

TAXI COMMISSION MEETING
Minutes of the September 17, 2012 meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bresciano called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

II. ATTENDANCE

Present: Members: Commissioners Peter Bresciano, Aaron Lawson and Paul Ford, Lieutenant Mark Newport and Deputy City Clerk Dianne M. Kirby

Absent: Councilor Brad Lown, Commissioner James Feehley

Deputy City Clerk Kirby stated she received a telephone call from Commissioner Feehley stated he was going to have to resign the Commission due to health reasons.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 20, 2012

Commissioner Lawson moved to approve and accept the minutes of the August 20, 2012, Taxi Commission meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Ford.

Commissioner Lawson requested if the minutes taken during the private session should be included in the minutes. Chair Bresciano stated he questioned that as well. He requested Deputy City Clerk Kirby check with City Attorney Sullivan for guidance.

Chair Bresciano stated on page 4, in the third line of the motion, it states "suspension to run consecutively", he stated it should say "suspension to run concurrently". Lieutenant Newport stated on page 4, section 3, line 5, it says "Captain Schultz" and it should stated "Captain Schwartz".

Deputy City Clerk Kirby stated she would make the corrections and send the Commission a corrected copy.

Motion passed as amended.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Verbal Complaint against Rockingham Livery (not on the Agenda)

Chair Bresciano stated he has received a verbal complaint against Rockingham Livery and requested a suspension of the rules to add it to the agenda under New Business.

Commissioner Ford moved to suspend the rules to add an item under new business. Seconded by Commissioner Lawson and voted.

Chair Bresciano stated a letter was sent to Rockingham Livery per recommendation of City Attorney Sullivan wherein a verbal complaint was made against Rockingham Livery stating that their insurance coverage was for Livery service and not Taxi service. He stated the letter requested Mr. Gerrato supply a copy of his complete policy within 15 days or September 28, 2012 for review. Lieutenant Newport stated it sounds like it is a moot point as long as he has insurance. Chair Bresciano stated he was not sure if there was a difference in the coverage between a livery and taxi policy. Commissioner Ford stated his company has both livery and taxi vehicles and his insurance is the same.

Commissioner Ford moved to place the complaint on file. Seconded by Commissioner Lawson.

Alan Ladd, Sunshine Taxi stated at one time he had a vehicle he used for Livery service and the insurance on the livery vehicle was about half as much as his taxi insurance. Chair Bresciano stated he feels that is the point of the complaint. Commissioner Ford asked Chair Bresciano if he could look at the insurance certificate. Ed Heath, Anchor Taxi stated if the Insurance Company does not insure taxis, than will the liability be covered or not. Commissioner Ford stated that's a good question. He said he feels it should be put on the agenda for next month.

Commissioner Ford withdrew his motion and Commissioner Lawson his second.

Commissioner Ford moved to have the Deputy City Clerk contact GEICO Insurance to ensure this insurance covers Rockingham Livery's taxi service in accordance with the ordinance in the case of an accident. Seconded by Commissioner Lawson and voted.

Chair Bresciano requested this item be placed on the agenda for a report back at the next meeting.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Report Back on Request to Investigate Legitimate Business Employment – Stephen Gerrato, Rockingham Livery

Chair Bresciano stated this report back was completed at the last meeting.

2. Request to investigate Legitimate Business Employment – Stephen Gerrato, Rockingham Livery

Chair Bresciano stated this issue was completed last meeting with the Legal Office's report back. He stated he would entertain a motion on the disposition n of the documentation received.

Commissioner Ford moved to place the documents on file. Seconded by Aaron Lawson and voted.

3. Annie's Taxi Address Update (not on the agenda)

Chair Bresciano stated Deputy City Clerk Kirby has sent Ms. McGuire numerous letters requesting she update her driver's license to the address where she actually resides. Deputy City Clerk Kirby stated as of this date, she has not shown proof of her updated license. Lieutenant Newport stated Ms. McGuire did not show up to the meeting, so he suggests the Commission suspend her taxi license, but allow her to keep her medallion. Chair Bresciano stated she can appeal the suspension at the next meeting if she so desires.

Lieutenant Newport moved to suspend her taxi license until she show proof that she has changed her address on her license with the State to correspond with her current address. Seconded by Commissioner Lawson and voted.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Police Liaison Report

Lieutenant Newport stated on August 11, 2012 a resident stated a Portsmouth Taxi cab was parked in her parking space. Police were dispatched, but the taxi was gone.

Lieutenant Newport stated a call came in from Anchor Taxi that a car was parked in the taxi stand. Police were dispatched and the vehicle was tagged.

Lieutenant Newport stated on September 7, 2012, Anchor Taxi reported that Mr. Thomas Sandford was seen driving a taxi. Mr. Sandford's license suspension had been reinstated on September 3, 2012.

Lieutenant Newport stated there was another report of a vehicle parked in the taxi stand on Bow Street. Police were dispatched, but the vehicle was gone.

2. Taxi Dome Lights

Lieutenant Newport requested how the dome lights operate on a vehicle. He asked if the dome light is on means they are for hire and if the dome light is off they have a fare. He stated this questions was asked of him by one of his officers due to the officer seeing numerous people jumping out into the street hailing a cab and if there was a sign that the vehicle was already hired it might eliminate some of this. Commissioner Ford stated his dome lights are on at all times. Ed Heath, Anchor Taxi stated he has two small lights on the side of his dome light that he can switch on when they are for hire and off when they have a fare. Lieutenant Newport stated the problem his police are seeing is that people are jumping out in front of a taxi because they don't know if they have a fare or not. He said he was just wondering if there was a system in effect that he did not know. Commissioner Ford said he has very basic domes that are just lit all the time. He said the domes Mr. Heath has are attached to the meter. Commissioner Ford said if the Commission feels it would be a good thing to regulate that, we can take it up at a future meeting. Lieutenant Newport said if the Commission was going to take it up, the bet system would be to go with a system like Anchor Taxi.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:44 a.m. Councilor Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Lawson and voted.

Respectfully submitted by:

Dianne M. Kirby

Dianne M. Kirby, Deputy City Clerk