

Metropolitan Taxicab Commission

October 31, 2007 @ 9:00 am
100 North Tucker Boulevard, Auditorium

Members present: Commissioners Hamilton, Haile, McNutt, Reeves, Rudawsky, and Satz

Members absent: Commissioners Banahan and Bennett. (*One seat on the Commission remains vacant.*)

MTC staff: Barker, Deering, Hinton, Hammond, and Tully.

Legal Department: Counselor McCarthy

Chairman Hamilton called the meeting to order at 9:20 AM.

MINUTES

Chairman Hamilton requested approval for the Metropolitan Taxicab Commission meeting minutes of September 26, 2007. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Mr. McNutt, seconded by Mr. Reeves. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

The Commissioners scheduled the next Commission meeting for November 12, 2007 at 10:00 AM at 100 North Tucker Boulevard in the Auditorium, pending the availability of the facility. *Due to unavailability of the facility, the meeting was later changed to November 13, 2007 at 10am.*

The Director then presented a staff recommendation for adoption into the Code. The recommendation was a proposed definition of a purpose built vehicle including aging requirements. The definition separates purpose built vehicles from factory vehicles within the Premium Sedan class. (*See Appendix A*) Some discussion ensued. Mr. Reeves motioned to adopt the staff recommendation and Mr. Satz seconded the motion. Chairman Hamilton asked the industry members to recuse themselves from the vote. The Chairman called the vote and the motion was passed unanimously by the non-industry members. Mr. McNutt, Mr. Rudawsky, and Mr. Haile abstained from the vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Hamilton tabled the NEMT agenda item until the November meeting. Chairman Hamilton then introduced Dr. Ray Mundy, professor from UMSL and Director of the Center for Ground Transportation. The Chairman then yielded the floor to Dr. Mundy. Dr. Mundy presented an overview of the study he is currently conducting in St. Louis. A question and answer period with the audience (including Commissioners) followed his presentation. The presentation began at 9:28am and concluded at 10:20am.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In the interest of time, Chairman Hamilton chose forego the Director's report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Vice Chairman Reeves reported on the Commission's finances. The net income for September was \$1764 which was approximately \$20,000 over budget for the month. Mr. Reeves pointed out that this brought us at nine months to date, \$39,000 under budget and on track toward breakeven for the year. The commission maintains a decent liquidity position.

Mr. Reeves then requested to ratify and grant him the authority to sign the contract for the Commission's bookkeeper for an additional year. Mr. David Adam, a CPA, has been serving as an external bookkeeper on an hourly basis for the past few years. Mr. Reeves pointed out that we were not hiring anyone at the Commission, but continuing services we have had in the past. Mr. Reeves motioned to ratify and enter into the contract on behalf of the Commission. Mr. Satz seconded the motion. The motion to ratify the contract was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Paul Kaiser, an attorney from St. Charles representing no one, addressed the Commission. Mr. Kaiser proposed his concerns about the procedure for allowing medical patients traveling between St. Charles and St. Louis. Specifically, he was concerned with the requirement for taxicabs from outside the jurisdiction to contact the Commission via the 800 number when traveling in and out of the jurisdiction. Mr. McCarthy responded by explaining the reasoning for requiring outside cabs to make contact as a result of a prior court order. Chairman Hamilton further explained the reasoning as a measure of protection for legitimate companies on legitimate business. Additional discussion ensued between the three.

Zerebrook Gebru, of Metropolitan Taxicab Company, retracted his request to address the Commission.

Steve Pecoraro, representing Jed Limousine, addressed the Commission. He initially thanked the Commission for adopting the purpose built vehicle definition and age limits, until it was clarified to him that SUVs are not purpose built. He then requested that age requirements be changed due to the high cost of the premium sedans and SUVs. Mr. Hamilton asked that he put a proposal in writing and then discuss it with Director Tully.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairman Hamilton entertained a motion to adjourn by Mr. McNutt, and seconded by Mr. Rudawsky. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:34AM.

*The meeting recording was transcribed by A. Hammond.
Minutes were interpreted from the transcript by D. Barker.*

Appendix A

DIRECTOR'S RULES PROMULGATED RULE 603.8

Under authority of Chapter 9, Section 901 of the Vehicle for Hire Code as amended; the Director hereby promulgates the following rules for implementation of Section 603.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PREMIUM SEDANS

8. ***Purpose built vehicle*** shall mean, any stock vehicle that has been modified for a specific purpose. Vehicles classified as "purpose built" and licensed under the Premium Sedan class, such as limousines, shall not be entered into service older than two (2) model years. Purpose built Premium Sedans shall be no older than ten (10) model years while in service and will be retired at the end of the permit period for Premium Sedans.