

Metropolitan Taxicab Commission

January 13, 2009 @ 10:00 am
100 North Tucker Boulevard, Auditorium

Members present: Commissioners Banahan, Bennett, Haile, Hamilton, McNutt, Reeves, and Satz

Members absent: Rudawsky (*One seat on the Commission remains vacant.*)

Legal Department: Counselor Dave Adam

MINUTES

Chairman Hamilton called the meeting to order and took roll call. Declaring that a quorum was present to conduct the business of the Commission he accepted a motion by Commissioner Satz that the Commission approve the minutes from the December meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McNutt, and there being no discussion Chairman Hamilton called the vote and the minutes were approved unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Deferred

TREASURER'S REPORT

Deferred

NEW BUSINESS

He then stated that the next order of business was to set a meeting date for February and after a brief discussion the 19th was selected as the next meeting date to be held at 100 N. Tucker in the auditorium at 10:00am. Chairman Hamilton then announced the resignation of Commissioner Richard Banahan from the Executive Board and recognized him for his years of service to the Commission, stating that Mr. Banahan had already tendered said resignation to Mayor Slay.

For the next order of business, Commissioner Reeves after a few brief comments regarding suitability, made a motion to be authorized to execute a retainer arrangement with the Certified Public Accounting Firm, Nichols, Zieman and Ahmed NZA for the purpose of conducting the annual audit of the Metropolitan Taxicab Commission as required under Missouri law. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McNutt and with no discussion Chairman Hamilton called for a vote and the motion was passed unanimously.

Chairman Hamilton then, after brief comments, suggested that the Firm, John Barge and Associates, who have been retained in the past for the purpose of representing the Commission in the Missouri Legislative sessions, be formally retained for the current year. A motion was then made to accept by Commissioner McNutt, seconded by Commissioner Reeves, and after a vote the motion passed unanimously.

The Chairman then recommended and made a motion that the Commission consider revising the existing policy in place for decision making during periods when the Commission was unable to meet or is otherwise between meetings. The new policy proposed would empower the Executive Committee, comprised of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman of Finance/Treasurer, the Vice-Chairman of Operations/Administration, and the Secretary, all appointed by the Chairman, to act on behalf of the Commission on all matters during these periods.

Any decisions taken by said Committee would be presented to the Commission at its next scheduled meeting, at which time the Commission would vote by motion to overturn, or affirm by inaction, the decision. The proposed change would expand decision making authority from the existing, Chairman only, policy. The motion being seconded by Commissioner Reeves, Commissioner Bennett added that he had been very pleased with the communication provided by Chairman Hamilton to him over the years, and with no other comments on the matter a vote was taken and the motion was passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

At this time the Chairman allowed the only member of the audience who had requested to address the Board to do so. Mr. Zerebrook Gebru of the Metropolitan Taxicab Corporation then introduced himself and wished everyone a happy new year. He then stated that the companies represented by the corporation had requested additional permits to be issued to them and asked the Commission to consider allowing more permits than the ten percent of fleet, usually allowed per year. Mr. Gebru suggested that increased demand for service, mechanical maintenance issues and other matters were justification for the request.

After a brief discussion, Chairman Hamilton commented that discussion regarding his request had already taken place at the staff level and that the Board would have the staff report on the matter and then get back to him with a decision.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Chairman then asked if members of the Commission wished to add any further items to the new business agenda. Hearing none, he accepted a motion by Commissioner Reeves to retire to executive session for the purpose of discussing legal, real estate and other matters pursuant to Missouri Statute §610.021. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Satz and with unanimous consent the Commission retired to executive session.

Executive Session Minutes

Pursuant to Missouri Statute 620.021, and having been authorized by a majority of the Metropolitan Saint Louis Taxicab Commission constituting a quorum, by roll-call vote at its regular meeting of December 10, 2008, an Executive Session was held to discuss legal, confidential or privileged matters under §610.021(1), RSMo 1988 Supp.; leasing, purchase or sale of real estate under §610.021(2); personnel actions under §610.021(3); discussions regarding negotiations with employee groups under §610.021(9); personnel records or applications under §610.021(13); or records under §610.021(14) which are otherwise protected from disclosure by law; or confidential or privileged communications with the District's auditor, including auditor work products under §X610.021(17).

ADJOURNMENT

Upon reconvening Chairman Hamilton declared that no other business was pending for the January meeting and deferred all usual reporting to the next meeting. Commissioner Satz then made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haile. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

*The meeting recording was transcribed by A. Hammond.
Minutes were interpreted from the transcript by D. Scherer.*