

Metropolitan Taxicab Commission

Friday, August 26, 2005 @ 10:00 am
100 North Tucker Boulevard, Auditorium

Members present: Chairman McCarthy (arrived at 10:12am), Vice-Chairman Hamilton, Commissioners Morgan, McNutt, Bennett, Harris (arrived at 10:30), Rudawsky, Satz, and Shiferaw

Members absent: None.

MTC staff: Barker, Boutte, Deering, Hinton, Scherer, Tully

Legal Department: Counselor McCarthy

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by Vice-Chairman Hamilton.

MINUTES

Approval was requested for the Minutes of July 19, 2005 Metropolitan Taxicab Commission Meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Morgan and seconded by Mr. McNutt. With no discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

A report from the subcommittee on industry growth was submitted by Mr. Morgan. It is the opinion of the subcommittee that the Moratorium for new companies should remain in effect. This is based on the opinion that an adequate number of taxis are available to satisfy the current needs of the public. In order to allow growth within the taxi industry, the following suggestions were made:

1. Before a company can request new permits, their reserves must be in service;
2. MTC should allow current companies to grow 10 % a year, provided that when they apply for additional permits, the vehicles are placed in service within 60 days;
3. Any requested permits not in use at the annual inspection, must be surrendered to the MTC;
4. At each subsequent annual fleet inspection, the company may request another increase up to 10%, with the stipulation all current permits are in service;
5. Whenever there is a fraction involving percentage of growth, the number will be rounded up to the next whole number.

The recommendations will be placed on the website for public comment and will be presented at the next commission.

Counselor McCarthy presented proposed changes to the code regarding the operation and staging of premium sedans. He asked for Commission clarification the two versions presented. After discussion, the commission identified the items they wanted in the revision. (Old business was conducted until the new revision was presented.) Later in the meeting, a motion was made by

Mr. McNutt, seconded by Mr. Hamilton, to adopt the new wording modifying sections 101.23 and 603.5 of the Code. The motion passed unanimously.

As requested in a previous meeting, Counselor McCarthy proceeded with a section by section explanation of the changes outlined in RSMO 67.1809. RSMO 67.1809 further clarifies the gray areas between the MTC's and MODOT's jurisdiction.

NEW BUSINESS

The next meeting was then scheduled for September 30th, 2005 at 1:00 pm. (After the meeting it was discovered the Auditorium at 100 N. Tucker was unavailable. The meeting was then moved to Soldier's Memorial Building, 1315 Chestnut, Room 204-205.)

Chairman McCarthy then presented the Staff recommendation to lower the extra person fee from \$2.00 (two US dollars) to \$1.00 (One US dollar). Discussion followed. Mr. McNutt motioned to pass the change effective October 1st, 2005, seconded by Mr. Harris. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

Chairman McCarthy proposed minor code changes clarifying some issues. A draft revision was circulated. It was decided to separate the changes for review at the next meeting. One revision would contain only 'housekeeping' issues and minor corrections. Any major revisions would be presented individually. Counsel is to report his findings at the next meeting. This information will then be posted on the website.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Tully began his report outlining the new airport parking procedures. Effective September 6, 2005 a cashless system for all vehicles for hire conducting business at the airport will be initiated. All CCN holders will be issued serial numbered, plastic swipe cards. It will be totally within the CCN holder's discretion to decide the number of cards needed *and* the method of distribution. CCN holders are ultimately responsible for the group of cards assigned to them. CCN holder's will be provided with bi-weekly statements and will be billed monthly. Failure to pay will result in deactivation of all the CCN holder's cards. He then explained entry and exit points for the vehicles.

The Director then reported two enforcement operations. The first offender was caught in Town and Country. The illegal operator was caught and is awaiting a municipal court date. The second was an illegal operator caught as a result of a sting operation by the MTC with the assistance of the Airport Police Department.

MTC agents have been given authority by the City of Saint Louis to issue regular city court summonses for violators. Additionally, the Director was instructed to reinstate the adoption of our code by surrounding municipalities.

The Director then reported the numbers for the last month. 46 citations were issued, 400 courtesy vehicles were inspected, 16 driver's licenses renewed, \$100 in late fines collected, and 21 trials were held in taxi court.

Finally, Agents have begun to work with the industry to incorporate the non-emergency medical transportation class into the code.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Morgan presented the Treasurer's Report. The balance sheet and income statements were presented for review. Discussion ensued.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public attendees signed up to present public comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The public portion of the meeting ended and the meeting moved to executive session to discuss legal issues. A motion to close the public session was made by Chairman McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the Commission meeting was adjourned at 11:16 am.

The meeting was transcribed by Walsh Reporting Service. Minutes were interpreted from the transcript by MTC Staff.