

TAXI COMMISSION MEETING
Minutes of the April 21, 2008 meeting

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 Eric Spear, Commissioner James Feehley, Lieutenant Rodney McQuate and Deputy City Clerk Dianne M. Kirby

Absent: Commissioner Peter Bresciano

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 19, 2008

Commissioner Feehley moved to approve and accept the February 19, 2008 minutes of the Taxi Commission. Seconded by Lieutenant McQuate and voted.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Market Street Down Town Improvement (Dave Defosses – Public Works)

Dave Defosses, Public Works discussed the downtown city project whereby the city was widening the sidewalks and installing pay as you go parking meters. He informed the Commission that this would require that the present taxi space be moved to the other side of the street. Chair Daggett stated that this can not be done due to safety of the passengers exiting into traffic. Dave Defosses stated that the only other option would be to move the police to the other side of the street and give the taxi the present police space. Councilor Spear stated that it was imperative for safety that individuals get in and out of the cabs consistent with other stops. Chair Daggett stated that passengers get accustom to entering and exiting the vehicle in a certain way and changing that would be dangerous. He stated that it was the Council that stated that they do not want passengers exiting into traffic. He further stated that the widening of the sidewalk will make the street narrower and promote a greater safety situation. Taxi Owner Ed Spadafora stated that the driver's should be aware and instruct their passengers to exit on the sidewalk side of the vehicle. Commissioner Feehley stated that we would need to put this before the Council for approval. He stated that the police space would be better. Chair Daggett stated that he would prefer the present police space for safety of the passengers. Lieutenant McQuate move to send a memo to Public Works requesting that the taxi stand be moved to the present police space. Seconded by Councilor Spear and voted.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1-2. Taxi Fare Increase/Vehicle Inspection

Chair Daggett stated that the changes to the ordinance concerning taxi fare increase and vehicle inspection are scheduled for third and final reading at tonight's City Council meeting. He requested if the taxi owners would have a problem changing their meters. Commissioner Feehley stated that they would have to change the marking on the vehicles as well as change the meters. Taxi Owner, Alan Ladd stated that it would take a few days to calibrate the meters. Lieutenant McQuate stated that if it is passed tonight it is effective tonight. Taxi Owner Alan Ladd stated that it would be best to make the changes to begin on May 1, 2008 for all cabs. He requested if he does the inspection of the meters for the May 1, 2008 change, would he have to re-inspect all the meters on June 1, 2008 for the yearly re-licensing. Lieutenant McQuate stated that the May 1, 2008 inspection would hold for the June 1, 2008 re-licensing.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous/unfinished business.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:30 a.m., Chair Daggett moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Feehley and voted.

Respectfully submitted by:

Dianne M. Kirby, Deputy City Clerk