

TAXI COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes of the February 17, 2004 meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sanford called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

II. ATTENDANCE

Chair Sanford, Members Daggett, Whitehouse, Bresciano, Feehley, City Attorney Sullivan, and Sgt. Case.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 20, 2004

Councilor Whitehouse moved to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2004 Taxi Commission Meeting. Frank Daggett seconded the motion, voted all in favor.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1) Taxi Medallion Request from Doug's Taxi (not on agenda)

Frank Daggett read a letter from Doug's Taxi requesting an extension on his request for an additional taxi medallion. The extension is due to mechanical problems with the vehicle.

Frank Daggett moved to accept the request from Doug's Taxi as submitted. Councilor Whitehouse seconded the motion, voted all in favor.

2) Taxi Rate Increase Petition from Taxi Owners

Frank Daggett read a petition from the taxi owners requesting an increase in taxi rates. Frank Daggett moved to bring this item for discussion. Councilor Whitehouse seconded the motion.

City Attorney Sullivan explained that the Taxi Commission couldn't increase taxi rates, as it is based on the vote of the City Council. He explained the procedure for submitting a recommended amendment to the ordinance.

Councilor Whitehouse polled the Taxi Commissioners on the increase.

Frank Daggett questioned the average taxi fare. James Feehley explained the average fair is a couple of miles.

Chair Sanford said that the increase would hurt the senior citizens using the cabs. Peter Bresciano disagreed and said that various patrons use the cabs. He explained that if an increase was not made now then an increase later would be much higher.

Peter Bresciano moved to accept the increase in the taxi fares and direct the City Attorney to draft the amended ordinance. No second to the motion. Councilor Whitehouse disagreed with the process and suggested that this item be brought before the City Council for direction to the City Attorney.

Frank Daggett moved to recommend to the City Council at the next meeting that the rate be increased as stated in the letter from \$.20 to \$.25 per 1/8 of a mile. Councilor Whitehouse seconded the motion, voted all in favor.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1) New Year's Eve Events from Blue Star Taxi (information for the records)

James Feehley explained that Blue Star Taxi would have an alternate location next year.

Frank Daggett moved to accept this letter into the record. Councilor Whitehouse seconded the motion.

Peter Bresciano said that this is why he is upset when the Taxi Commission involves themselves in the operation of the cab companies. Frank Daggett responded that the Taxi Commission has an obligation to ask questions in the interest of the public.

Councilor Whitehouse explained other problem areas such as lower State Street.

Motion passed, voted all in favor.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Peter Bresciano moved to adjourn at 9:33 p.m. Councilor Whitehouse seconded the motion, voted all in favor.

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