

Metropolitan Taxicab Commission

June 25, 2009 @ 10:00 am
Commission Headquarters, 2628 Delmar, Hearings Room

Members present: Commissioners; Hamilton, McNutt, Reeves, Haile, Satz and Tucci

Members absent: Commissioners; Rudawsky and Bennett (*One seat on the Commission remains vacant.*)

Legal Department: Counselor Thomas W. McCarthy

MINUTES

Chairman Hamilton called the meeting to order; the roll was called by Carla Boutte and Mr. Hamilton asked the Board to select a date for the July meeting which was then scheduled for July 16th, 2009 at 11:00. He then accepted the motion of Commissioner Tucci to approve the minutes of the May 27th meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Reeves and there being no discussion Mr. Hamilton called the vote and the motion was approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Hamilton then introduced the first new business item on the agenda, namely to install a new job description document addressing the position and authority of the Director and Chief Operating Officer of the Commission. The document was provided to the board for review and outlined the expenditure and signature authority for the Director to approve certain budgeted expenses. Counselor McCarthy also made the suggestion in consultation with the Director that some bills be paid electronically so that the Executive Committee could have easier access to that information.

Commissioner Reeves then made a motion that the Commission adopt the Directors job description document previously circulated to the members of the board which was seconded by Commissioner McNutt and there being no discussion Mr. Hamilton called the vote and the motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Hamilton then introduced the second item, the Metropolitan Taxicab Commission organizational chart asking the Director to address the document. Commissioner Satz in discussion of the document raised the question of whether the vacant positions noted on the chart were a part of the current budget. Director Klein stated that the only vacancy that would be filled soon would be for a paralegal who has been retained to create the dockets for the administrative hearings to be held for violators of the code. A motion was then made by Commissioner Satz and seconded by Commissioner Haile to adopt the organizational chart and there being no discussion a vote was called for by Chairman Hamilton and the motion was passed unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Klein reported that the annual fleet renewal inspections for the On-Call Taxicabs were nearing completion and that the staff would next begin the renewals for the Courtesy Vehicle class. He stated that the staff would be gearing up for special details to cover the upcoming All Star Game as well. He also introduced the Commission's newest employee, Agent, Terri Buford who had come to the Commission

from the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. Ms. Buford had previously served as a Traffic Division Officer for the Department and Police Academy Instructor.

Director Klein then announced that he had been contacted by the Missouri State Highway Patrol regarding the State Statute as it relates to drivers and criminal background checks and the submission to the Patrol as well as the F.B.I. of each applicant's fingerprints. Chairman Hamilton said that he had consulted with the former and current General Counsel about the issue and that it was a matter of importance as well as compliance with the statute that would need to be acted upon. There was discussion of the cost and other elements involved with the new procedures which were posted on the Commission's website as well as mailed to licensees.

Director Klein then mentioned that he had met with personnel in the City Court system, Chief Judge, Margaret Walsh and the lead prosecutor for the City Counselor's Office, and that the Enforcement Agents of the Commission have been issued department serial numbers and are recognized as Enforcement Agents of City Ordinances relating to the Taxicab Code and that they are in the process of printing summons books for the purpose of citing unlicensed operators within the City.

Another item the Director addressed was diminished revenue from Lambert Airport trip fees that presumably have been the result of the down turn of the overall economy, and suggested that an audit may be in order just to verify that this system is working correctly. Commissioner Satz also asked that the Director to also look into the parking and taxicab situation at the Fox Theater which the Director agreed to do. The Director then moved to the code revision work and said that a working group may be possible as early as August and a discussion of the taxicab driver appreciation day through the CVC was briefly held.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Reeves reported on the financials for the period through May and stated that the cash positions of the Commission remain strong and that as mentioned by the Director income seemed to be tracking approximately four to five thousand dollars a month off from what was anticipated and that this would put the Commission about seventeen to eighteen thousand below budget for the year compared to what was expected.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Jeff Risinger of "Sedan Man," again raised questions concerning vehicle age requirements for the premium sedan class. His interest was in some unique opportunities in the market place due to the economy to purchase new vehicles that are one or two model years old at reduced prices. Mr. Risinger renewed his previous request that the board consider an exception to the requirements of the code to allow for the extension of the in service life for these vehicles and introduced a proposal that he had circulated to the other premium sedan companies.

Commissioner Hamilton then referred the matter to the Director who stated that from his research there may not be the availability of these options on the scale necessary to make this broad of a change to the current policy and that he would like to meet with the rest of the premium sedan companies before making a decision on the issue and asked Mr. Risinger to work on arranging a meeting. Then a lengthy discussion was held regarding the nature of the idea which the Chairman concluded, asking for a motion to recess and reconvene in Executive Session. The motion was made by Commissioner Haile, seconded by Commissioner McNutt and there being no discussion a vote was called for by Chairman Hamilton and the motion was passed unanimously

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 §610.021(17).

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hamilton then declared that there was no further business before the Commission and entertained a motion to adjourn by Commissioner Satz, seconded by Commissioner McNutt and with a unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned.

*Minutes were interpreted from a transcript by D. Scherer.
Transcript by A. Hammond*