

**Regular Meeting
Public Safety & Transportation Commission
Monday, May 7, 2001**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Commission members present were James Blake, Tae Hwa Chung, John Hastie, Guy Mercurief, and John Dickens. Mike O'Brien was unable to attend. Jerry Drake sat in as Council representation. Ex-Officio members present were Acting Chief of Police George Dahl, Taxi Technician Andrew Steele, and Janette Persinger. City Attorney Louann Cutler was also present by phone.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Steel addressed the two items in the ordinance that were incorrect. The first item was pre-employment drug testing. During last month's meeting, the Commission unanimously voted to remove the pre-employment drug-testing requirement from the ordinance. However, for an unknown reason, it was not removed. The second item was that of a dispatch service operation center. Mr. Steele discovered that this issue was never discussed at any length in any of the previous meetings.

**MR. STEELE'S
STATEMENT**

Mr. Libby brought forth his concern regarding the amounts of insurance coverage required by the taxi industry. He presented possible costs for insurance. A lengthy discussion ensued.

**PEOPLE TO BE
HEARD**

A motion was made to approve the amended minutes of 4/2/01 by Mr. Mercurief and seconded by Mr. Dickens. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES OF 04/02/01**

Mr. Steele added implementation of the new ordinance under old business – item c. Also added under old business – item d –set date for public hearing of new rates for taxicabs. Motion was made to approve the amended agenda by Mr. Blake and seconded by Mr. Dickens. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF
AGENDA**

Acting Chief of Police deferred to Andrew Steele to enable Andrew to present his report, which was relevant to the meeting. Commission chair John Hastie asked that the Chiefs' reports be changed to Chiefs' comments because the Chiefs' are not required to report to the Commission. Mr.

CHIEFS' COMMENTS

Steele presented his written report, which contained facts regarding the DMV and an incident involving a cab driver. Mr. Steele made the decision to ride with Quyana Cab during morning rush hour traffic so that he could see if the use of trip permits were feasible. Mr. Steele brought trip sheets that he had designed and deemed that the use of trip sheets is feasible.

It was confirmed by John Hastie that the Central Dispatch Center is not going to be required, trip sheets, however; are going to be required. Ms. Cutler advised that the changes needed to be changed with a motion. There will be another ordinance process to complete with regards to these issues. Discussion followed regarding the amounts of insured required. The amount of insurance required in the ordinance is higher than the required state limits. Ms. Cutler reminded the Commission that the ordinance has been passed by the City Council and will take effect in 60 days. The Commission has 90 days to address the drug testing issues.

After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Blake that section 5.20.085 – the Commission may require pre-employment drug testing would remain as written. Seconded by Mr. Dickens. A roll call vote was called for 5 yeas, 1 nay.

Motion was made by Mr. Blake to strike 5.50.040 section E, central dispatch service center requirement. The central dispatch service center will not be required. Seconded by Mr. Dickens. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Blake made a motion to set the date for the Public Hearing to discuss and evaluate the taxi fare structure for May 21, 2001. Seconded by Mr. Mercurief. The motion was unanimous.

Acting Chief of Police George Dahl addressed the issue of drug testing. The City of Bethel currently uses the Bethel Family Clinic to administer drug testing. Chief Dahl presented information regarding the fees. It was recommended that the drug testing issue be brought forward at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

VEHICLE FOR HIRE ORDINANCE

Acting Chief of Police George Dahl presented a graph of the traffic flow pattern. He explained the pattern and the use of signage. There are some major concerns with regards to the traffic flow. The Department of Transportation has no immediate plan to address the issue of traffic flow. Mr. Drake provided the Commission with information that there probably would not be any changes made in funding until the 2004. Chief Dahl and James Blake will meet with LJ (DOT) and go over the traffic pattern and report back to the Commission.

**TRAFFIC FLOW AT
NEW POST OFFICE**

Recently there has been a lot of community input by YK and the people of Bethel regarding the condition of the city roads. John Hastie felt that as a Commission that a letter of support be sent to Congressman Don Young, who is the chair. The letter will be drafted and signed at the next meeting.

CITY ROADS

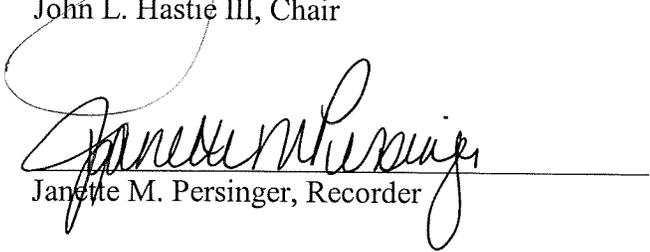
Motion for adjournment was made by Mr. Blake and seconded by Mr. Dickens. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:07pm.

ADJOURNMENT

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 13th DAY OF August, 2001



John L. Hastie III, Chair



Janette M. Persinger, Recorder