

TAXI COMMISSION MEETING
Minutes of the June 21, 2010 meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Frank Daggett called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

II. ATTENDANCE

Present: Members: Chair Frank Daggett; Commissioner James Feehley, Councilor Robert Lister, Captain Michael Schwartz, and Deputy City Clerk Dianne M. Kirby

Absent: Commissioners Peter Bresciano and Joel Look

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM MAY 17, 2010

Councilor Lister moved to approve and accept the minutes of the May 17, 2010, Taxi Commission meeting. Seconded by Captain Schwartz and voted.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Operators Licenses to be Displayed

Chair Daggett stated two Portsmouth Police Officers contacted Deputy City Clerk Kirby about taxi operators having the wrong taxi license in the cabs they were operating and they weren't being displayed. Chair Daggett read the memo he sent to Checker Cab which stated:

“ With reference to the incident on the weekend of June 5th 2010, Frank Daggett, Chair of the Taxi Commission has asked me to instruct your drivers that it is imperative that their taxi drivers license be in their cab, posted in a conspicuous place where it may be seen by any passenger riding in their cab at all times.

I have also been notified by the Portsmouth Police Department that these licenses cannot be laminated. When a driver is pulled over, the Police Department uses the back of the driver's taxi license to post any infractions and therefore, the license cannot be laminated. With the issue of the new licenses in June, please insure you drivers do not laminate their licenses. Thank you. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.”

He stated it is very important to display these licenses for the public. Stephen Gerrato, Rockingham Livery stated the picture falls off without lamination. Alan Ladd, Sunshine Taxi asked if they could be placed in a clear sleeve. Chair Daggett said as long as they are not laminated and can be removed from the sleeve should a police officer need to he sees no problem. Chair Daggett stated having the wrong license posted in a cab could cause problems should a passenger write a complaint and use the name of the posted license and not the actual driver.

2. June Vehicle Inspections

Captain Schwartz stated that Lieutenant McQuate and two other officers are certified to perform inspections. He said we just have to get the city barn and the officer's schedules together. He stated the inspection should be this week. Alan Ladd, Sunshine Taxi asked if they would be notified. Captain Schwartz said usually they are notified the day before. Chair Daggett stated the cabs we have operating within Portsmouth are in good condition and we want to keep them that way. Alan Ladd, Sunshine Taxi asked if the inspection would be in June. Chair Daggett stated it should be.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Renewal of Taxi Licenses and Medallions in July

Deputy City Clerk Kirby reminded everyone she needed to receive all taxi medallions and driver's licenses to be renewed in June and that all 2009/2010 medallions and licenses expired on July 1, 2010.

2. Update of City Taxi Ordinance (not on the agenda)

Chair Daggett stated the Ordinance Committee had a meeting on the ordinance update. He said there is a student attorney working in the legal department who will be reviewing our changes to the ordinance to insure any change made does not counteract another portion of the ordinance. He stated the ordinance changes will still have to go before the City Council for three readings – public meeting, public hearing and vote.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Updated E-mail Addresses/Phone Numbers

Chair Daggett stated if anyone has a change of address, e-mail address or telephone number to please update their information with Deputy City Clerk Kirby as she is the Taxi Commission Secretary and needs this information kept current.

Stephen Gerrato stated he followed Dixie Cab and they picked up and dropped off a passenger in Portsmouth. Deputy City Clerk Kirby stated the owner of Dixie Cab contacted her and the ordinance rules were explained to her. She stated she did not know she could not do that and would not do it again. Chair Daggett said she was suppose to have a letter of intent her today. Deputy City Clerk stated she was suppose to be here today and didn't know why she was not.

Jose Nunez, NH Checker Cab said they were told they are not allowed to park at the bus stop in Market Square and asked if this was correct. Captain Schwartz stated this is true, Taxi cabs are not allowed to park in the bus stands. Alan Ladd, Sunshine Taxi stated they use to be able to park in the bus stands when they were not being used by the buses. Captain Schwartz said now that there are cab stands for the cabs to use they are no longer allowed to use the bus stops. Stephen Gerrato, Rockingham Livery said there are only four cab stands and seventeen cabs. Commissioner Feehley stated about the only place the Parking Committee will give us anymore cab stands would be in the C&J parking lot. Stephen Gerrato, Rockingham Livery said we actually lost a cab stand across from Fat Belly's when they did all that construction. Chair Daggett stated the one on Bow Street is a taxi stand after a certain time. Capt Schwartz said it is a loading zone, but from 7pm to 7am it is a taxi stand.

Jose Nunez, NH Checker Cab asked if the Commission can do anything about parking at the bus stop because of the number of cabs in town. Capt Schwartz said that would have to go through the Parking and Traffic and Safety Committees. Chair Daggett said the cab companies need to go through their liaison, Commissioner Feehley. Commissioner Feehley said Parking and Traffic and Safety are not willing to give us any spaces. Jose Nunez, NH Checker Cab said using the bus stops wouldn't be another space in the City. He said the buses stop running at a certain time at night making this a wide open space for us to sit. Commissioner Feehley said they would probably say the drivers would get use to it and be using it when the buses are running. Councilor Lister asked what time do the buses run until. Jose Nunez, NH Checker Cab said 9 o'clock. Chair Daggett said COAST is going to start running until 11:15 on the 21st for the summer months.

Councilor Lister asked if business picks up any when the tall ships are in. Jose Nunez, NH Checker Cab stated not too much. Stephen Gerrato, Rockingham Livery said it was just the weather that weekend. He said we have had a busy weekend every weekend since. Chair Daggett said when the tall ships are in; people use the Shuttle bus from the Newington Mall or the other shuttle bus.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:20 a.m. Commissioner Lister moved to adjourn. Seconded by Captain Schwartz and voted.

Respectfully submitted by:

Dianne M. Kirby, Deputy City Clerk