

TAXI COMMISSION MEETING  
Minutes of the March 17, 2014 meeting

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Bresciano called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**II. ATTENDANCE**

Present: Members: Commissioners Peter Bresciano, John Palreiro, Assistant Mayor Jim Splaine, Lieutenant Chris Cummings and Detective Mark Newport

**III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 18, 2014**

**Detective Newport moved to approve and accept the minutes of the February 18, 2014 meeting. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Splaine and voted.**

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Election of Officers

**Assistant Mayor Splaine nominated Commissioner Bresciano to represent the Commission as Chair. Seconded by Commissioner Palreiro and voted.**

2. Complaint by Nicole Wolfe – Annie’s Taxi

**Detective Newport moved to refer the complaint by Annie’s Taxi to City Attorney Sullivan for a report back at the April 15, 2014 Taxi Commission meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Palreiro.**

Chair Bresciano stated if someone doesn’t believe a company has a license they should contact the police. He further stated that she might also file a complaint with the shipyard Commander concerning this. He said if she has photos and videos documenting her complaint, she should turn them over to the Police Department. Assistant Mayor Splaine stated he agrees these complaints should be turned over to the City Attorney for investigation. He stated his general observation is for a business to make money and the business to run successfully, the companies need to find ways to respect one another and work together.

Detective Newport stated the process outlined by Assistant Mayor Splaine of a complaint coming to the Commission goes to the City Attorney Sullivan for review and if he feels the Police Department needs to be involved he contacts them and they work together from there is the correct process that needs to be followed.

**Motion passed.**

3. Complaint by Daniel Bigda – Portsmouth Taxi

**Assistant Mayor Splaine moved to refer the complaint by Annie's Taxi to City Attorney Sullivan for a report back at the April 15, 2014 Taxi Commission meeting. Seconded by Detective Newport.**

Chair Bresciano stated the statement in Mr. Bigda's complaint concerning the Sunday March 9<sup>th</sup> citing, Mr. Bigda should have notified police dispatch with a formal complaint filed so that a record of the incident was taken. He said concerning picking up and dropping off other than taxi cabs must be done by prior appointment and is usually done by a limousine. He said if it looks like a taxi, acts like a taxi and has the markings of a taxi (except for a medallion) he feels the Police Department needs to take action and issue a summons for that taxi owner to appear before the Taxi Commission as to why they are acting like a taxi in the City of Portsmouth. Commissioner Palreiro said that is if they are picking up and dropping off within the City Limits. He said they can bring people in if they are bringing them from the rural area into the City. Chair Bresciano stated that is correct. He said they can take someone from Portsmouth out of town or from out of town into Portsmouth. Commissioner Paleiro said as a taxi. Chair Bresciano said as a taxi.

Chair Bresciano stated all pictures and evidence should be turned over to the Police Department in order to conduct their investigation

Chair Bresciano asked if all company owners have a copy of the List of Medallions issued. Deputy City Clerk Kirby stated they do not. Chair Bresciano asked Deputy City Clerk Kirby to send a copy of this list to each owner.

Detective Newport stated when an insurance policy is dropped on a vehicle, Deputy City Clerk Kirby is notified and action is taken.

**Motion passed.**

4. Meeting Minutes

Chair Bresciano stated meeting minutes are not taken verbatim. He stated if someone wants to hear what was said at a meeting, they can go to the City Clerk's office and listen to the live feed.

5. Resignation of Commissioner Palreiro

**Detective Newport moved to suspend the rules and move item 5 to Miscellaneous/Unfinished Business. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Splaine and voted. Commissioner Paleiro abstained.**

## V. OLD BUSINESS

### 1. Renewal of Taxi Medallions and Licenses

Deputy City Clerk Kirby stated that she handed out or mailed the renewal medallion and license forms to all the taxi owners at the last the February 18, 2014 meeting. She stated she had requested these renewals be returned by March 19, 2014. She stated as of this meeting, March 17, 2014 she has only received medallion renewals from four companies and 7 or 8 renewal licenses. She said the licenses have to be approved by the Police Department and with Lieutenant Cummings being new, she doesn't want to send him 30 renewals to review at the last minute. She reminded everyone that any licenses that have not been approved by the Police Department by April 1, 2014, those drivers will not be allowed to drive until their 2014-2015 licenses are available. She requested all companies to please complete their renewals and get them in as soon as possible.

### 2. Inspections (not on the agenda)

Detective Newport stated he will get with Public Works and his officers and set up a date in April for the inspection. He said he will contact Deputy City Clerk Kirby as soon as he finalizes the date confirmed and she can notify the owners. He stated the inspections last year went very smoothly and he would like this year to be the same.

## VI. MISCELLANEOUS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### 1. Police Representative Report

Detective Newport stated the only reports were cars parked in taxi stands. He said two were moved when they got there and one was ticketed.

### 2. Resignation of Commissioner Palreiro

**Detective Newport moved to approve with regret the application for resignation of Commissioner Palreiro. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Splaine and voted.**

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

Chair Bresciano stated the Taxi Companies need to get together and select a representative from the taxi community to serve as the representative to the Commission. He stated in accordance with the Ordinance, *"...who shall be selected for approval of the City Council by the vote of those individuals or entities holding taxi medallions at the time of the selection on a one (1) vote per medallion holder basis."*

Vicky Wright – Rockingham Taxi asked if an investigation proves the complaint filed against a person is false, what happens to the person that filed the complaint. Chair Bresciano stated that would be grounds to file a civil suit through the courts.

Merle White – Anchor Taxi stated Rockingham has a taxi that sits outside the City and is called in when needed for outside runs. He said Great Bay Taxi sits in the City and when someone asks for a taxi he calls in one of his taxies to pick up the fare. He stated if there are no medallions on that taxi it doesn't belong in the City unless it is coming in to immediately pick up and leave.

Merle White – Anchor Taxi stated something needs to be done about jay walkers. He stated there are people constantly walking out between cars and illegally crossing the street. He said one of these days there is going to be a major accident due to these people.

Chair Bresciano stated when this happens they should take it up with the Police Department or if you want this addressed by the Council, you need to attend a City Council meeting. He said at the beginning of each meeting there is a public comment session where everyone who signed up can speak for two (2) minutes on any subject that concerns them.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

*Dianne M. Kirby*

Dianne M. Kirby, Deputy City Clerk