
City of Bethel, Alaska

Public Safety & Transportation Commission

July 14, 2003

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Public Safety & Transportation Commission was held on July 14, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the city hall conference room, Bethel, Alaska.

Chair John Hastie called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Comprising a quorum of the commission, the following were present:

John Hastie	Brad Kehoe
Jerry Drake	Tom Fazzini
Don Poe	

* Michael Cho attended the meeting late; after roll call.

Ex-Officio members present were the following:

Howard H. Morris, Chief of Police and Transportation Inspector
George Young, Fire Chief
Andrew Steele, Transportation Technician
Nicole Williams, Recorder

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Frank Mazzarro, Theresa Williams, Hugh Short and Diana Chon, all members of the cab industry. All four of the above voiced opinions and concerns regarding the ongoing issue of cab fares being cut and that this act is a violation of city ordinance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED BY:	Poe	To approve the regular agenda.
SECONDED BY:	Kehoe	

Under New Business added – Ordinance 03-11

Under New Business added – Meeting time

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous vote.
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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY:	Kehoe	To approve the minutes of the regular meeting on June 2, 2003.
SECONDED BY:	Fazzini	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous vote.
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CHIEFS' COMMENTS

Chief Morris mentioned that the letters sent to all cab companies and owners were published in both local papers for public awareness regarding the issue of discount fare rates. The Police Department must have proof of this act of violation in order to pursue the violator(s). If proof is provided that this act is continuing, the driver and cab company will be pursued and punished by the Bethel Police Department. The violation of discount fare rates are to cease. Information regarding this investigation will not be disclosed to any individual within the cab industry.

In response to Frank Mazzaro's comment, the agendas for the Public Safety & Transportation Commission Meeting are, always have been and will continue to be posted at Anica, City Hall, Swanson's and AC at least five days prior to the upcoming meeting.

The Police Department is moving forward with the helmet laws and vehicle recommendations to Council as requested by this commission.

Chief George Young expressed thanks to Police Chief Howard Morris for "stepping up to plate" and responding to Mr. Chung's statement and concern regarding the time frame in which it took for the Fire Department to arrive at a fire scene on Ridgecrest earlier this summer.

The Fire Department is in the process of filling the last vacant Fire Fighter/EMT position which will bring the department up to full staffing.

Chief Young extends much thanks to this commission for all of the support given regarding the new fiscal year budget process.

The Fire Department is almost in possession of a new ambulance made possible to the community by YKHC's coordination of a foundation USDA State of Alaska EMS grant. The cost of the vehicle could be estimated at close to \$150,000.00 and will cost the community and tax payers of Bethel very little.

TRANSPORTATION INSPECTORS REPORT

Nothing to report at this time.

TRANSPORTATION TECHNICIAN'S REPORT

- A. Yellow Cab, City Cab and Taxi Cab are the three cabs in question regarding the above mentioned issue. Mr. Steele brought in all three companies on separate occasions to discuss and inform them that what is going on is illegal. It was followed up by a letter from Mr. Steele to each of the above named cab companies and has been made clear and understood that this conduct of discount fare rates must come to a stop.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- A) Mr. Steele brought forth ordinance 03-11 before the commission with hopes that the commission will review the documentation and vote to make a recommendation to Council on this issue.

LETTER TO LOCAL PAPERS

MOVED BY:	Kehoe	Recommend to Council to adopt amendment 03-11 as presented.
SECONDED BY:	Drake	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous vote.
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B) Commission member Drake suggested changing the time of the meeting to a lunch time rather than in the evening which could result in better attendance, agenda topics covered more quickly with less unnecessary discussion leading to shorter meeting time and overall more productive meetings.

MEETING TIME

MOVED BY:	Drake	To change the time of the Public Safety & Transportation meeting to noon. (On a trial basis for a couple of months at which point this will be assessed again.)
SECONDED BY:	Kehoe	

Note that Don Poe voted against but trial run of this change still passed.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by vote.
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COMMISSION MEMBER'S COMMENTS

Brad Kehoe addressed the problem of cabs parking in the unloading zone directly in front of AK AIR terminal. This creates an inconvenience for ticketed passengers trying to unload at the terminal. He would like for all cab companies to leave the unloading zone curb side open.

Jerry Drake addressed budget cuts.

John Hastie addressed cabs that are in bad exterior condition, extruding metal etc.

Don Poe addressed the scam on cabs short stopping and causing an individual to hit them.

Discussion ensued.

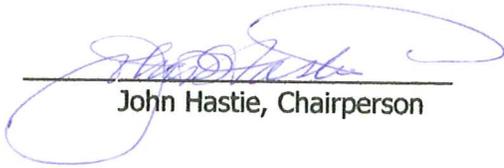
ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY:	Drake	To adjourn the meeting.
SECONDED BY:	Kehoe	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by a unanimous vote.
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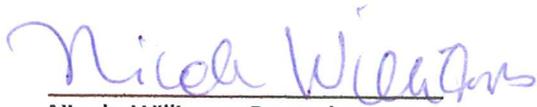
With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m., July 14, 2003.

Approved this 6 day of August, 2003.



John Hastie, Chairperson

ATTEST:



Nicole Williams, Recorder