

Metropolitan Taxicab Commission

August 14, 2007 @ 10:00 am
100 North Tucker Boulevard, Auditorium

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

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

MTC staff: Deering, Hinton, Hammond, Scherer and Tully.

Legal Department: Counselor McCarthy

Chairman Hamilton called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM.

MINUTES

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

OLD BUSINESS

The Commissioners scheduled the next Commission meeting for September 26, 2007 at 10:00 AM at 100 North Tucker Boulevard in the Auditorium, pending the availability of the facility.

OLD BUSINESS

The Director reported on the Commission's old business. The Director has been attempting to establish a dialogue with the Municipal League with regard to adopting the Code.

A survey was taken of the calls placed with the answering service between 7/1 and 7/31. A total of 10 calls were received. Of those, one was a compliment and nine were complaints. Of the nine complaints, three were from drivers complaining about other drivers. All complaints were investigated by the staff.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director began by pointing out the statistics in the Commissioner's packets. The courtesy vehicle class is currently in renewals. Courtesy renewals will be complete by August 24th.

With regard to the Wilson Cab investigation, the Circuit Attorney's Office issued warrants for forgery. Subsequently, owner of the company was arrested by St. Louis Metropolitan Police. The Grand Jury will hear the case soon.

An illegal cab was seized in the past few weeks. Charges are pending regarding the stolen tabs on the plates he possessed.

The Director informed the Commission that a list of all the licensed C.C.N. holders with their phone numbers was posted on the web site. Additionally, Dr. Mundy's Transportation Study is currently underway and he has even interviewed some of the C.C.N. holders.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Vice Chairman Reeves reported on the Commission's finances. The net income for July was \$27,301, which puts the Commission closer to budget. This puts the Commission about \$40,700 in the negative, putting us about \$30,000 off budget. Mr. Reeves is optimistic that we are seeing the comeback as expected. With a stronger cash position of \$150,000, and receivables strong at \$67,900, the Commission is tracking to be back on budget with a positive trend. Additionally, we picked up \$5,000 as receivables as a result of the overcharge in the workmen's compensation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Larry McPhail, representing Kelly's Limousine, addressed the Commission. Mr. McPhail is submitting an application for C.C.N. to operate in the Commission's jurisdiction. Mr. McPhail understands the status of the moratorium, but wants to know if it will be lifted. The Chairman explained the transportation study would reveal whether or not the moratorium would be lifted. He expressed that an answer would be available sometime after January.

Eric Smith, representing the Hilton at the Ballpark, addressed the Commission. Mr. Smith discussed the issue with the new construction of the sidewalk café on the Market Street side of the property. A discussion ensued about the relocation of the cab stand on both at temporary and permanent basis. Mr. Smith presented the hotel's desire to move the permanent stand so it would not be in direct view of the café diners. The Commission expressed their views that they wanted to ensure the hotel guests were still able to easily summon a cab without putting the cabs at a disadvantage. It was decided that the Director and Mr. Smith would work out a temporary solution. Once the construction was completed, a decision regarding the placement of the permanent stand would be made by the full Commission after conferring with all parties involved.

Bill Meehan, representing Hased Limos and Mr. McLin, addressed the Commission. Mr. Meehan spoke in support of Mr. McLin and his application for C.C.N. He presented some letters from hotels to the director in support of Mr. McLin. The Commission thanked him for his input. Chairman Hamilton discussed the Transportation Study currently underway for the benefit of Mr. Meehan and the audience.

Alex Taran, speaking on behalf of Ace of St. Charles, addressed the Commission. Mr. Taran posed a question to the Commission regarding contract trips to medical facilities from St. Charles to MTC jurisdiction. He requested clarification on the legality of making stops between the points. Mr. Hamilton asked Director Tully to respond to Mr. Taran with a specific opinion regarding that matter. Mr. Taran then asked if he can use his cabs to do medical transportation without running the meters. Mr. McCarthy inquired further details. Mr. McCarthy explained that they can take trips from outside our jurisdiction into and back out, but they cannot do point to point, ask he explained previously to Mr. Taran's attorney. Chairman Hamilton asked Mr. McCarthy to contact the attorney and make sure the issues are both crystal clear.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Satz motioned to adjourn to Executive Session for the purposes of discussing legal, confidential, and privileged matters. Mr. Rudawsky seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The public session concluded at 10:50 am.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:20 am, the Commission reconvened to close the meeting. A motion to adjourn was made by Chairman Hamilton, and seconded by Mr. McNutt. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:21AM.

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