
City of Bethel, Alaska

Public Safety & Transportation Commission

February 12, 2007

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Public Safety and Transportation Commission held on February 12, 2007 at 7:00 pm in the City Hall Council Chambers, Bethel, Alaska.

Vice Chair, Mark Springer called the meeting to order at 7:05.

II. ROLL CALL

Compromising a quorum of the Commission, the following members were present for roll call:

Mark Springer

Brian Lefferts

Charlie Chung

Eric Middlebrook

John Haistie is excused

Mark Miller is not excused

Ex-Officio members present were the following:

Chief Benjamin Dudley

Transportation Inspector Molly Bailie

Administrative Assistant Lori Strickler

III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

A. Theresa Broechel

a. Taxi Drivers have undeservingly received a bad reputation from the community

b. Trip sheets should be removed from the ordinance

c. Many cabdrivers do not have insurance or retirement because it is not affordable

d. If the permit fee is increased, it would in turn generate \$138,600 annually for the city

e. Gas has gone up 60% and we are only requesting a 20% increase in the taxi fares

B. Ray Watson

a. A fare increase is not the resolution

i. Too many cab permits/ too many cabs on the road

ii. The \$150.00 tax rate has not gone up for the taxicab drivers which is not fare to other business owners

iii. The City should go to a meter system

C. Abdula Hukuli

a. Having our headlight on during the daytime causes a hazard, we are not able to read our speedometer

D. Frank Mazzaro

a. There are six different cab companies, if any of the companies lost any permits it would hinder the business, vacation or sick leave would not be feasible

b. Trip Sheets take too much time, it is not possible to fill out accurately

c. The system in renewing the taxi permit is too slow.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF FEBRUARY 12, 2007

MOVED BY:	Middlebrook	Move item IX. E, to item IX. D
SECONDED BY:	Lefferts	

Discussion

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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VI. CHIEF'S COMMENTS

- A. If anyone would like to make complaints regarding the cab permits or the operation of the Transportation Inspector, come by the Police Department and the matter can be discussed
- B. We are working to streamline the taxicab processes
- C. Trip sheet filled out by the cabdrivers have been valuable to our investigations

VII. TRANSPORTATION INSPECTOR REPORT

- A. Inspections are going good.
- B. Currently working on vehicle permits, they should be completed at the end of this week

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Taxicab fare increase

MOTION TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE AMENDING 5.20.020 OF THE BMC INCREASING TAXI CAB RATES

MOVED BY:	Lefferts	
SECONDED BY:	Chung	

Discussion

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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- a. Language is unclear in certain areas

VOTE TO DETERMIN IF MR. CHUNG HAS A CONFLICT OF INTEREST (ROLL CALL)

Lefferts YES
 Middlebrook YES
 Springer YES
 Chung YES

It was determined that Mr. Chung does have a conflict of interest; a quorum is not established to conduct any votes regarding the fare increase.

MOTION TO TABLE UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING

MOVED BY:	Middlebrook	
SECONDED BY:	Lefferts	

Discussion

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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- B. Off road vehicle update
- C. Police Department Personnel
- D. John Hastie's Excusal
 - a. All members were in favor of approving Mr. Hastie's absence
- E. Election of Officers for the Commission
 - a. Chair nominations, Mark Springer and Brian Lefferts

Springer	4
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Lefferts	0
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- b. Vice Chair nomination Brian Lefferts
- c. New Chair, Mark Springer; New Vice Chair, Brian Lefferts

F. Community forum on Public Safety

MOTION TO TABLE UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING

MOVED BY:	Middlebrook	
SECONDED BY:	Lefferts	

Discussion

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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X. COMMISSION MEMBER'S COMENTS

- A. Brian Lefferts
 - a. Would like to add taxicab trip sheets and taxi permits to the next agenda
- B. Charlie Chung
 - a. Would like to add setting a maximum and minimum taxi fare to the next agenda
- C. Eric Middlebrook
 - a. Gave an overview of the changes in the taxi business over the years
 - b. Glad to hear the Off Road Vehicle ordinance changes are not causing a problem
- E. Mark Springer
 - a. Thank you for the position of the Chair
 - b. Requests that Eric Middlebrook take to Council the conflict of interest discussion of Charley Chung and the taxi fare increase.
 - c. Suggest the commission hold a work session to improve title 10

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN

MOVED BY:	Middlebrook	
SECONDED BY:	Lefferts	

Discussion

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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Next meeting on Monday March 12, 2006


Chairperson

ATTEST:


Lori Strickler, Recorder