

City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
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Action Minutes

Thursday, August 27, 2015

8:00 AM

Larcom City Hall, 301 E Huron St, Fourth floor, conference room

Taxicab Board

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the City of Ann Arbor Taxicab Board was called to order by the Chair, Michael Benson, at 8:09 a.m. in the Fourth Floor Conference Room, 301 E. Huron Street, Guy C. Larcom Jr. Municipal Building.

The following people were in attendance:

JP Heythaier, Blue Car

Kristen Larcom, Assistant City Attorney

Present: 7 - Stephen Kunselman, Michael Benson, Jamie Adkins, Robert Goeddel, LuAnne Bullington, Jacqueline Beaudry, and Kyle Lady

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Lady, seconded by Goeddel, that the Agenda be approved. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

15-1095 Taxicab Board Meeting Minutes of July 23, 2015

Attachments: 072315 Taxicab Board Minutes

A motion was made by Councilmember Kunselman, seconded by Lady, that the Taxicab Board Meeting Minutes of July 23, 2015 be approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council by 11/5/2015. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. TNC Bill Packages Update (Kristen Larcom)

Assistant City Attorney Kristen Larcom updated the Board on a new bill that passed through the State House in June, regarding TNC companies. Ms. Larcom noted that the new Act would cover TNCs and clarifies that the State Limo Act does not apply to TNC companies, like Uber and Lyft. Ms. Larcom stated the new TNC Act sets insurance requirements for TNCs and defines a TNC vehicle as not a commercial vehicle. The Act specifies that drivers do not need chauffeur licenses.

Ms. Larcom stated this Act is much more detailed than previous versions that had been written and considered in the State's last "lame duck" session. She noted one important highlight is that the Bill is clear that TNC companies and drivers are exclusively governed by this Act and cities are prohibited from taxing drivers and/or TNC companies or passing an ordinance that would further regulate TNC companies.

Councilmember Kunselman stated he did not believe there was support in the Senate for this Bill.

ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

1. Update on Communications/Press Release (Beaudry)

City Clerk Jacqueline Beaudry reported back on the Board's request to publicize or issue a press release outlining the various transportation options and the differences between each option.

Beaudry stated she consulted with Lisa Wondrash, the City's Communications Director, and was advised that a press release would likely be confusing with the majority of the calls and questions concerning the legality of TNC company operations in the City and State. Ms. Wondrash instead recommended that the City update their website focusing on the licensing process for taxicab vehicles and the role of the Taxicab Board in the City. Beaudry provided copies of an unpublished draft webpage for the Board to review and offer feedback. Beaudry also provided copies of other cities' taxicab webpages.

Board members concurred and authorized the City Clerk to publish the website. Suggestions for improvements to the website included more information about how and where to file a complaint and if possible, to add photos of licensed vehicles.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Enforcement/Ticket Numbers (Officer Adkins)

Officer Adkins stated she will provide updated numbers regarding enforcement efforts at the next meeting.

Councilmember Kunselman inquired about enforcement and if tickets are being written.

2. Update on Rate Changes (Officer Adkins)

Officer Adkins updated the Board on the changes to rates, as approved in the last ordinance update. Officer Adkins provided a copy of the new rates for each taxicab company for the Board's information.

Board members inquired about the various options available for the Police Department to report out on tickets.

Chair Benson requested that information be presented to Council regarding the number of cabs in the City past and present, the number of tickets written and the recent rate changes.

INFORMATION/UPCOMING BUSINESS

Chair Benson inquired about the insurance requirements for taxicab vehicles, as defined in the City ordinance, compared to State law for limos.

Beaudry replied that she consulted with Mary Fales and Ms. Fales reported that \$1,000,000 is the requirement for limos, so the City's requirement of \$500,000 is less. However, it was noted that rates for taxicabs versus limos are considerably higher. Benson asked if there was any risk to lowering the City's requirements.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Lady, seconded by Bullington, that the meeting adjourn. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:41 a.m.