

Metropolitan Taxicab Commission

May 12, 2010 @ 10:00 am
Commission Headquarters, 2628 Delmar, Hearings Room

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

Members absent: Commissioner; Bennett

Legal Department: Counselor, Thomas W. McCarthy

MINUTES

Chairman Hamilton called the meeting to order; the roll was called by Marianne Lange. Commissioner Asfaw, who was appointed by the Mayor of the City of St. Louis to represent cab companies with fewer than 100 taxicabs, was welcomed to his first official meeting. Commissioner McNutt moved to approve the minutes of the February 25th meeting which was seconded by Commissioner Reeves and with no discussion a vote was called for and the minutes were approved unanimously. Chairman Hamilton then asked for the date of June 16, 2010 to be set for the next meeting and the Board approved. On a motion by Commissioner McNutt, and seconded by Commissioner Reeves the March 30th meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Klein began the meeting with a discussion of the employees' retirement program indicating that an audit of the MTC's contributions to the system revealed that the Commission had under contributed by approximately \$7,000-\$7,500. He stated and that ERS has requested that the board table any discussion of the matter until the next meeting to allow time for them to determine the final figures.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Klein reported that renewal inspections for the airport taxicabs have been completed and that during the inspection process which now includes certification of the taxi meters, five (5) meters were found to be inaccurate, four (4) slow and one (1) fast which were subsequently recalibrated and recertified. The on-call taxicab inspections are now underway with two of the companies completed and the remainder of the inspections scheduled for completion by the end of June. Mr. Klein stated that at his request the Division of Weights and Measures set up two meter courses for Commission use in this process. One is located on Delmar Boulevard near MTC headquarters and the other is located near Lambert Airport.

The Director reported that as a result of complaints which included an open investigation by the Humane Society, Brookdale Farms, a Carriage Company and CCN holder, was under review by Commission Agents. These investigations centered on concerns that horses being used in the downtown area by Brookdale were being neglected or were otherwise significantly less than the weight requirements.

The MTC has invoked the code, and with the cooperation of the owner of the company mandated a recovery regimen and the owner has installed micro chips in the horses in answer to the concern of the Humane Society that horses could be substituted for each other. The MTC also brought in the veterinarian responsible for the mounted patrol of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department who has examined the horses and made recommendations to the MTC, to which the owner has complied.

The owner, Jerry Kirk, has made good progress on bringing the horses back up to acceptable weight for working in the district. The Humane Society and the veterinarian have now turned this matter back over to the Commission staff to monitor going forward. The expense of vetting will be covered by the owner of Brookdale Farms. The Board commended the Director and his Staff on their quick response and resolution of the Brookdale Farm issue.

The Director then discussed the new badging or license identification system that has been implemented. He stated that the system makes improvements to the security of the licenses and reduces potential tampering weaknesses, commenting that there is some additional expense incurred by the MTC to implement the new system on a per unit basis. There was a brief discussion about the placement of the new licenses in the vehicles.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Reeves presented reports for both March and April reporting that everything was tracking fairly well on the budget. There were timing considerations regarding billing for inspections of the airport taxicabs as well as the on-call taxicabs which were delayed slightly due to changes to the fee structure for inspections. All the funds that had been received in advance last year during the month of April did not track in the same time period for the current year. The Director commented that the MTC vehicle fleet has been modernized through the replacement of aging vehicles with the final vehicle being purchased since the prior meeting.

At this time Commissioner Hamilton asked Commissioner Reeves to chair the remainder of the meeting in order to attend another function.

OLD BUSINESS

None

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Kathleen Kelly Burkette, Manager and Mr. James Nowells, Contract Agent – Ferguson License Office

Ms. Burkette who was initially responsible for processing all taxicab titling and registration transactions for the Department of Revenue at the City Hall office, asked the board to consider moving the process to the Ferguson office where she now works suggesting that she can offer personal assistance to the cab drivers and companies. She stated that the Ferguson Office would be able to process these transactions on Saturdays which is not currently offered to the industry at St. Louis City Hall. The fees at the Ferguson location go to the Lion's Club of Ferguson and are the same as other the other offices in the state; \$2.50/title and \$3.50/plate. The board elected to take up the issue again at the next meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Tucci motioned to adjourn to executive session, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Satz 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).

Roll call was taken to go into executive session:

Commissioners Present: McNutt, Reeves, Rudawsky, Satz, Tucci, Asfaw

Commissioners Absent: Hamilton, Bennett

ADJOURNMENT

The board then returned from executive session and 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 Rudawsky 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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