

Metropolitan Taxicab Commission
June 23, 2015 @ 10:00 am
Commission Headquarters, 2628 Delmar, Hearings Room

Members present: Commissioners: Hamilton, McNutt, Reeves, Rudawsky, Satz, Tucci, Asfaw and Sommers
Members absent: Commissioners:
Legal Department: Neil Bruntrager

MINUTES

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Hamilton and the roll was called by Bob Oldani: Chairman Hamilton-present, Commissioner McNutt-present, Commissioner Reeves-present, Commissioner Rudawsky-present, Commissioner Satz-present, Commissioner Tucci-present, Commissioner Asfaw-present, and Commissioner Sommers-present. A quorum being found, the meeting began.

Chairman Hamilton made a motion to approve the May 19, 2015 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Reeves. There was no discussion by the board and vote was taken: Chairman Hamilton-yes, Commissioner McNutt-yes, Commissioner Reeves-yes, Commissioner Rudawsky-yes, Commissioner Satz-yes, Commissioner Tucci-yes, Commissioner Asfaw-yes and Commissioner Sommers-yes. The minutes were adopted.

Chairman Hamilton made a motion to approve the June 16, 2015 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Tucci. There was no discussion by the board and a vote was taken: Chairman Hamilton-yes, Commissioner McNutt-yes, Commissioner Reeves-yes, Commissioner Rudawsky-yes, Commissioner Satz-yes, Commissioner Tucci-yes, Commissioner Asfaw-yes and Commissioner Sommers-yes. The minutes were adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

Following adoption of the minutes, the following items were discussed and voted upon by the Commission

- July 29, 2015 at 10:00 A.M., was set as the next regular meeting of the Commission. (approved by consensus, no vote was taken)

CCN Hearings

- **Harmony Care, LLC-NEMT Class.** The Deputy Director presented the CCN application to the board with staff recommendation of approval. A motion was made to accept the staff recommendation and approve the CCN by Chairman Hamilton, seconded by Commissioner Reeves, with no discussion. Chairman Hamilton then called the question, a vote was taken and the motion was approved. Chairman Hamilton-yes, Commissioner McNutt-yes, Commissioner Reeves-yes, Commissioner Rudawsky-yes, Commissioner Satz-yes, Commissioner Tucci-yes, Commissioner Asfaw-yes and Commissioner Sommers-yes.
- **All Ride Taxi-On Call (HAV) Class.** The Deputy Director presented the CCN application to the board with staff recommendation of approval. A motion was made to accept the staff recommendation and approve the CCN by Chairman Hamilton, seconded by Commissioner Tucci. Following discussion Chairman Hamilton then called the question, a vote was taken and the motion was approved. Chairman Hamilton-yes, Commissioner McNutt-yes,

Commissioner Reeves-yes, Commissioner Rudawsky-yes, Commissioner Satz-yes, Commissioner Tucci-yes, Commissioner Asfaw-yes and Commissioner Sommers-yes.

Sale of a Share

- Contract for Commission approval of the sale of one (1) share of CCN holder Gateway Express Taxi. Berhanu Haile was selling one share of Gateway Express Taxi to Teshome Wordofa. The Director explained that all of the paperwork was in order and recommended approval. A motion was made to accept the staff recommendation by Chairman Hamilton, seconded by Commissioner Reeves. There was no discussion by the board and a vote was taken: Chairman Hamilton-yes, Commissioner McNutt-yes, Commissioner Reeves-yes, Commissioner Rudawsky-yes, Commissioner Satz-yes, Commissioner Tucci-yes, Commissioner Asfaw-yes and Commissioner Sommers-yes.

Sale of a Share

- Contract for Commission approval of the sale of one (1) share of CCN holder Independence Cab Company. Gary Sooch was selling one share of Independence Cab Company to Abraham Woldeamanuel. The Director explained that all of the paperwork was in order and recommended approval. A motion was made to accept the staff recommendation by Chairman Hamilton, seconded by Commissioner Sommers. There was no discussion by the board and a vote was taken: Chairman Hamilton-yes, Commissioner McNutt-yes, Commissioner Reeves-yes, Commissioner Rudawsky-yes, Commissioner Satz-yes, Commissioner Tucci-yes, Commissioner Asfaw-yes and Commissioner Sommers-yes.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- There was no Director's report

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Commissioner Reeves presented the financial packet to the board.

OLD BUSINESS

- There was no old business discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Hamilton opened the meeting to public comments.

One member of the audience, (name inaudible) asked if the Commission had received its report on taxicab need and necessity. Chairman Hamilton advised that he expected the initial draft of the study to be completed and presented to the Commission for review in about one month.

Sagar Shah, General Manager of Uber in Saint Louis addressed the Commission and urged them to amend the code so that it would allow UberX to operate in Saint Louis. Mr. Shah also suggested that the background checks obtained by the company are more thorough than those conducted by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and FBI.

Commissioner Sommers spoke in support of UberX and its vendor, (Checkr), for conducting thorough background checks.

The Commission's attorney, Neil Bruntrager disputed the statements and pointed out that only police agencies have access to closed court records without a court order.

Anthony Bartlett, of Saint Louis Transplants, spoke in favor of UberX.

Jami Dolby of Harris Cab Company, spoke in opposition to UberX.

Joshua Osho, representing the Saint Louis Airport taxi drivers welcomed the competition but wanted a level playing field for all companies and drivers.

Joseph Miller, of Show Me Institute, spoke in favor of UberX.

Commissioner Tucci spoke in opposition of Uber's request to bypass the MTC's criteria for background checks.

Following public comments, Chairman Hamilton advised the audience that additional public comments and recommendations to the Commission regarding UberX would be welcome in writing, not email, and that they could be dropped off at the MTC office or delivered by U.S. Mail, no later than July 7, 2015.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- There was no 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 §610.021(17).

ADJOURNMENT

- Chairman Hamilton entertained a motion to adjourn by Commissioner McNutt and seconded by Commissioner Tucci. A voice vote was taken with all in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:29 A.M.

Minutes were interpreted from an audio recording of the meeting by Bob Oldani.