

Metropolitan Taxicab Commission

**June 16, 2010 @ 10:00 am
Commission Headquarters, 2628 Delmar, Hearings Room**

Members present: Commissioners; Hamilton, McNutt, Reeves, Bennett, Rudawsky, Satz, Tucci, Asfaw, Gidey

Members absent:

Legal Department: Attorney, Thomas W. McCarthy

MINUTES

Chairman Hamilton was late to the meeting so Commissioner Reeves called the meeting to order; the roll was called by Marianne Lange. Commissioner McNutt moved to approve the minutes of the May 12th meeting which was seconded by Commissioner Bennett and with no discussion a vote was called for and the minutes were approved unanimously. Commissioner Reeves then asked for the date of July 26th, 2010 to be set for the next meeting and the Board approved.

NEW BUSINESS

First item on the agenda is the Vehicle for Hire Code Revision. Attorney Thomas McCarthy discussed the Vehicle for Hire Code as several questions have arisen. There have been several adjustments made to these codes. First item is the Director has the power to exercise his discretion based on the driving record of an individual applying for license with the MTC. If the Director feels that this individual could be a danger to the public in any way, he could say no to this individual. For a new applicant, the Director does not have to offer this individual an appeal within our system. Attorney McCarthy will draft a document up and let the Commission review and approve it and post on our website and at the next meeting will take it up for a vote. A brief discussion was had and everyone agreed that the main concern is the safety of the public.

The next issue on the agenda deals with our appeals system. We have an appeal from a hearing officer's decision for the first time. In the past, the appeal has been to the commission but was changed in the last code revision for several reasons; the first reason is the Commission did not like being the appellate body and the second reason is it put the general counsel in an impossible position. The Code needs to be revised to reflect a loser pays system for appeals hearing fees. Mr. McCarthy stated that an appellant could possibly post a bond of \$100-\$200 to be placed in escrow pending the outcome of the appeal. Hearings will probably run on average of \$1,000-\$1,500. This change will need the approval of the Commission. Mr. McCarthy will be happy to draft something and clear it with Director Klein and send out to the rest of the commission for their approval.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Klein started his report with the Return Check Policy. We are having a difficult time with people writing checks and then the checks bouncing. The Director is asking for a change in the policy to no longer take personal checks and to only take business checks, cashiers checks and money orders. Possibly in the future we could take credit cards, but we would have to check into this more. On a motion by Commissioner Tucci, and seconded by Commissioner McNutt, a motion was made and unanimously voted to eliminate the personal check policy and to only accept company checks, money orders and cashiers checks.

The next item is regarding the on-call inspections. We are about half way through with this inspection process, the meters are taking a little longer than expected. Since we will not be finished with all of the

cab inspections by the end of June, the Director will send out a letter notifying the cab companies, St. Louis area Police Chief's Association and the Airport authorities that there will be an extension from the June 30th deadline to July 31st for permits.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Reeves presented the fiscal reports for May reporting the first five months showed us in a strong cash position, showing \$54,000 in receivables. Had a very strong May with a net income of \$65,945, putting us \$22,700 over budget year-to-date.

All of the on-call cab companies have been invoiced and have paid.

OLD BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Danny Shipley asked the Commission a question regarding why Laclede Cab, County Yellow and Chesterfield Cab were allowed to sit at the Ritz in Clayton and the Company he works for can not take customers from there. Commissioner McNutt addressed the questions by stating that the companies all pay fees to the City of Clayton for their business and advised him to have his company contact them if they are interested in doing this.

Mark Bates is concerned about driver's safety and wanted to know about panic buttons or video cameras being installed in their vehicles. The Commission will be having a presentation by Hackett Security regarding this matter and will discuss further, however the individual cab companies can also handle this issue on their own too.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Tucci motioned to adjourn to executive session, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Rudawsky and with a unanimous vote the board adjourned to executive session.

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 §X610.021(17).

The Commission then voted to end the executive session by the following vote:

Hamilton – Absent

Reeves – yes

Satz – yes

Bennett – yes

Asfaw – yes

Gidey – yes

McNutt – yes

Rudawsky – yes

Tucci – yes

Roll call was taken to go into executive session:

Commissioners Present: Hamilton, McNutt, Reeves, Bennett, Rudawsky, Satz, Tucci, Asfaw,
Gidey

Commissioners Absent:

ADJOURNMENT

The commission then returned from executive session for the security presentation by Hackett Security. With there being no further business on the agenda a motion was made by Commissioner Satz to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Bennett and with no further discussion the motion was approved unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

*Minutes were interpreted from a transcript by M. Lange.
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