
VEHICLE FOR HIRE COMMISSION

CITY OF EDMONTON VEHICLE FOR HIRE COMMISSION

MEETING NO. 10

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

MEMBERS

H. Naboulsi
L. Lubin
R. Clarke
C. Khehra
M. Pnaich
M. Fysh
C. Leahey

PRESENT

H. Naboulsi
L. Lubin
R. Clarke
C. Khehra
M. Pnaich
M. Fysh
C. Leahey

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

| | | | |
|-----------|---------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| S. Weller | Secretary | J. Fiorilli | G. Stewart-Palmer |
| P. Fearon | Administrator | Acting Advisor (EPS) | Shores-Jardine |

1. Call to Order

Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:50 p.m. and introduced Inspector J. Fiorilli, who will be acting as the EPS advisor on the Commission for today's meeting. He also introduced Heather Bettke who is in charge of security clearances with EPS who is in attendance to offer a status update on time frames, etc. with the issuance of clearances.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED KHEHRA/LEAHEY

#1-10-09

That the agenda be approved as circulated.

FOR THE MOTION: Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Leahey,
Pnaich, Fysh

CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Lubin reminded attendees at the meeting that the Commission approved reimbursement for parking in the library parkade.

MOVED LUBIN/FYSH

#2-10-09

That the minutes from the regular meeting held on September 2, 2009 be approved.

FOR THE MOTION: Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Leahey,
Pnaich, Fysh

CARRIED

4. Public Involvement

Chairman indicated that Mr. Ray Robichaud from Cars Gone is scheduled to make a time specific presentation to the Commission regarding an advertising product.

Mr. Robichaud addressed the Commission and indicated that his company publishes a magazine called 'Cars Gone' and features vehicles for sale. To promote the magazine, they have produced licence plate frames with their magazine name and website information and are requesting permission to have the frames placed on taxi vehicles.

Mr. Fearon stated that he has viewed the frame and it does not cover the wheel 'sticker well' area where stickers are placed, therefore he does not see any reason these frames should be prohibited.

MOVED LUBIN/LEAHEY

#3-10-09

That the Commission accept and approve the advertising proposal for the licence plate frame, including cut out areas for plate sticker well, as presented to the Commission.

FOR THE MOTION: Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Leahey,
Pnaich, Fysh

CARRIED

The following individuals requested to speak on agenda items;

Mr. Husni Al-Khateeb
Mr. George Peychoff
Mr. Steve Alvanos

Mr. Allah Chebli
Mr. Balraj Manhas

Mr. John Klufus
Mr. Phil Strong

Prior to the presentations, Chairman requested that Item 8. (New Business) b. – Request for approval for markings on taxi vehicle, be heard so Mr. Ladislov is not required to stay for the entire meeting.

Mr. Fearon explained that when Mr. Ladislov, who operates Lado's Luxury taxi, changed vehicles he neglected to have his new color and markings approved by the Commission. His color is very similar to his previous color, however, the markings for the vehicle are different. There is no conflict with either the color or markings and approval is a formality that is required through the Bylaw.

MOVED CLARKE/LUBIN

#4-10-09

That the Commission approve the color and markings submitted for the vehicle operating as Lado's Luxury Taxi, and add this detail to our Regulations color binder.

FOR THE MOTION: Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Leahey,
Pnaich, Fysh

CARRIED

The above seven persons made a presentation and answered the Commission's questions.

Summary of comments/concerns raised;

- time line clarification for issuance of wheelchair licence plates
- continued co-operation (meeting attendance) between industry and Commission
- clarification of how many hours constitute a day – suggestion of 4 – 6 hours
- assurance that current economic factors are considered when plate to population review is conducted
- issuance of a bulletin regarding parameters for using licence plate frame

Mr. Clarke suggested that Ms. Heather Bettke, who is representing EPS and will speak regarding the issue of police clearances, be heard at this time so she is not required to stay for the remainder of the meeting.

Ms. Heather Bettke, the Supervisor of the Police Information Check Division addressed the Commission. She advised that EPS is only 8 days behind with the issuance of security clearances and that four new staff members have been hired and are currently being trained to assist with the process. Ms. Bettke also clarified that there is a vast difference between clearances issued by the R.C.M.P. and clearances issued by E.P.S.

Insp. Fiorilli commented that there can also be applicants who require information from Ottawa and in this case the E.P.S. office requires at least 30 days prior notice to begin the process.

Chairman thanked Ms. Bettke for attending the meeting and offering the update report.

Mr. Fearon requested that Item 7. a. ii (Administrative Matters – Licencing – I.A.T.R. Customer Service Presentation) be addressed at this time as it involved an individual who may not wish to remain for the remainder of the meeting.

MOVED LEAHEY/CLARKE

#5-10-09

That the agenda matter identified by the Administrator be addressed at this time.

FOR THE MOTION: Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Leahey,
Pnaich, Fysh

CARRIED

Administrator reported that at the recent I.A.T.R. conference he attended, awards were presented to taxi drivers from jurisdictions throughout North America who exhibited exceptional customer service, compassion and humanitarianism. These drivers were chosen as award recipients for the first International Ceremony recognizing their achievement. Administrator stated that he is very pleased to announce that a driver from Edmonton was acknowledged at the event and he accepted the award on his behalf. He requested Mr. Dhanoa come forward and accept the award presented to him by the International Association of Transportation Regulators. He presented Mr. Dhanoa with the award and also a copy of the award ceremony program which highlighted his name at this International event.

5. Business Arising

- a. Administration Report (attached) regarding population to licence ratio to licence ratio

Administrator stated that at the last meeting he was directed to bring forward information regarding the annual review of the population to plate ratio. He indicated that the model remains at 17 plates to 10,000 population. Edmonton will have 1,230 licences issued subsequent to the 10 new accessible licences and according to the model there should be an additional 100 for our population. However, due to economic conditions and various other factors, he will be recommending that no further licences be issued in 2009 and that the review be conducted again in the fall of 2010.

MOVED PNAICH/FYSH

#6-10-09

That the Administrators report on the population to plate ratio be received as information and that the Commission recommend to City Council that no additional taxi licences, beyond our 1,230, be issued in 2009 and that the Commission review this matter again in 2010.

FOR THE MOTION: Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Leahey,
Pnaich, Fysh

CARRIED

b. Administration Report (update) on Carbon Emissions

Administrator indicated that unless a report is submitted by November 16th it will be carried over until 2010 because of City Council's schedule. He is required to have the report submitted to our G.M.'s office by Friday, October 23, 2009. Although all of the research has not yet be completed, he will commit to finishing a preliminary report this week and forward recommendations to Commission members by next Monday.

Members requested that the Administration scheduled a private meeting of the Commission for the evening of Monday, October 19th to facilitate completion of the report within the required timelines.

Recommendations will be forwarded to Mr. Leahey via e-mail as soon as possible so he may submit his comments on the issue as he is unable to attend the meeting.

c. October 28th City Council Reports

Administrator reported that the reports on the \$3.00 late night surcharge and on the change to alter the operational day requirement from 100 to 200 days will be addressed as Bylaw amendments by City Council at their meeting of October 28th.

MOVED FYSH/KHEHRA

#7-10-09

That the Administrators reports on items a,b, and c of Business Arising be received as information.

FOR THE MOTION: Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Leahey,
Pnaich, Fysh

CARRIED

d. Report on Security Checks

Mr. Clarke indicated that this report was previously addressed during the presentation by Ms. Bettke of E.P.S.

Administrator advised Mr. Clarke that the Safety Committee had been directed to review the existing criteria in place to determine eligibility for licence applicants.

Mr. Clarke stated he would report on that aspect of security clearances in the future.

e. Substitute Vehicle Request re; Limousines

Mr. Lubin indicated that this item is currently being considered and a recommendation will be offered in the near future.

6. Reports from Commission

a. Executive Committee

Acting Chairman indicated that this report would be offered by the Chairman upon his return to the meeting.

b. Operation & Program Committee

This full report is added as Attachment #1 to these minutes.

MOVED LUBIN/LEAHEY

#8-10-09

That the status update report of the Operation & Program Committee be received as information.

FOR THE MOTION: Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Leahey,
Pnaich, Fysh

CARRIED

c. Safety Committee

This full report is added as Attachment #2 to these minutes. Mr. Clarke also reported on his attendance at an Alberta Safer Bars Workshop. This report on this matter is added as Attachment #3 to these minutes.

Mr. Leahey commented that he was not invited to the meeting with Ms. Bergeron and Safety Committee reports are always based on one individual, not the Committee as a whole. He indicated that he continues to experience frustration that he and Mr. Pnaich are not invited to Safety Committee meetings and that Committee dealings are not transparent.

MOVED CLARKE/KHEHRA

#9-10-09

That the status update report of the Safety Committee be received as information.

FOR THE MOTION: Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Leahey,
Pnaich, Fysh

CARRIED

d. Driver Training Committee

This full report is added as Attachment #3 to these minutes.

MOVED KHEHRA/LEAHEY

#10-10-09

That the status update report of the Driver Training Committee be received as information.

FOR THE MOTION: Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Leahey,
Pnaich, Fysh

CARRIED

7. Administrative Matters

a. Licensing

i. September, 2009 Service Deliverable Report

Administrator reported that the September, 2009 service deliverable report is attached to the agenda and he would be happy to answer any questions Commission members may have on the information presented. A total of 855 Violation tickets have been issued this year.

ii. I.A.T.R. Customer Service Presentation

Administrator indicated that the customer service presentation was presented to the recipient previously in the meeting. He stated that he has provided members with an I.A.T.R. package that includes agendas, highlights, newspaper articles, etc. All power point presentations offered at the conference are included on the website. Members may view any presentations that are of interest to them electronically at their leisure.

Administrator also reported that with regard to the accessible taxi RFP, he has been advised that there is currently a DATS RFP being conducted. He is suggested a January 2010 release for the RFP for the 10 accessible licence plates which will likely mirror the previous RFP. He will review submissions and offer a summary to Commission members who will then conduct a formal review. A system will be created to rank the submissions and ultimately the Commission recommendations will be offered to Materials Management. The entire process should be completed by the end of April.

MOVED KHEHRA/FYSH

#11-10-09

That the Commission approve the process outlined by the Administrator to release the accessible taxi RFP in the first week of January, 2010.

FOR THE MOTION: Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Leahey,
Pnaich, Fysh

CARRIED

Administrator also stated he met with the United Cabbies Association regarding enforcement and will follow up on the discussion. He appreciates the information offered today on the industry opinion of how many hours should constitute a day for the 200 day operating requirement.

With regard to the 2010 budget the first concept reviewed was to remain revenue neutral with a second concept that the budget be created within a 5% inflation factor.

When the final budget instructions came out, the actual inflation factor was only 4.3%. The previous 2010 proposal was to increase the Driver licence fee from \$45 to \$50 – an increase of \$5.00. Due to this 0.7% change, he is now recommending that the Commission eliminate this increase for 2010.

MOVED CLARKE/LEAHEY

#12-10-09

That the \$5.00 increase to the drivers licence fee in the 2010 budget be removed.

FOR THE MOTION: Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Leahey,
Pnaich, Fysh

CARRIED

Administrator also stated that he will begin creating the 2010 work plan and will report on the status early in the New Year. A three year skeletal work plan will be presented at the next meeting.

The third quarter budget information has just been received and he will review the documentation and have information ready for members at the next meeting.

MOVED LEAHEY/KHEHRA

#13-09-10

That the Administrator's report be received as information.

FOR THE MOTION: Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Leahey,
Pnaich, Fysh

CARRIED

b. Edmonton Police Service

i. Delay in Processing Security Checks

This issue was addressed previously on the agenda.

8. New Business

a. Correspondence to the Vehicle For Hire Commission dated September 8, 2009 from Elias Teclemariam regarding a taxi plate.

MOVED FYSH/LEAHEY

#14-09-10

That the Administration be directed to draft a response for the Chairman's signature outlining the plate restriction and lottery provisions in the Bylaw should new plates be issued in the future.

FOR THE MOTION: Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Leahey,
Pnaich, Fysh

CARRIED

- b. Request from Ladislav Hudec of Lado's Luxury Taxi requesting approval for markings on his Independent Taxi vehicle.

This issue was addressed previously on the agenda.

- c. Correspondence (and attachments) to the Vehicle For Hire Commission dated September 30, 2009 from Phil Strong, President, Yellow Cab re; "What is the mandate of the Vehicle For Hire Commission?"
- d. Correspondence to the Vehicle For Hire Commission dated September 30, 2009 from Phil Strong, President, Yellow Cab Re; "Bylaw 14700 and the shuttle/bus industry".

MOVED LEAHEY/CLARKE

#15-09-10

That correspondence items 8. d. and c. received from Phil Strong, President of Yellow Cab be received as information.

FOR THE MOTION: Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Leahey,
Pnaich, Fysh

CARRIED

During a brief discussion , members agreed that the December meeting is to be held on the regular scheduled date of December 9, 2009

The following individuals were offered the opportunity to address or re-address the Commission;

Mr. Phil Strong
Mr. Steve Alvanos
Mr. Allah Chebli

Summary of comments/concerns raised;

- assurance that training classes are available for any interested candidate
- Mr. Strong's letters require response
- reminder that EPS advisor on Commission is a non-voting member

10. In-Camera Items

MOVED LEAHEY/NABOULSI

#16-09-10

That the meeting be adjourned in-camera.

FOR THE MOTION: Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Leahey,
Pnaich, Fysh

CARRIED

MOVED LUBIN/FYSH

#17-09-10

That the public meeting be resumed.

FOR THE MOTION: Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Leahey,
Pnaich, Fysh

CARRIED

MOVED LUBIN/KHEHRA

#18-09-10

That the Administration be directed to prepare correspondence to Phil Strong in response to the two letters he submitted based on the in-camera discussion.

FOR THE MOTION: Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Leahey,
Pnaich, Fysh

CARRIED

Mr. Phil Strong requested that the response be offered early enough that he could submit a response in time for the next months agenda.

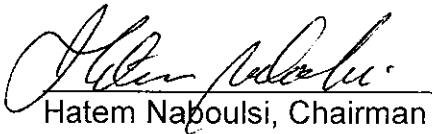
Mr. Strong was advised that the correspondence would be faxed to him by the end of next week.

11. Adjournment

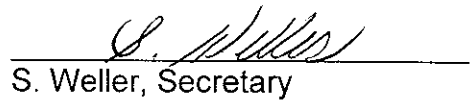
The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

The next regular Vehicle For Hire Commission meeting will be held **Wednesday, November 18, 2009** at 1:30 p.m. in the Heritage Room, Main Floor, City Hall.

****PLEASE NOTE; THE NOVEMBER MEETING IS SCHEDULED ON THE THIRD
WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH DUE TO THE REMEMBRANCE DAY HOLIDAY****



Hatem Naboulsi, Chairman



S. Weller, Secretary