

**PORTSMOUTH TAXI COMMISSION**  
Minutes of the March 17, 2003 meeting

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Sanford called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

**II. ATTENDANCE**

Officials Present: Chair Sanford, Members Daggett, Whitehouse, Bresciano; Ex-Officio's Winsor, Barnaby, and Magnant (9:22 a.m.); John Burke, Parking and Transportation Director.

**III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 16, 2002**

Councilor Whitehouse moved to accept the minutes of the December 16, 2002 Taxi Commission meeting. Frank Daggett seconded the motion, voted all in favor.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Complaint from Matt Govini, Owner, Breaking New Grounds

Matt Govini, the owner of Breaking New Grounds, voiced his concerns regarding the new taxi stand parking in front of his store on Market Street. He explained that all parking spots on Market Street are valuable, as it is difficult to find convenient parking. He explained that he is not just speaking for his store, but the others on Market Street as well. He said that the taxi's are not using the designed areas.

Parking and Transportation Director John Burke explained the trial basis of the new taxi stand. He explained the background of the Parking Committee vote. He suggested that he complete a thorough study of the usage for a report back to the Parking Committee. The Parking Committee will be re-visiting this issue again in late May.

Peter Bresciano suggested that the taxi stand could have designated hours to allow parking for customers in the morning and taxi use in the evenings.

Frank Daggett felt that the taxi stand should remain for the trial period and the issue should be re-addressed in June.

Paul Ford explained that a taxi introduces visitors to Portsmouth and that it could be an excellent partnership for his business.

The Commission agreed that the survey results from John Burke would be reviewed in June and the issue would be on the agenda for discussion at that time.

## 2. Clean Taxi Cabs

Frank Daggett introduced the topic of clean taxicabs as he requested this item on the agenda for discussion. Frank explained while inspecting taxi's, there was hazardous garbage in one of the inspected taxicabs. He provided details of the garage being more than paper but an aerosol can and empty antifreeze bottles. He believes that this could be a serious fire hazard.

Lt. Winsor explained that within the ordinance it states that the taxicabs must be kept clean. He did note that the taxi in question might have had the hazardous debris because the owner may have been rushing to make the appointment for inspection.

Peter Bresciano expressed his concern that the Commission cannot start running the taxi businesses. He feels that the ordinance needs to be more specific to successfully regulate safety issues.

Councilor Whitehouse feels that further defining the ordinance is not necessary and that regulating through inspections is adequate.

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

### 1. Taxi Inspection Report of February 24, 2003 from Lt. Winsor

Lt. Winsor reviewed the inspection report. He noted that Sunshine Taxi returned their medallions and did not produce vehicles. Lt. Winsor believes it is a pattern that should cease.

Clerk Barnaby explained the ordinance regarding the medallion issuance procedure. She agreed with Lt. Winsor that they are circumventing the ordinance and its purpose.

Councilor Whitehouse moved to refer this matter to the City Attorney for a ruling and report back. Frank Daggett seconded the motion, voted all in favor. Lt. Winsor said he would provide the City Attorney with a memorandum explaining the issue.

## **VI. MISCELLANEOUS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### 1. Pioneer Taxi Operation

Chair Sanford expressed her concern that Lisa is not operating Pioneer Taxi. Clerk Barnaby explained that she is properly licensed and there is nothing to worry about.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Peter Bresciano moved to adjourn at 9:58 a.m. Frank Daggett seconded the motion, voted all in favor.

Minutes taken and typed by: B. Christopher Maxwell, Deputy City Clerk