

**Special Taxicab Board Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2012**

Members Present: Sarah Singleton Michael Benson
 Stephen Kunselman Tom Oldakowski

Members Absent: Tom Crawford

Guests:

Rick Clark, Amazing Blue Taxi
Dave Satawa, Metro Cab of Grand Rapids
Robert Sleilaty, Metro Cab of Grand Rapids
Mark LaSarge, Select Ride/Yellow Cab
Mark Neumann, Stadium Taxi
Fred Peebles, Blue Cab
Abdul Saddique, Metro Star Cab

A. CALLED TO ORDER – 5:05 p.m. by Stephen Kunselman

Mr. Kunselman introduced the Board’s new member Michael Benson.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTARY

None

C. OLD BUSINESS

Tom Oldakowski moved to approve the Board minutes from May 24, 2012, Michael Benson seconded. The motion passed.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of Tabled Taxicab Company Licenses
 - a. Metro Star – approval of the company license for Metro Star was presented before the Board. Adbul Saddique was present on behalf of Metro Star. Sarah Singleton spoke on behalf of police officer Jamie Adkins. In speaking with police officer Jamie Adkins, she did not have any objections to approving Metro Star’s application. Ms. Singleton asked Officer Adkins to provide the Board with a current list of approved taxicab companies because of the number of cab companies bearing the name “Metro” which could be very confusing for the public.

The list is attached for the Board's review. The Board agreed that the differences in color scheme and graphics are sufficient to issue a company license.

Tom Oldakowski moved to approve a company license for Metro Starr, Michael Benson seconded. The motion passed.

- b. Metro Cab of Grand Rapids – approval of the company license for Metro Cab of Grand Rapids was presented before the Board. Dave Satawa was present on behalf of Metro Cab of Grand Rapids. Sarah Singleton spoke on behalf of police officer Jamie Adkins. In speaking with Officer Adkins, she did not have any objections to approving Metro Cab of Grand Rapids' application. Officer Adkins also stated that Metro Cab of Grand Rapids anticipate registering 20 white minivans as taxis. Mr. Satawa said initially only 10 vehicles would be registered with others to follow at a later date.

Tom Oldakowski moved to approve a company license for Metro Cab of Grand Rapids, Michael Benson seconded. The motion passed.

Mr. Kunselman asked to have Officer Adkins provide a picture book of all cab companies for reference.

2. Taxicab Board Meeting Schedule/Time Change

- a. Due to a scheduling conflict with Board members, a permanent change to an evening meeting was discussed. The board agreed to change the meeting to the 4th Tuesday of each month at 5:00pm in the 2nd floor council workroom.

ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

Tom Crawford was not present.

Mr. Kunselman commented to the Board that he had been in communication with the city's lobbyist to have language approved at the state legislature to clarify the difference between taxicabs and limousines. This has been one of the issues the Board has dealt with over a number of years. The Board is aware that there are companies acting as taxis but are not licensed in the city of Ann Arbor. The Board will continue to support the companies that are working within the city's ordinance and sends their appreciation.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Mark Neumann – Stadium Taxi said the only reason some of the companies are limo's as oppose to taxicabs is because of the high insurance cost to insure taxicabs.

Rick Clark, Amazing Blue Taxi said another reason some companies are limo's is to charge unknowing customer more than they would pay in a metered taxicab.

Fred Pebbles asked the Board if monetary penalties could be imposed on those operating a limo as a taxicab.

Mr. Kunselman said if we don't have the "teeth" in our ordinance to implement a monetary penalty, then that would be something we need to address.

ADJOURNMENT

Michael Benson moved to adjourn the meeting, Tom Oldakowski seconded. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.