

Metropolitan Taxicab Commission

June 20, 2007 @ 10:00 am
100 North Tucker Boulevard, Auditorium

Members present: Commissioners Banahan, Haile, McNutt, Reeves, Rudawsky, and Satz
Members absent: Chairman Hamilton and Commissioner Bennett. (*One seat on the Commission remains vacant.*)
MTC staff: Barker, Deering, Hammond, Hinton, Scherer and Tully.
Legal Department: Counselor McCarthy

Due to Chairman Hamilton's absence, Vice Chairman Reeves chaired the meeting. Vice Chairman Reeves called the meeting to order at 10:20 AM.

MINUTES

Vice Chairman Reeves requested approval for the minutes of the May 24, 2007 Metropolitan Taxicab Commission meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Mr. Satz, seconded by Mr. Banahan. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

The Commissioners scheduled the next Commission meeting for July 24, 2007 at 10:00 AM at 100 North Tucker Boulevard in the Auditorium, pending the availability of the facility.

Director Tully proposed making the gas surcharge permanent and he requested the authority to manage it. He proposed a dollar surcharge for over \$1.80 a gallon, a two dollar surcharge for over \$2.39 a gallon, and a three dollar surcharge for gas prices over \$3.00 a gallon. The surcharge would be reviewed every ten days -- rather than the previous 30-day rolling average. A lengthy discussion ensued. Topics ranged from increasing the flag drop to what other cities are doing. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Commission decided to table the proposal until the next meeting after additional research can be completed.

OLD BUSINESS

Director Tully advised the Commission he has requested bids from four companies for bids on health and other insurance. He should have something to present to the Commission by next meeting.

Mr. McCarthy discussed the progress of the Transportation Study. The tentative schedule is as follows. Phase one should be complete about October 1st, phase two should be done at the end of November, and phase three -- the final phase -- should be complete by January 1.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director began by pointing out the statistics in the Commissioner's packets. The On Call taxicab inspections will be completed by June 30th.

The Director informed the Commission regarding a situation with a particular company. It was determined the company presented a certificate of insurance, but upon confirmation, it was found the

insurance lapsed months before. Director Tully ordered the immediate suspension of the Company and CCNs. The vehicles were red tagged and an investigation was initiated. Mr. McCarthy added that numerous emergency meetings were held immediately after the suspension. Mr. McCarthy then described the 2nd order of the Director allowing the drivers to move to any company, even if they have no available CCNs. It was noted that the majority of the drivers were victims of the collapse of the Allen Cab and St. Louis Auto Livery companies.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Vice Chairman Reeves reported on the Commission's finances. The Commissioners were provided with the first five months of the financial information for the year to date. He directed their attention to the cash position of \$115,266 – about \$15,000 less than the previous month and about \$70,000 less than this time last year. The Commission is operating about \$45,000 behind budget for the year to date due to various revenue and expense factors he discussed. Mr. Reeves indicated close monitoring of the budget and operations will continue and believes the situation will stabilize through the summer months.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Attorney Mike Goldberg, representing City Express Limited, addressed the Commission. He wanted to know, on behalf of his clients, were their application stands on the list of applicants. Mr. McCarthy replied that it was public information and it would be provided. Mr. Goldberg then inquired about reserve taxis. He wanted to know, based on the study, if the need for new taxis would be filled with existing reserve C.C.N. spots or if they would be available to new companies. His inquiry was to make the Commission aware that he was aware of that issue. Mr. Goldberg then asked if he could have access as to how many and who took advantage of the 10% growth option during the moratorium. Mr. McCarthy stated the information was available. Mr. Goldberg asked if the expert for the transportation study would be contacting potential C.C.N. holders. Mr. McCarthy replied affirmatively. Finally, Mr. Goldberg inquired about the absorption of C.C.N.s and the waiver of the moratorium. Mr. McCarthy replied by stating there were no new C.C.N. spots created and there has been no increase in the number of cabs. Mr. McCarthy then explained the extenuating circumstances for drivers/owners suffering, by no fault of their own, first from the Allen Cab/Auto Livery collapse, then the suspension of the company under investigation. He further explained the emergency situation and need to relieve the suffering of the affected drivers. Further discussion ensued between Mr. Goldberg and the Commissioners.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

With no additional public business, Vice Chairman Reeves indicated the need to recess to an Executive Session to discuss legal matters. Mr. Satz motioned to concluded the public session and recess to Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rudawsky. The motion passed unanimously and the Commission recessed to an Executive Session at 11:01 AM.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:09 AM, the Commissioners returned from Executive session and re-opened the public session. Vice Chairman Reeves entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Satz motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Banahan. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 AM.

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