

Metropolitan Taxicab Commission

**February 19, 2009 @ 10:00 am
100 North Tucker Boulevard, Auditorium**

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

Members absent: (*One seat on the Commission remains vacant.*)

Legal Department: Counselor Thomas W. McCarthy

MINUTES

Chairman Hamilton called the meeting to order, conducted roll call and introduced the newest member of the Commission, Mr. J. Kim Tucci, Chairman of the Board of the Pasta House Company, who had been appointed to the Commission by Mayor Francis Slay, and confirmed by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis. The Board members welcomed him. Mr. Hamilton then accepted a motion by Commissioner Rudawsky that the Commission approve the minutes from the January 13th meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McNutt, and there being no discussion Chairman Hamilton called the vote and the minutes were approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

He then stated that the next order of business was to set a meeting date for March and after a brief discussion the 31st was selected as the next meeting date to be held at 100 N. Tucker in the auditorium at 10:00am.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Deferred

TREASURER'S REPORT

For the next order of business, Commissioner Hamilton called for the Treasurers report. Commissioner Reeves stated that the annual audit was being conducted by the Certified Public Accounting Firm, Nichols, Zieman and Ahmed NZA and that the reporting was on schedule.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

At this time the Chairman allowed the members of the audience who had requested to address the Board to do so. Mr. Martin Zlatev of Silver Star then introduced himself and gave a brief history of his company. He stated that Silver Star had acquired Premiere Sedan from Tony Russo and his wife last year and that Premiere had just represented one permit. He further stated that they owned Primo Ground Transportation which was a company that operates busses. He stated that he had provided all of the paperwork for the acquisition of Premiere and that he wished to know what further actions needed to be taken in order to secure the CCN. Mr. Hamilton instructed him to see the staff after the meeting and that his questions would be answered.

Mr. Zlatev then asked further, after giving some explanation of the demands for his business, when his request for additional permits that had been applied for might be granted. Mr. Hamilton then queried the

staff and other Commissioners regarding Premium Sedan expansion and after a brief discussion, instructed Mr. Zlatev to see the staff after the meeting regarding this situation as well.

The next public comments came from Mr. Joshua Osho of Airport Taxi Counsel who stated that the Airport Taxicab Companies had recently received a letter from the MTC regarding the upcoming annual Mardi Gras celebration and asked for clarification of a clause in the letter making reference to the revocation of licenses.

Chairman Hamilton then stated that the purpose of the letter was to remind the licensees of the restrictions on operations primarily with respect to the Airport Class of Taxicabs, and further clarified that in past celebrations of Mardi Gras, Airport cabs were observed soliciting fares in violation of the code and that the letter was intended to address this issue. He further instructed that any violations observed would be considered for the prosecution of charges before the Commission.

The next public comments were made by Mr. Keith Jones who stated that He and his wife were interested in entering into the non-emergency medical transportation business and that upon speaking with someone in the MTC's offices was told that there was a hold the applications of prospective new companies and that he was curious as to why that is.

Commissioner Hamilton replied that the Commission has a hold on certain license categories and that it was continuing its evaluation of the market and did not want to saturate any of the markets, whether the taxicabs, premium sedans or the nemt vehicles until they have a handle on what the community needs are. He further stated that applications would be accepted, and that the Commission is continuing its analysis of those needs, Mr. Jones asked about a given timeframe for the analysis and was told by Mr. Hamilton that he expected that the Commission would have established a process and policy within the next couple of months and asked him to be patient while the Commission works through the details.

Next to speak was Mr. Clyde Cahill, an attorney representing Mr. Timothy Wilson and Mr. Harrison Haggard who had been presented with a letter of intent by Mr. Haggard to sell his businesses, Allen Cab Co and Auto Livery to Mr. Wilson. He stated that Mr. Wilson is interested in resurrecting those permits and that he was asking the Commission to provide him with conditions, encumbrances, claims or other items associated with the permits that were in the two companies. He further stated that Mr. Wilson owns Wilson Taxi Service and that North St. Louis is in need of radio dispatched taxi service and that Mr. Wilson and Mr. Haggard had been working together to provide it.

Commissioner Hamilton replied that Mr. Haggard went out of business two years ago and that the permits of the companies no longer existed. He further stated that Certificates of Convenience and Necessity are for operating companies who continue to operate, maintains proper insurance and renews at the appropriate time, but that Mr. Haggard voluntarily abandoned his operation. Mr. Cahill asked if the Commission could provide a history of the situation and Mr. Hamilton referred him to the Commissions legal counsel and cautioned him that if someone is trying to sell Certificates, the Certificates are not for sale, and that if they were valid Certificates and you acquired the company, it would be subject to transfer according to Commission approval, but that those specific Certificates do not exist. Commission Counsel, Thomas W. McCarthy also asked Mr. Cahill if he had submitted an application to transfer the Certificates to which Mr. Cahill responded that he did not believe anything had been submitted and was only recently in receipt of the letter of intent from Mr. Haggard to Mr. Wilson. Mr. McCarthy then requested a copy of the letter of intent of Mr. Cahill, which concluded the public comments.

Commissioner Hamilton then asked if there was any other new business to which Commissioner Satz related an earlier experience of being personally solicited by an unidentified transportation person in the

luggage area at Lambert Airport and wanted to inform the audience that enforcement will be conducting spot checks of the area to include hours during which the Airport Starters are not on duty.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

Executive Session Minutes

Pursuant to Missouri Statute 620.021, and having been authorized by a majority of the Metropolitan Saint Louis Taxicab Commission constituting a quorum, by roll-call vote at its regular meeting of December 10, 2008, an Executive Session was held to discuss legal, confidential or privileged matters under §610.021(1), RSMo 1988 Supp.; leasing, purchase or sale of real estate under §610.021(2); personnel actions under §610.021(3); discussions regarding negotiations with employee groups under §610.021(9); personnel records or applications under §610.021(13); or records under §610.021(14) which are otherwise protected from disclosure by law; or confidential or privileged communications with the District's auditor, including auditor work products under §X610.021(17).

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hamilton then declared that there was no further business before the Commission and entertained a motion to adjourn by Commissioner McNutt, seconded by Commissioner Satz and with a unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned.

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