

Metropolitan Taxicab Commission

April 24, 2009 @ 10:00 am
100 North Tucker Boulevard, Auditorium

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

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

Legal Department: Counselor Thomas W. McCarthy

MINUTES

Chairman Hamilton called the meeting to order, introduced Commissioner Tucci to the meeting by teleconference and then conducted roll call. He then called upon Counselor McCarthy for the presentation to the board of several special executive sessions minutes for those meetings held on 12/10/08, 1/13/09, 3/31/09, and 4/7/09 for approval. He accepted the motion of Commissioner McNutt to approve the minutes, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Tucci, and there being no discussion or opposition, the special meetings minutes were approved unanimously. Additionally, Commissioner McNutt made a motion to adopt the minutes of the April 7th meeting which was seconded by Commissioner Haile. There was no discussion or opposition and these minutes were also approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Hamilton then called on Counselor McCarthy to advise the board on the status of the proposed code revisions. Mr. McCarthy suggested that the Commission convene one or more working meetings of the board for the purpose of deciding what should be a part of the draft prior to presenting the draft to the public for comment, suggesting that this would minimize the opportunity to confuse the public. These sessions would then be followed by additional working sessions to be held after public comments are received. Commissioner Hamilton then suggested that incoming Director Klein act as coordinator of these sessions once the move of the Commission's Administrative Offices was complete.

Counselor McCarthy then reported on the matter of TransExpress, stating that the Commission's motion to dismiss against TransExpress was granted by the Judge, however the motion to dismiss against the four employees was not and that since the Commission planned to certify the dismissal of the tickets against the four employees, he would file a motion for Summary Judgment.

Then after a brief discussion, the Commission set its next regular meeting for May 27th, 2009 at 11:00am, to be held at its new location, 2628 Delmar Boulevard. Commissioner Hamilton then acknowledged incoming Director, Ronald Klein who after more than thirty five years of service to the City of St. Louis as a member of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, is retiring from his position there, to accept the appointment of the Metropolitan Taxicab Commission to become it's new Director, beginning Monday, April 27th.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

None

TREASURER'S REPORT

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Barry Korman was the first member of the audience to address the Commission during the public comments session. Mr. Korman asked the Commission to consider a special classification of NEMT driver, to be called, part-time NEMT driver, stating that his firm served a number of “special needs kids and special transportation for patients that need special care,” and that “these are part-time employee drivers versus a voluntary driver.” He further asked for the fee for said license to be set at \$25.00. Commissioner Hamilton asked Mr. Korman to present his suggestions in writing once public comment is solicited by the Commission on the code revisions.

Mr. Zerebrook Gebru then addressed the board introducing Mr. Ezezu Biru, who is also a member of his company, Metropolitan Taxicab Corporation. Mr. Biru stated that the company had applied for their “reserve,” and had not received a response. Commissioner Hamilton stated that he was aware of those discussions and asked Mr. Biru to contact incoming Director Klein on the matter for his input since certain things were not necessarily handled in a timely fashion the way the Commission would have preferred and that the Commission would not be making a decision apart from the Director’s review of the circumstances.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

Pursuant to Missouri Statute 620.021, an Executive Session may be 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, seconded by Commissioner Rudawsky and with a unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned.

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