

City of Ann Arbor

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

Thursday, October 22, 2015

8:00 AM

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

Taxicab Board

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Ann Arbor City Taxicab Board was called to order by the Chair, Michael Benson, at 8:11 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
Gordon Berry
Tim Tobias, Michigan Green Car*

Officer Jamie Adkins of the Ann Arbor Police Department called in via conference call to the room.

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 Bullington, seconded by Lady, that the Agenda be approved as presented. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

15-1325 Taxicab Board Meeting Minutes of August 27, 2015

Attachments: 082715 Taxicab Board Minutes

A motion was made by Lady, seconded by Goeddel, that the Minutes of the Taxicab Board meeting of August 27, 2015 be approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

15-1330

Implementation of ORD 14-20, Amendment to Chapter 85, Taxicabs, Revised Standards for Meter Rates and Status of Licensed Taxicabs in the City

Sponsors: Taxicab Board

City Clerk Jacqueline Beaudry presented a draft communication to Council for the Board's review. The memo outlined the implementation of ORD 14-20, the deregulation of taxicab rates, over the last year. The communication also provided an update to Council regarding tickets issued by the Ann Arbor Police Department over the last year under Chapter 85 (Taxicabs), and the State's limo law.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kunselman, seconded by Lady, that the Communication be recommended for approval and sent to the City Council. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion of Defeated Ordinance Amendment - Regulation of Non-Metered Vehicles For Hire

Board members discussed with Ann Arbor Police Officer Jamie Adkins the enforcement efforts of the Police Party Patrols on Friday and Saturday nights and the impact of TNC vehicles in the campus area. Officer Adkins stated the number of TNCs on City streets in the late night hours is significant. Officer Adkins stated Ann Arbor is the only city she is aware of that is actively ticketing TNC drivers for violating limo laws. Officer Adkins also noted that the charges for the tickets issued by Ann Arbor Police are dropped if the driver subsequently gets licensed as a limo. She said if the drivers don't have records, the prosecutor is not interested in pursuing these tickets.

Board members and Officer Adkins discussed licensing non-metered vehicles and the drivers of those vehicles through a new or amended City ordinance. Officer Adkins stated she would like to be able to enforce the City's licensing requirements with limos. The public safety benefits of a local driver registration and vehicle inspections were discussed. Officer Adkins noted that Blue Car, a State-licensed limo company, already registers its drivers under the City's Taxicab Ordinance. She stated a requirement to register drivers, whether TNC or limo, would ensure drivers met the City's requirements. Councilmember Kunselman noted that the streets are overcrowded with the TNC vehicles and requiring the drivers to register would not change that. Officer Adkins stated she doesn't think the TNC drivers are looking for fares, but said the students are calling them to the area and that isn't going to change.

Chair Benson noted that the registration of TNCs as limos would require those drivers to have proper insurance and a chauffeur's license.

Councilmember Kunselman reminded the Board that he will no longer be the Council Member representing the Taxicab Board and he could not speak for the direction of the new administration and Council as it relates to TNCs and the taxi industry.

2. Future Role of Taxicab Board

Board Members continued the conversation regarding the regulation of TNCs and limos at the local level and how the Board's role might change moving forward. It was noted that without the regulation of TNCs and limos, with very few traditionally licensed taxis in the City, the Board would not have much of a role.

Officer Adkins concurred that the industry is shifting and the TNC vehicles are here to fill a need on campus. She stated as a matter of public safety, she would like to see all three forms of transportation options; taxis, limos and TNCs, regulated by the City. Councilmember Kunselman asked Officer Adkins to include the AAPD perspective with the Clerk's memo to Council on November 5.

Chair Benson stated the transportation industry is also of concern to the disability community.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

INFORMATION/UPCOMING BUSINESS

Board Members thanked Councilmember Kunselman for his years of service to the Taxicab Board and his advocacy on their behalf and for the industry.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gordon Berry said the State is viewing TNCs as a good thing, not a problem. He stated the City should not expect the State to step in and regulate.

Tim Tobias of Michigan Green Cars stated he agreed with the idea of having limo companies register their drivers with the City. He stated he has 120 vehicles and is here to stay. He stated he is interested in registering his drivers and also noted that many of his drivers are former Uber drivers.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Lady, seconded by Councilmember Kunselman, that the meeting of the Taxicab Board adjourn. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:37 a.m.