

TAXI COMMISSION MEETING
Minutes of the September 16, 2013 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 Michael Barker, John Palreiro, Councilor Brad Lown, Lieutenant Mark Newport, City Attorney Robert Sullivan and Deputy City Clerk Dianne M. Kirby

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 19, 2013 AND EMERGENCY MEETING FROM AUGUST 23, 2013

Councilor Lown moved to approve and accept the minutes of the August 19, 2013 meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Barker.

Lieutenant Newport stated on page four (4), seventh (7th) paragraph, fourth (4th) sentence from the bottom where it states ...issue is that of the 24 medallions out all 24 medallions... should say ...issue is that of the 24 medallions out not all 24 medallions...

Motion passed as corrected.

Councilor Lown moved to approve and accept the minutes of the August 23, 2013 Emergency meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Barker and voted.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Request to Operate a Taxi Business in Portsmouth – Downtown Taxi, LLC
Chair Bresciano stated we have an application for two medallions for Downtown Taxi LLC. Councilor Lown stated the Council is in the process of increasing the number of medallion, he asked how many are available right now. Deputy City Clerk Kirby stated there are no medallions available. Councilor Lown asked what we normally do if there are none available. Chair Bresciano stated we can table it until medallions are available, and then bring the letters back up for approval. City Attorney Sullivan stated he agrees that you cannot grant a medallion if one doesn't exist. He further agrees these items should be postponed until medallions become available.

Councilor Lown asked if there was a mechanism in place to issue/approve medallions when there are more applicants than there are medallions. City Attorney Sullivan stated there presently is not. He stated the Commission may want to set some type of policy for this issue. Councilor Lown stated if all companies are qualified, why not set up some type of lottery system such as they do for the docks.

Chair Bresciano said what happens if we have a company that comes in and applies for a medallion and we don't have any and then six months later a medallion becomes available and another company comes in requesting a medallion. He said if we have a lottery drawing the guy that just submitted his application could get the medallion over the guy that has waited for six months. He stated he doesn't feel this would be fair. Commissioner Palreiro stated he felt it should go by date of application. City Attorney Sullivan stated the Commission has to make this decision. He said the problem with strictly date of application is someone could come in and request the next six medallions and that would obviously be unfair.

Councilor Lown moved to table items 1, 2, and 3 of this agenda until a date when medallions become available. Seconded by Commissioner Barker and voted.

2. Request to Operate a Taxi Business in Portsmouth – Academy Taxi

Councilor Lown moved to table items 1, 2, and 3 of this agenda until a date when medallions become available. Seconded by Commissioner Barker and voted.

3. Application for Taxi Medallion – Great Bay Taxi, L.L.C.

Councilor Lown moved to table items 1, 2, and 3 of this agenda until a date when medallions become available. Seconded by Commissioner Barker and voted.

4. Request to Purchase Annie's Taxi

Deputy City Clerk Kirby stated Andrew Babish and Nicole Wolfe have been working with Melissa McGuire and have made arrangements to buy the company. She said they are requesting permission to operation Annie's Taxi as new owner's of the company. Councilor Lown asked if either Mr. Babish or Ms. Wolfe were present. Deputy City Clerk Kirby stated she sent them a letter requesting they attend. Councilor Lown stated he would like to be able to speak with Mr. Babish or Ms. Wolfe prior to voting on this issue. Chair Bresciano stated he would also like to have them available in case the Commission has any questions.

Councilor Lown moved to table this matter until a meeting when Mr. Babish and/or Ms. Wolfe are present. Seconded by Commissioner Lawson and voted.

5. Complaint against John P. Palreiro

Chair Bresciano stated the Commission received a letter from a female employee at Rockingham Livery. He asked if anyone knows if the female employee is still working for Rockingham Livery. Mr. Gerrato, Rockingham Livery stated the female in question is still employed by Rockingham Livery. Lieutenant Newport stated the complaint is dated June 21, 2013. He asked if Mr. Palreiro was working for Rockingham Livery at the time of this incident. Mr. Gerrato stated he was. Lieutenant Newport stated he does not understand why this is being brought before the Commission as he sees this as an employer/employee issue. City Attorney Sullivan stated the issue looks to him that in June an employee reported to Mr. Gerrato that Mr. Palreiro made a comment about the size of her breasts and Mr. Gerrato has now forwarded the complaint to the Commission. City Attorney Sullivan said he assumes to

see if the Commission wishes to take any action at all with regard to the incident. He said like the Council, any correspondence that comes to the Commission, the Commission has to determine what, if anything, they are going to do with it. Commissioner Palreiro stated the complaint was from a new employee. He said she came to him after being on shift for an hour and said she made \$70.00 in tips in an hour. Commissioner Palreiro stated he said to her that if he had breasts he'd make that kind of money too. He stated that is all he said. He admits that he made that statement and only that statement. Commissioner Palreiro stated when Mr. Gerrato brought this to his attention he told Mr. Gerrato this was untrue and that the employees was only saying this to get his hours as the tips are better on the night shift.

Councilor Lown stated he would move to place the letter on file. He said this employee has a remedy through the Human Rights Commission or the Superior Court for harassment by a co-worker. He said he doesn't think the Commission has jurisdiction. Chair Bresciano asked if there had been some kind of punishment for this incident. Commissioner Palreiro stated he was terminated.

Commissioner Barker moved to place the letter on file. Seconded by Councilor Lown. Commissioner Palreiro abstained. Motion passed.

6. Letter of Resignation – Commissioner Aaron Lawson

Commissioner Lawson stated he will be moving to Kittery at the end of the month and therefore, will not be eligible to serve on the Commission after this meeting.

Councilor Lown moved to approve with regret the application for resignation of Commissioner Lawson. Seconded by Commissioner Barker and voted.

Chair Bresciano asked Deputy City Clerk Kirby to prepare a Letter of Appreciation to Commissioner Lawson. Deputy City Clerk Kirby stated she would.

Motion passed.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Report Back on the Complaint against Rockingham Livery and Portsmouth Taxi

Chair Bresciano stated taxi Medallion #13 was turned in during the vehicle inspection in April and an administrative error was made. Chair Bresciano extended an apologized to Mr. Gerrato. City Attorney stated this error resulted in there being two Medallion #13's on the road. He stated this can be remedied by asking Great Bay Taxi to turn in his set of Medallion #13 and be reissued Medallion #21. Commissioner Palreiro stated he would turn the medallions in upon completion of the meeting.

Councilor Lown moved to replace the second set of Medallion #13 with Medallion #21. Seconded by Commissioner Barker and voted.

City Attorney Sullivan stated at the August 19, 2013 Taxi Commission meeting the Legal Department was asked to conduct an inquiry into whether or not Rockingham Livery and/or Portsmouth Taxi had been withholding issued taxi medallions despite the fact that the medallions had not been on cars actively engaged in the taxi business for more than thirty (30) days as required by the ordinance.

Rockingham Taxi

City Attorney Sullivan stated on September 10, 2013, Mr. Gerrato appeared in the City's Legal Department. In attendance were, Lieutenant Mark Newport, Deputy City Clerk Dianne Kirby, Division Director of Parking Mark Nelson and himself. He said Mr. Gerrato was placed under oath and adamantly denied ever having held a medallion which was not actively used on a vehicle in the taxi business for a period longer than thirty (30) days.

Portsmouth Taxi

City Attorney Sullivan stated Mr. Schneider was placed under oath. He stated Mr. Schneider freely admitted that he had a medallion for more than 30 days without it being on an active taxi for well over the 30 days.

City Attorney Sullivan stated the Commission has some options to deal with the apparent violation of the ordinance. He said the options to handle this issue appear to be:

1. Request the Police Department consider filing a criminal complaint.
2. The City ordinance allows for a fine of up to \$300.00.
3. The Commission can authorize a suspension or revocation of any license or medallion that Mr. Schneider holds.

He stated prior to any action this item should be placed on the next agenda and a hearing held in order to give Mr. Schneider the opportunity to be heard by the Commission prior to a suspension or revocation. He said Mr. Schneider indicated that he was not aware of the 30 day requirement and he thought his conduct was common in the taxi industry in the City.

4. The Commission can take no action.

Councilor Lown moved to take no action. Seconded by Commissioner Lawson.

Councilor Lown said the delay was about 60 days and there was a plausible explanation of it. He said he doesn't believe there was any attempt to withhold the medallion for any reason that would profit him. City Attorney Sullivan stated he has never met anyone more candid and frank than Mr. Schneider. He said Mr. Schneider made no effort to invent any excuse and was very direct, very forth coming.

Commissioner Lawson stated there should be something done. He said he feels the ordinance should be upheld in some form of discipline. Commissioner Palreiro suggested issuing a fine. Commissioner Barker said we have an issue in the City. He said there are not enough taxis on the road during certain hours. He said there are companies that want to help

alleviate that problem and they can't because we don't have any available medallions, and we have one cab owner who is holding a medallion, whether intentional or not. He said ignorance of the law is no excuse for breaking the law. He said the Commission needs to take a stand and say this is not acceptable and set a precedent.

Chair Bresciano stated this vehicle was off the road for 72 days. He stated another company could have been on the road for 72 days had he turned in the medallion as the ordinance directs. He said he will not vote to take no action. He stated every owner get a copy of the ordinance and at least the owner should read and know what the rules are. He said we can't let an ordinance violation go by the wayside. He stated he would probably look at a minimum of a 10 day suspension of a taxi medallion in that company. Lieutenant Newport stated he recommends a 90-120 day suspension of his ability to reapply for a new medallion.

Councilor Lown said the whole purpose of the ordinance is to get the cabs out there to take care of the public. He said by punishing him with suspension of a medallion is counter to what we are trying to accomplish. He stated he agrees with Lieutenant Newport as it doesn't affect the supply of on the road taxis. Chair Bresciano said the wording is in the ordinance that a company needs to turn in the medallion if the vehicle is not on the road for over 30 days. Lieutenant Newport agreed with Councilor Lown that it doesn't serve a purpose to the City to suspend one of his current medallions and take a vehicle off the road. He suggested they either prevent him from getting another medallion or issue him a fine.

Commissioner Lawson asked if the medallion has been turned in. Lieutenant Newport stated it was. Councilor Lown asked what happens to the medallion he turned in. Lieutenant Newport stated it will be reissued. Councilor Lown asked why that is not sufficient punishment. Lieutenant Newport stated that this situation could happen to anyone who has to turn in a medallion. He said anyone who turns in a medallion runs the risk of losing it if someone else applies for it before they get their vehicle repaired or replace and reapply for it.

Councilor Lown withdrew his motion.

Commissioner Barker asked if suspending a medallion would have the similar effect to a fine. Chair Bresciano stated it would. Commissioner Barker stated if the Commission decided to suspend a medallion, we would need to set a hearing to do that. Chair Bresciano stated he would move to not suspend his medallion until after a hearing. City Attorney Sullivan stated the Commission should invite Mr. Schneider to the next taxi meeting. Councilor Lown asked how many medallions Mr. Schneider has. Deputy City Clerk Kirby stated Mr. Schneider presently has four (4) medallions. Councilor Lown asked if this was to suspend one of his current medallions. Chair Bresciano stated he would have to turn in the medallion to the City Clerk's office for whatever period of time the Commission sets. He further stated that medallion would not be reissued to someone else. Councilor Lown stated he likes Lieutenant Newport's idea better. He said the suspension goes against what we are trying to do. Lieutenant Newport said if the Commission wants to suspend Mr. Schneider's medallion, he feels it would be better to issue a fine on the City Ordinance violation.

Lieutenant Newport moved to deny Mr. Schneider the privilege of applying for a new medallion for 90 days. Seconded by Councilor Lown.

Commissioner Lawson said since there are no medallions available to apply for, this is not really a punishment. Lieutenant Newport stated there could be some that would become available within the next 90 days. Commissioner Palreiro said he felt a monetary fine should also be placed on Mr. Schneider. Councilor Lown suggested the wording “upon availability of a medallion” be added to the motion.

Lieutenant Newport amended his motion to read move to deny Mr. Schneider the privilege of applying for a new medallion for 90 days upon availability of a medallion. Seconded by Councilor Lown.

Chair Bresciano ask City Attorney Sullivan if this action is legal. City Attorney Sullivan stated this would be within the authority of the Commission, but Mr. Schneider is entitled to notice and opportunity and until the Commission has a hearing with Mr. Schneider the motion won't go into effect. He stated if Mr. Schneider waives his right to notice the 90 days will start running when he makes the waiver – if not, the 90 days will start running after the next Commission meeting. Lieutenant Newport said wouldn't the 90 days start running after a medallion is available. City Attorney Sullivan stated yes, that is correct.

Motion passed.

2. Hotel Courtesy Vans

Deputy City Clerk Kirby stated as requested by the Commission at the August 19, 2013 meeting, she called the four hotels (Homewood Suites; Residence Inn, Pease; the Hampton Inn; The Wentworth and the Fairfield Inn) requesting the hours their courtesy vans were in operation. She reported the following:

Homewood Suites

Spoke with Josh Smith. He stated their hours are 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. He stated they just received a new van and therefore, had two courtesy vans presently with the old van being transferred to corporate within the next week or two.

Residence Inn, Pease

Spoke with a lady at the front desk. She stated the courtesy vans are run from the front desk and are basically run when a guest request them. She said they operate Monday – Saturday and are available from 8:30 a.m. and have to be in no later than 9 p.m. She further stated the vans do not run at night for safety and security reasons as there are only two people on during the evening hours and one person can not be left alone.

Hampton Inn

Spoke with individual on the front desk. She stated the operating times are from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday – Saturday.

The Wentworth

Spoke with individual on the front desk. She stated they do not have courtesy vans.

Fairfield Inn (this hotel was brought to my attention at the August 19, 2013 meeting)

Spoke with Lori Curts. She stated the times the courtesy vans run are as follow:

Monday – Thursday	7 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Friday	7 a.m. – 10/11 p.m.
Saturday	5 p.m. – 11 p.m.
Sunday	No service

Chair Bresciano asked if this report could be made available to the members of the cab companies. Deputy City Clerk Kirby stated she would forward a copy to each company.

Councilor Lown asked if another letter could be sent where it starts out as a thank you for taking the time to talk with me and ends with a request that they extend their times on Friday and Saturday night to 1 a.m.

Commissioner Palreiro said on Friday and Saturday nights the bus stop could be turned into a taxi stand where individuals could come and the taxis would be able to pull up, grab a fare and leave. Lieutenant Newport stated he did not think there were enough taxis to do that.

Commissioner Barker stated the City Council brought up some good questions about how the taxis are regulated, how often they are on the road and what hours they are on the road. He said the Commission doesn't have that information and if you ask the taxi companies, they don't know because their records are not fully kept. He said the Commission has no idea how many cabs are on the road on any given Friday night between 12a.m. – 2 a.m.

Councilor Lown moved to send a letter to the hotels with Courtesy Vans thanking them for talking to Deputy City Clerk Kirby and ask if they would extend their van hours to 1 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. Seconded by Commissioner Lawson and voted.

3. Report Back on the Development of a Waiting List

City Attorney Sullivan stated there was significant discussion at the last City Council meeting concerning Taxi medallions.

Councilor Lown asked if there is currently a waiting list. Chair Bresciano stated there was not. City Attorney Sullivan stated the problem that a waiting list creates is that it would allow someone to tie up available medallions before they are available, which eliminates competition. He stated he suggested the Taxi Commission consider requesting the City Council adopt an amendment to the Taxi Ordinance that would authorize the creation of a waiting list with a fee attached. He said any company who wanted to stay on the waiting list would have to pay a non-refundable fee. He said the purpose of the fee would be to prevent companies from tying up everything on the waiting list because it would cost them to do so. Commissioner Palreiro asked if the fee would be per medallion. City Attorney Sullivan stated it could be however the Commission wanted it to be, but that was how he perceived it. He said the Commission could specify the details however they wish such as a company could only be on the waiting list for one medallion at a time. Councilor Lown said the idea with the waiting list would be if a medallion became available, the medallion would go to the person on the top of the list. He said the alternative would be to not have any waiting list, notify individuals when a new medallion becomes available and have a lottery drawing like they do for the docks. He said he doesn't feel a medallion should be given to someone just because they raced down to the City Clerks office and put their name on a waiting list. He said if they are all qualified they should all have the same chance.

Commissioner Lawson said he feels it best to not accept applications unless there is a medallion available. He said at each meeting it could be announced when a medallion is available. He said this would give the applicants a month to get their applications in and prepare for a lottery drawing.

Councilor Lown moved to recommend the City Council amend the ordinance to allow for a lottery system for when a situation arises that there are more requests for medallions than medallions available.

Chair Bresciano said the amendment has to be written by the Legal Department prior to it being recommended to the City Council. He requested if City Attorney Sullivan had enough information to draft an ordinance amendment. City Attorney Sullivan stated the amendment would say that anytime the demand exceeds the supply that a lottery drawing would be scheduled with public notice given and any person wanting a medallion could apply. He further stated the City Clerk's office would be responsible for setting up the lottery drawing. Chair Bresciano asked if the Commission could see and approve the ordinance change prior to it going to the City Council. City Attorney Sullivan stated he would provide a draft to the Commission prior to putting it before the City Council.

Councilor Lown moved to request City Attorney Sullivan draft an ordinance change to allow for a lottery system when a situation arises that there are more requests for medallions than there are medallions. Seconded by Commissioner Lawson and voted.

Lieutenant Newport asked if during the yearly re-application of medallions, it will process as it does now, where each medallion holder will be reissued a medallion with an approved application. City Attorney Sullivan stated he will have to carefully write the ordinance so that procedure does not change.

4. Ordinance Change – Increase the Number of Medallions from 25 to 28

City Attorney Sullivan stated that in connection with the proposed ordinance to increase the number of taxi medallions from 25 to 28, City Councilor Jack Thorsen has raised some questions which he would like to see answered prior to the October 7, 2013 public hearing on this ordinance. He further stated a representative of the Taxi Commission should be available at this meeting to answer any questions that may arise. Chair Bresciano stated he plans to be at both the meeting and the Public Hearing on October 7th.

Question 1

What steps does the Commission take to manage compliance (quality of service and adherence to standards) of the taxi companies and operators?

Chair Bresciano stated Section 7.207, which is the duties and responsibilities of the Taxi Commission doesn't apply to the quality of service and adherence to standards – that is the individual companies business. He said the Commission has a Taxi Inspector that ensures compliance with Section 7.227, which is the safety and cleanliness of taxis. Councilor Lown said he agrees the Commission doesn't need to do anything more than they already do.

Question 2

Does there need to be more supervision over the use of the medallions?

Chair Bresciano stated he doesn't feel the Commission needs to have anymore supervision. He said medallions designated are to be used on taxis. He said the City Clerk keeps track of only the medallions. He stated in his 15 years on the Commission, there has only been one (1) instance where there was an error. He said he feel more supervision is not needed.

Question 3

Whether the City can or should require a monthly or quarterly statement from medallion users which indicates the time and manner of use of taxi cabs so that we can make sure such use is maximized?

Chair Bresciano said if the City Council would like this put in place, then he would suggest a full time taxi inspector be appointed. Lieutenant Newport stated he thinks that is what the Council is leading up to. Commissioner Barker stated if the Council wants the Taxi Commission to have more oversight there needs to be resources allocated. Chair Bresciano stated members of the City Boards and Commissions are volunteers and do not have the time to get involved in the day to day operation of taxis. Lieutenant Newport stated the Police Department doesn't have the resources to do this. Chair Bresciano said we have to make the City Council aware that if all these things are going to be done they are going to have to dedicate the resources for the Taxi Inspector to check the cabs and uphold the ordinance. He said he doesn't think this will happen. Commissioner Barker stated we don't want to

micromanage the taxi businesses. He said this Commission can recommend to the City Council to change the ordinance to acquire additional information without additional resources. He stated he would like to further discuss at the next meeting if we should put additional requirements on taxi owners.

Commissioner Palreiro said medallion fees could be raised to get resources. Chair Bresciano stated the fees that are collected are not allocated to the Taxi Commission; they go into the General Fund for use by the City.

Commissioner Barker said there are two questions he would like to discuss.

1. Should the Commission require a certain amount of time the taxis are on the road and should they require nights and weekends for taxis to be on the road.

2. Should the Commission require any kind of logs or records from the taxi owners about when they are on the road?

Chair Bresciano stated the First Reading on this ordinance is set for tonight at 7:00 p.m. He stated at first reading Councilors can ask a lot of questions. He said on October 7, 2013, two weeks before we meet again, the Council will hold a Public Hearing on this ordinance and questions are going to come up. He said the Taxi Commission needs to have something prepared to answer those questions. He said he has always backed away from setting times taxis should be on the road and having them submit paperwork on their mileage and trip tickets because we do not ask that of other businesses in the City.

Commissioner Barker said what about submitting logs so the Commission has data. He asked, with resources to the side, does the Commission agreed it would be good to have the taxi owners submit logs for when their medallions are in use and for which hours. Chair Bresciano stated he did not agree. Commissioner Barker said we don't want to tell the companies when to operate, but he has no information on when these cabs are operating. He said he doesn't know if we issued unlimited medallion, which some Councilors are in favor of, if that would help or hurt. He said in theory it could help as some cab owners would be out every Friday and Saturday night and that could fix the problem. He said every driver would still make enough money because those cabs that are not out there now, still wouldn't be out there. Chair Bresciano stated that is capitalism at work. Commissioner Barker said there is a concern raised that if you have too many medallions, it would drive down the amount of money each operator could make and put the whole business out of business, which is a concern.

Question 4

Should there be more than one handicapped taxi medallion authorized? Councilor Thorsen suggests that any taxi company that has over a certain number of taxis should offer a proportionate number of handicap accessible taxis.

Chair Bresciano stated we have one medallion reserved as a handicap cab and it hasn't been used since he has been on the Commission. He said there are a lot of issues and expenses for a handicapped vehicle. He said as a driver the liability would be extensive. He said as a

cab company there would be a lot of responsibility and liability. He further asked what kind of a handicapped cab does the Commission want out there. He said transporting a handicapped person is a lot of work. He said it is not easy getting a handicapped person in and out of a vehicle. He further stated as a cab company there are a lot of things to think about before you say "I'll take that medallion". He said when a question comes up about requiring a cab company to have a handicapped medallion, he is against it. He said that determination should be for the company to make.

Commissioner Palreiro stated there are agencies out there for the handicapped that the cab companies should not have to be required to do this. He said it isn't profitable with the extra insurance and responsibility and you are not allowed to charge extra for this fare.

Question 5

Should there be any ordinance requirement regarding scheduling? For example, should the taxi ordinance mandate that taxis be in operation late at night when the bars and restaurants close?

Chair Bresciano stated he doesn't think so. He asked how we could do this. He suggested using the Police Department dispatch service to dispatch the cabs, but he doesn't think that would work. He said if we require the cabs why not require the buses to run also.

Commissioner Barker said if we knew when the taxis were in operation, we would then be more prepared to speak to the City Council on this issue. Chair Bresciano asked who would track it. He stated as having been the President of the Taxpayers Association for five (5) years, if this was put on the City Council budget, he would be against it.

Tim Graham, Academy Taxi stated the GPS companies have a tracking device that can be attached to the medallion plate that is assigned to a cab. He said it can monitor when the cab starts and shuts off. He said someone from the City could monitor that report. He said it would eliminate the need for submitting logs, but there might be a cost. Commissioner Palreiro stated any cost could be billed to the cab companies. Mr. Graham, Academy Taxi stated this could be built into the medallion fee.

Commissioner Lawson moved to have Chair Bresciano address these questions at the City Council meeting scheduled for tonight at 7 p.m. and the Public Hearing on October 7, 2013. Seconded by Commissioner Palreiro and voted.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Police Representative Report

Lieutenant Newport stated there was only one complaint of a vehicle parked in a taxi stand on September 1, 2013. He stated the vehicle was moved.

Commissioner Palreiro moved to accept the Police Representative report and place it on file. Seconded by Commissioner Lawson and voted.

Chair Bresciano opened the meeting to discussion from the floor.

Stephen Gerrato stated there are enough medallions in Portsmouth. He said he is opposed to having unlimited medallions. He further stated there is a major problem by having a taxi owner/operator on the Commission. He said Commissioner Palreiro has a say about issues when the other taxi companies don't.

Merle White, Anchor Taxi stated no company can put all their cabs on the road at the same time due to manpower and maintenance. He said at the last City Council meeting, the Parking Manager said when cars are parked in a taxi stand they are towed. He said he has been driving taxis for three (3) years and only one (1) vehicle has been towed. He said the previous night a car was parked between a parking space and the taxi stand for three hours and it took over an hour before it was ticketed. He said if there are only going to be four (4) taxi stands then the Police need to get them towed immediately. He said four (4) days that week no one had any business. He said he only had five (5) runs all day on Monday. He said the winter months are coming and business will drop off. He said besides the Portsmouth taxi companies there are seven (7) out of town cab companies that are in and out of Portsmouth. He said there is one Portsmouth cab company that has three (3) medallions and never runs more than one (1) medallion sporadically in Portsmouth, because he has obligations elsewhere. He said if he is going to keep his obligations elsewhere he should surrender those medallions.

Merle White concluded by stating the problem is when all the patrons walk out of the bars at 1:15 a.m. they want to go home at 1:20 a.m. He said centralizing the cabs and funneling all the drunks there would be a potential for fights and accidents should someone fall on the ice and snow.

Chair Bresciano stated there is a three (3) minute comment session at every City Council meeting for anyone to voice their complaints to the Council.

Ed Heath, Anchor Taxi said senior citizens are just as important as drunks. He said his taxi does out of town runs and if the Commission makes it a requirement that he has to have his taxis here during certain hours that will be a disruption to his company and his ability to make money and keep his business functioning in a safe manner. He said he has to go where the customer asks.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Dianne M. Kirby

Dianne M. Kirby, Deputy City Clerk