

TAXI COMMISSION MEETING
Minutes of the May 19, 2008 meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ATTENDANCE

Present: Members: Chair Frank Daggett; Councilor Eric Spear, Commissioner James Feehley and Peter Bresciano. Lieutenant Rodney McQuate and Deputy City Clerk Dianne M. Kirby

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 21, 2008

Commissioner Feehley moved to approve and accept the April 21, 2008 minutes of the Taxi Commission. Seconded by Councilor Spear and voted.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Taxi Medallion and Operator Renewals

Deputy City Clerk Kirby stated that she has the renewal packets for all Taxi Operator licenses and Medallions. She further stated that she would like all the applications back by June 9, 2008 in order to give Lieutenant McQuate adequate time to review and approve them before June 30th.

2. Vehicle Inspection for July Renewals

Chair Daggett asked Lieutenant McQuate how he was going to set up the inspection for the renewal of medallions. Lieutenant McQuate stated that he would contact Public Works for a time to use their garage and contact the owners with the date and time. Taxi Owner Alan Ladd stated that he was going to change out one of his older vehicles for a new one. He asked if he needed to do this prior to the inspection. Lieutenant McQuate stated that it would be a transfer of a vehicle and would be treated as such with it being inspected at the next scheduled inspection.

3. PediCabs (not on the agenda)

Chair Daggett stated that he read a flyer about a PediCab that is starting in Portsmouth and wondered if this would hurt our taxi trade. Lieutenant McQuate stated that it has not been approved by the City Council.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Meter and Cab Marking updates due to Taxi Fair Increase

Chair Daggett stated that he talked to meter calibrator Alan Ladd and Mr. Ladd stated that everything went well. Meter Calibrator Alan Ladd stated that he signed, sealed and certified the meters, but he does not have anything to do with the cab markings. Commissioner Feehley stated that his were done the day of the change. Commissioner Bresciano stated that it was to the owner's benefit to change the lettering on their vehicles as the customer could demand to pay what is printed and not what the meter says.

2. Market Street Down Town Improvement

Chair Daggett stated that he received a telephone call from Attorney Sullivan concerning our request to occupy the current police parking stand on Market Street. He stated that he spoke to Councilor Spear and he requested that Councilor Spear address this matter. Councilor Spear stated that our recommendation was brought up to the City Council and the council referred it to the Traffic and Safety Committee. He stated that the Traffic and Safety Committee reviewed our request and moved the taxi stand to the left side anyway. Councilor Spear stated that the Traffic and Safety Committee said that the move was due to the pay and display metering and the need to keep all parking on that side of the street for pay and display parking. He further stated that by law changes approved by Traffic and Safety must be reviewed every year. He requested that taxi owner's have their drivers document every unsafe incident so the Commission will have this evidence when it comes up for review next year. Lieutenant McQuate stated that the taxi owner's should report each incident at each meeting in order to have it recorded in the minutes. Chair Daggett asked Deputy City Clerk Kirby to make a note to bring this item back before the commission three months prior to the one year review.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VII. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:15 a.m., Chair Daggett moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Spear and voted.

Respectfully submitted by:

Dianne M. Kirby, Deputy City Clerk