

PORTSMOUTH TAXI COMMISSION
Minutes of the September 16, 2002 meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sanford called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

II. ATTENDANCE

Officials and Ex-Officio's Present: Chair Sanford, Members Daggett, Feehley, Bresciano, Councilor Whitehouse, Barnaby, and Winsor.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – AUGUST 19, 2002

Councilor Whitehouse moved to accept the minutes of the August 19, 2002 Taxi Commission meeting. Frank Daggett seconded the motion, voted all in favor.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Complaint from Anthony Barrington

Chair Sanford asked Paul Ford about the complaint. Paul Ford distributed a letter sent to Mr. Barrington and explained the situation. Peter Bresciano moved to accept and place on file. Frank Daggett seconded the motion, voted all in favor.

Councilor Whitehouse commended Paul Ford for his timely response to take care of the complaint.

B. Discussion of Portsmouth Herald Article

The Commissioners discussed an article from the Portsmouth Herald along with an editorial published on Saturday, September 14, 2002. The Commission felt that the editorial did not accurately depict the conditions of the taxicabs. The Commission explained that the cabs are in excellent condition.

Peter Bresciano moved to send a letter to the Editor of the Portsmouth Herald questioning the specific safety issues in the Portsmouth taxicabs. Frank Daggett seconded the motion.

Paul Ford suggested that the letter be an open letter to the editor in order for the readers to find out the truth about the cabs.

Frank Daggett moved to amend the main motion to change the letter to an open letter to the editor for publication. Councilor Whitehouse seconded the motion.

Councilor Whitehouse was concerned that this letter may create a battle with articles in the newspaper.

Voted all in favor for the amendment. Voted all in favor for the main motion as amended.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Taxi Parking (not on agenda)

Frank Daggett wanted to follow up on his question from last month regarding the limousine parking signs on Market Street. Councilor Whitehouse updated the Commission on the ordinance passed at the last Council meeting. He noted that taxicabs could park in the limousine parking areas as well.

The Commission discussed the issue of visibility with the taxi stand on Ladd Street. Frank Daggett recommended that Traffic and Safety Chair Alex Hanson attend our next meeting to discuss a change in stand location. The Commission agreed to send Chair Hanson a letter requesting the Committee to reconsider moving the taxi stand.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Bald Eagle Medallions (not on agenda)

Chair Sanford advised the Commissioners that Paul Poulin passed on over the weekend. City Clerk Barnaby explained that she would send out a letter today requesting the medallions to be returned the office. She explained the ordinance and that if the cabs are operating that there is an insurance liability issue.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Peter Bresciano moved to adjourn at 9:37 a.m. Frank Daggett seconded the motion.

Minutes taken and typed by:

B. Christopher Maxwell, Deputy City Clerk