

Metropolitan Taxicab Commission

**Friday, September 30, 2005 @ 1:00 pm
1315 Chestnut, Room 204-205**

Members present: Chairman Hamilton, Commissioners Bennett, Harris, McNutt, Reeves
Rudawsky, Satz, and Shiferaw

Members absent: None. *(Note: Former Commissioner McCarthy's Position is currently vacant)

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

Legal Department: Counselor McCarthy

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 pm by Chairman Hamilton. Chairman Hamilton then introduced the newest member of the Commission. Tom Reeves was appointed by County Executive Charlie Dooley to replace Commissioner Morgan.

MINUTES

Chairman Hamilton requested a motion for approval of the Minutes from the August 26, 2005 Metropolitan Taxicab Commission Meeting. It was so moved by Mr. McNutt and seconded by Mr. Satz. With no discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.

Chairman Hamilton then suspended the rules. A plaque was presented to Former Commissioner Morgan in recognition for his service as Commissioner and first treasurer of the Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

The next meeting was scheduled for October 21st, 2005 at 1pm. It will be held at 100 North Tucker Boulevard in the auditorium.

Chairman Hamilton presented some organizational changes. He proposed the appointment of two Vice Chairmen. There is no statutory limitation for what can be done with the position. He recommended Mr. Reeves as the Vice Chairman and Treasurer of the Commission. He would be responsible for the financial operation of the Commission. Chairman Hamilton then recommended Mr. McNutt as the Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Operations Committee. Mr. McNutt will determine the membership of the Operations Committee. He will work with the Committee members and the Director to conduct a top to bottom review of the operations of the Commission.

Chairman Hamilton then made a motion to elect Mr. McNutt and Mr. Reeves as Vice Chairmen of the Commission. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris. Chairman Hamilton noted, statutorily the Chairman and Vice Chairmen have no power other than what the Commission gives them. Additionally, the Vice Chair structure provides one representative from the city and one from the county. With no further discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Bennett volunteered to fill the Secretary vacancy. Chairman Hamilton made the motion, Mr. McNutt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

On September 2nd, the Director promulgated a rule to assist cab drivers with the sudden increase in fuel prices. The order set forth a graduated system based on the Triple A index for regular gasoline prices. CCN holders must apply to the Director to add any fuel surcharge. If the index exceeds two dollars, a one dollar surcharge may be requested by the CCN holder. If the average exceeds three dollars, a two dollar per trip surcharge may be requested. The surcharge rate will be reviewed monthly.

OLD BUSINESS

At the August 26th meeting, the sub-committee on industry growth presented a proposal for industry growth. The details were outlined at the August 26th meeting. The plan would allow for a ten percent growth on a yearly basis. With no industry input since the August meeting, Chairman Hamilton made a motion to pass the proposal as enumerated in the minutes from the August 26th meeting. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. The motion was amended to say, "on-call taxis" wherever it says "taxis," by Chairman Hamilton. The amended motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

The issue of Missouri "taxi" license plates was brought up for discussion. The Director reported the progress and hurdles encountered with the process. He described the plan to issue the license in series and the associated proposed procedures. Discussion ensued.

Counselor McCarthy presented the following changes to the vehicle for hire code:

- 101.21 add "limited liability company"
- 101.22 replace "begins" with "dispatched"
- 101.23 insert "pre" before "arranged"
- 301.1 strike "or" and insert "or a Non-Emergency Medical Transport Vehicle"
- 301.3 replace "\$500" with "\$200"
- 301.4 strike entire section.
- 305.1(a) replace "One Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$1,100.00)" with "Fifty-Five Dollars (\$55)"
- 501.8 On the additional passenger line, replace "\$2.00" with "\$1.00"
- 603.6 Add "It shall be a violation of this Code for a premium sedan to station at the Airport without first having been called for by a specific passenger, nor shall any premium sedan pick up any passenger other than the specific passenger, and guest(s) of said passenger, for whom the premium sedan was called."
- 701.1 replace "Five" with "Two" and replace "(\$500.00)" with "(\$200.00)"
- 1101.1 replace "Five" with "Two"
- 1101.2 replace "Five" with "Two"; replace "(\$500.00)" with "(\$200.00)"; and remove "Penalties shall increase with each violation within a five year period, for example, second violation fines will double, third violations fines will triple, fourth violation fines will be multiplied by four and fifth violation fines shall be multiplied by a factor of five."

A motion to adopt the aforementioned changes was made by Chairman Hamilton and seconded by Mr. McNutt. The motions passed unanimously. Chairman Hamilton then instructed

Counselor McCarthy to meet individually with Commissioners to discuss amending other sections of the Code.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Tully reported our monthly statistics. There were 47 new applicants, 20 renewals, and \$140.00 collected in late fees. We inspected 30 airport cabs. All were replacement vehicles, where people were updating their fleet. We inspected 25 on-call cabs. All the courtesy vehicle inspections have been completed. There are 82 premium sedans currently licensed, which will be inspected for their 2006 by October 31st. The airport starters have issued 19 citations. Agents issued 3 citations. There are seven pending court cases on the docket for October 6. There are seven cases continued for trial and five awaiting appeal. On October the 14th, the five appeals will be heard by the Hearing Officer.

Director Tully reported that he and Mr. Rudawsky attended the IATR Convention in Niagara Falls, Canada. They gained valuable information. They attended twelve seminars and a number of breakout sessions. Chairman Hamilton reiterated the fact that Mr. Rudawsky's registration fees were paid for by the Commission but he paid his own travel & lodging.

The Director explained we are making progress in gaining the ability for our agents to issue regular City Court summons. In the last month, he has been in communication with Chief Mokwa, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the City Counselor, the FBI, and the printing contractor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. John Beal, of ABC Cab Company, expressed his concerns regarding the growth of his company. He felt he provided sufficient evidence proving his need. He expressed his dissatisfaction with the Commission's decision to allow him to only grow by 10%. He feels the decision is not fair and that he is not allowed to grow as much as he needs to. He further questioned if he could buy some permits from other companies. Chairman Hamilton responded that permits are not transferable on an individual basis. Mr. McNutt explained his only option was to buy other companies. Mr. Beal questioned how other companies acquired so many reserve spots. He then requested special consideration for his case. Chairman Hamilton explained by law, they couldn't. Mr. Harris explained convenience and necessity. He continued by explaining the market wouldn't support any more cabs in this community. Chairman Hamilton expressed appreciation for Mr. Beal's situation, but explained that the policy stands as it was adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the Commission meeting was adjourned at 2:25 pm.

The meeting was recorded and transcribed by A. Hammond. Minutes were interpreted from the transcript by MTC Staff.