Lown moved to approve the request of Great Bay Taxi and issue Mr. Palreiro a medallion. Seconded by Commissioner Barker and voted.**

Commissioner Barker stated there was other discussion concerning operating an illegal taxi. He said it wasn't until meeting on Monday, August 19, 2013 that the gray areas were explained. Councilor Lown stated those charges will be moot with the issuance of a medallion. He asked Mr. Palreiro if he was issued a medallion would he be parking his vehicle in a handicapped space. Mr. Palreiro stated he would not.

City Attorney Sullivan hand out a preliminary report on the issues referred to the Legal Department at the August 19, 2013 Taxi Commission meeting. He stated the first issue involved the complaint by Mr. Palreiro with regard to Medallion #13 and Medallion #21. He stated the City Clerk's office has determined that Medallion #13 was not being held by

Rockingham Taxi, but rather it had simply become lost somewhere on the City government side of the process. He further stated Medallion #21 has been turned in by Portsmouth Taxi. Portsmouth Taxi indicated Medallion #21 had been issued to a vehicle that had broken down and was unable to be repaired.

City Attorney Sullivan stated the second issue was the desire for an opinion from the Legal Department concerning an appropriate method to set up a waiting list so that when the demand exceeds the supply for taxi medallions, a company could secure a place in line to receive the next available medallion. He suggested this items be added to the September 16, 2013 Taxi Commission meeting.

City Attorney Sullivan stated the third issue was to request the City Council amend the ordinance to allow for additional medallions. He asked if the Commission still wanted to increase their medallions from 25 to 28. Deputy City Clerk Kirby stated she has two requests for three taxis on her desk for the next agenda. She stated one is for Great Bay Taxi and the other is for a new company wishing to operate within Portsmouth. Chair Bresciano stated he would like City Attorney Sullivan to continue with the Commission's request for more medallions. City Attorney Sullivan stated he would prepare a memo with a proposed ordinance change to the City Council at their next meeting on September 3, 2013. He further stated an ordinance change takes two readings and a public hearing, which would put the approval on or about the Council's October 21, 2013 meeting.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

*Dianne M. Kirby*

Dianne M. Kirby, Deputy City Clerk