

Metropolitan Taxicab Commission

July 28, 2011 @ 9:00 am
Commission Headquarters, 2628 Delmar, Hearings Room

Members present: Commissioners: Hamilton, McNutt, Reeves, Rudawsky, Tucci, Asfaw, Gidey

Members absent: Commissioners: Bennett, Satz

Legal Department: Thomas McCarthy

MINUTES

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Hamilton and the roll was called by Beth Dunham, Chairman Hamilton-present, Commissioner McNutt-here, Reeves-here, Rudawsky-present, Tucci-here, Asfaw-here, and Gidey-present. The next order of business was setting the date for the next meeting, which will be August 22, 2011 at 9:00a.m. Minutes were adopted pending correction to the July 15, 2011 hearing that Commissioner McNutt voted present regarding the CCN Application for the premium sedan. With previous roll call the minutes were adopted; Hamilton-yes, McNutt-yes, Reeves-yes, Rudawsky-yes, Tucci-yes, Asfaw-yes, Gidey-yes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Reeves discussed the financial balance sheet as of June 30, 2011. Page one shows continued strong cash position; page two shows revenue and expenditures for the first six months of the year, and page three indicates the bottom line of the net income. June was a negative \$7,346.00 which is ahead of the budget by \$10,771.00 we had budgeted a loss for the first few months of this year. We're tracking better than budget so far by \$27, 319.00. No questions asked and Chairman Hamilton moved on.

NEW BUSINESS

Amendment to VFHC Section 504.F

Director Klein explains after reviewing the Code, there was nothing in the code that prohibits the theft of property from a customer in the Code. Amendment 504.F has been modified to add theft of property from a customer into the Code.

504 Driver Appearance and Conduct.

- F. 1. Drivers shall display a professional demeanor, as defined in the Director's Rules or as set out below, at all times while on duty or in the presence of passengers or members of the public; failure to display a professional demeanor shall be a violation of this code as set out below.
 - a. Stealing or theft of any sort or physical assault of any sort whether upon a passenger or other person shall be a Class I violation and shall result in license revocation.
 - b. Verbal abuse, lewd, vulgar or obscene suggestions, threats or intimidation of any kind directed at a passenger shall be a Class II violation of this code and may result in suspension or revocation of license.
2. Public confrontations, as defined in the Director's Rules are prohibited and are a Class II violation of these rules and may result in suspension or loss of license. Public confrontation means heated or loud argument in a public place, obscene or combative

gestures in a public place, loud vulgar or obscene language in a public place, fighting, shoving and threats in a public place directed at anyone.

Chairman Hamilton made the motion to make the recommended changes in VFHC Section 504.F, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Rudawsky. Roll was called and approved by; Hamilton – I, McNutt – I, Reeves – I, Rudawsky - yes, Tucci – yes, Asfaw – yes, Gidey – yes. Change is approved.

Jason Diaz founder and CEO of Taxipass made a presentation bringing taxis into the 21st century with cashless payment options. Taxipass operates in thirty-seven different markets and offers smaller and mid-size fleets the same technology that bigger fleets have for secure cashless customer transactions. Taxipass saves time for the cab driver and the customer. Cab drivers do not have to manually imprint the card and call dispatch for approval, thus creating a more secure option for the customer. Taxipass offers cashless payment options that cab drivers accept by providing same day funding, and tips tend to increase by providing a percentage on the credit card machine for the customer to choose from, which benefits the taxi drivers and riders. Taxipass enables fleets of all sizes to utilize the latest technology and payment systems, automated cashiering, GPS & Integrated digital dispatch options, no chargeback's, 1099K reconciliation and accounting, and customer service to riders. Taxipass is proposing an option to charge the customer \$2.00 for the swipe of the secure transaction, but customers will still have cash options and manual imprinting credit card transactions. A sign would be posted in the cab providing customers with the different payment types. Taxipass already had a successful pilot program with ten units in the St. Louis area and is ready to expand to a few hundred more pending Commission approval. The Commission would regulate rate increases and have standards for Taxipass to follow to protect the consumer and cab companies. Cab companies will select the vendor of their choice; the Commission is going to approve standards that vendors have to follow. After the standards are met and approved, vendors can start getting certified and approaching cab companies to apply these secure cashless transactions to customers. The Director asked the Commission to go ahead and approve Taxipass as a vendor. Chairman Hamilton made the motion for the Director to start working on developing standards with Taxipass to implement this process forward, seconded by Commissioner Tucci with previous roll called the motion was approved.

Joanne representing ABC/Checker Cab Company asks if drivers have to tender a W-9 to Taxipass, Jason explains any driver reimbursed more than two-hundred times or paid more than 20,000 dollars will have to submit a 1099K.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director asked the Commission to put a one percent cap of the total number of taxicabs on Chapter 13 CCN's. Chapter 13 permits were created for disabled accessible vehicles. Chairman Hamilton clarified for the Commission and members of the audience, that Chapter 13 was created in light of the no growth policy to allow the Commission, under the eighteen month pilot program, to monitor the necessity for disabled accessible taxicabs. There are nine on call disabled accessible on-call taxicabs between two companies participating in the pilot program and one at the airport. The pilot program requires participating companies to submit weekly logs so the Commission can track data for the necessity of these vehicles. These rules have been posted on the website under the Director's rules. A specific amendment will be discussed at the next meeting, so the Commission can have specific wording on the one percent cap.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tom Curran was speaking on behalf of the County Executive Office to the Commission regarding license plate renewals only being done at the downtown DOR office. The Commission legal counsel is going to review the policy to see if taxi plate renewals, not new issuances, can be done at any DOR office.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

Pursuant to Missouri Statute 620.021, an Executive Session may be 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

With no further business before the Commission a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Hamilton, seconded by Commissioner McNutt and with no further discussion the meeting was adjourned; Hamilton – I, McNutt – I, Reeves – I, Rudawsky - yes, Tucci – yes, Asfaw – yes, Gidey – yes.

Minutes were interpreted from an audio recording of the meeting by Beth Dunham.