

TAXI COMMISSION MEETING  
Minutes of the September 17, 2007 meeting

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Frank Daggett called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

**II. ATTENDANCE**

Present: Members: Chair Frank Daggett; Councilor Harold Whitehouse, Commissioners, James Feehley, Peter Bresciano and Commissioner Turner, and Deputy City Clerk Dianne M. Kirby

Absent: Lieutenant Rodney McQuate

**III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 23, 2007**

Councilor Whitehouse moved to approve and accept the May 21, 2007 minutes of the Taxi Commission. Seconded by Commissioner Feehley and voted.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Upcoming Election

Chair Daggett stated that he has been a member of the Commission for over ten years and will be informing the Council that he will not be requesting permission to retain his position on the Commission. He stated that he originally signed up for the Commission in order to give back something to the community he grew up in. He stated that he has been asking around for someone willing to take his place on the Commission and requested that other Commissioners do the same.

Councilor Whitehouse stated that he would not be running for a Council position and that the new Mayor will select a Councilor who will be appointed to the Commission

2. Winter Vehicle Inspections

Chair Daggett stated that he wanted to discuss the winter vehicle inspections, but without Lieutenant McQuate at the meeting this would have to be tabled. He stated that he still thinks that our Taxi Cabs should be inspected every six months. He stated that our cabs are the safest cabs in the area and he wants to keep them that way. He stated that he would contact Lieutenant McQuate and discuss the inspections with him.

Taxi Owner Alan Ladd stated that he has a transfer cab packet complete and he has left messages with Lieutenant McQuate to see if he is going to inspect the vehicle prior to the medallion being issued or if he is going to go by the State Inspection like he did last time, but has not received a call back.

Commissioner Turner asked if the taxi cabs are inspected by the State and our Police Department. Commissioner Feehley stated that our inspection is more intense.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

1. July Renewals/Inspection

Chair Daggett asked if there were any problems with the July renewals/inspections. Taxi Owners stated that there were no problems.

2. Taxi Parking Space Issue

Councilor Whitehouse read the memo sent to all Taxi Commissioners and Taxi Owners which stated the following:

Frank Daggett, Chair, Taxi Commission has received word from Jon Frederick, Parking Manager that the following taxi parking changes have been implemented:

1. The Taxi stand on High Street has been deleted.

2. The Taxi stand on Pleasant Street between State Street and Market Square has been approved and is now available.

3. The parking space on Bow Street by the fence on Ceres Street has been approved as a mixed use space and is now a 15 minutes public parking space by day and a Taxi stand from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

Taxi owner Spadafora stated that most of the time the Hanover Street taxi stand and the Pleasant Street taxi stand are occupied by private citizens.

Commissioner Bresciano stated that we have two walking patrolman downtown and they should be monitoring this.

Commissioner Feehley stated that a sign should be put up that states Taxi Stand Only Violators will be towed. Commissioner Bresciano asked if the Parking Committee could approve this sign or would it need to go through the Council. Commissioner Bresciano moved that a memo be sent to Parking Manager Frederick requesting that the Parking Committee authorize a sign be installed as soon as possible at Hanover and Pleasant Streets stating that the spaces are for Taxi Parking only and Violators will be towed. Seconded by Commissioner Feehley and voted.

**V. MISCELLANEOUS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Chair Daggett stated that he will contact Lieutenant McQuate to discuss cab inspections, Sunshine Taxi's transfer cab inspection and the walking patrol watching the taxi stands for private citizen parking.

Commissioner Bresciano stated that Lieutenant McQuate should also have the Police on the watch for A-1 taxi operating without a license.

Commissioner Turner asked if there has been any more word on Kittery Cab. Chair Daggett stated that that has been turned over to Police Department and Lieutenant McQuate. He further stated that he has heard that Kittery Cab has been issued 2/3 summons.

Councilor Whitehouse read an article about New York changing their cars over to Hybrid cars. He requested to know if there are any grants available for taxi companies to get some assistance. Commissioner Turner stated that the Sustainability Committee might be able to research this issue. Councilor Whitehouse stated that the City Manager might also have some information about this issue. Commissioner Turner stated that Coast is looking into this issue and she will check with Brad Post to see if he has any information they can use.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:30 a.m., Commissioner Bresciano moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Whitehouse and voted.

Respectfully submitted by:

Dianne M. Kirby, Deputy City Clerk