

**Regular Meeting  
Public Safety & Transportation Commission  
Monday, August 13, 2001**

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commission members present were John Hastie, Don Poe, Hugh Short, Jr., Brad Kehoe, Jim Blake, Thor Williams, and Guy Mercurief. Ex-Officio members present were Robert K. Petitt, Chief of Police, Taxi Technician Andrew Steele, and Janette Persinger.

**ROLL CALL**

Several members of the community were heard. Each member brought forward the same issue: the requirement of taking the written test to receive a chauffeur's license.

**PEOPLE TO BE HEARD**

A motion was made Mr. Blake to approve the agenda and seconded Mr. Poe. The motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made to approve the amended minutes of 07/02/01 by Mr. Blake and seconded by Mr. Poe. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 07/02/01**

Robert K. Petitt, Chief of Police, presented a memorandum, which was written by himself and Taxi Technician Andrew Steele and directed to the Public Safety & Transportation Commission. The memorandum addressed the issue of the requirement for drug & alcohol testing of taxicab drivers.

**CHIEFS' COMMENTS**

Included in each Commission member's packet was the Taxi Technician Andrew Steele's report.

Robert K. Petitt, Chief of Police, addressed the earlier issue of the required testing of taxicab drivers. In his address he explained that the interest of the Police Department and the Public Safety Transportation Commission is and continues to be public safety. The testing requirement has been written in to the ordinance since its inception. He also introduced the fact that the City is researching a proposal by the Kuskokwim Campus to provide a training program for the ordinance. A discussion ensued regarding the fact that many of the members of the taxicab industry do not have the benefit of a command of the written English language. A suggestion was

**OLD BUSINESS  
VEHICLE FOR HIRE  
ORDINANCE**

made to give the test verbally in the driver's native language. Mr. Williams made a motion for the Commission members of the Public Safety & Transportation Commission take the written chauffeur's examination. Mr. Short, Jr. seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Robert K. Petitt, Chief of Police and Taxi Technician Andrew Steele will inform the members of the Commission of the exact location of the testing.

An issue was addressed concerning the exact placement of the numbered decals. Robert K. Petitt, Chief of Police explained that the Police Department is the regulatory body of the ordinance, therefore; the Police Department sets the standard on how the ordinance is to be interpreted.

Mr. Blake motioned to approve the testing program and attached regulations introduced earlier in the agenda by Robert K. Petitt, Chief of Police. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was debated and two amendments to the motion were made. The first amendment was the statement under number 2 - "that requires towing" was stricken. In its place was the following was added: "in excess of \$500.00". Mr. Williams motioned to accept the amended motion. Mr. Short, Jr. seconded the motion. There were 6 yeas and 1 nay. The motion to approve the testing program and attached regulations, as amended, was made by Mr. Blake and seconded by Mr. Williams. A roll call vote was called for, the motion passed with a 5-2 margin.

## **DRUG & ALCOHOL TESTING**

A discussion ensued regarding whether the Commission wanted to continue to pursue the subpoena process as approved at the last Commission meeting and continue to obtain the basic information from the previously requested questionnaire. It was decided that the Commission would continue with the subpoena process. Mr. Blake made a motion to give Robert K. Petitt, Chief of Police, the authority needed to become the signatory of the subpoenas. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried 6 -1.

## **SUBPOENA RESOLUTION**

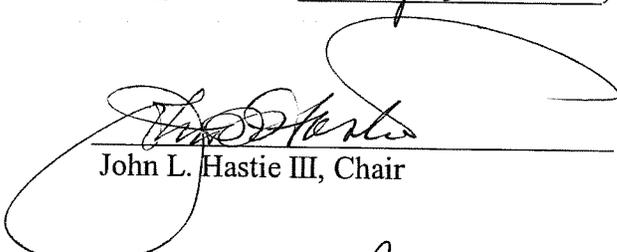
There were no items under new business.

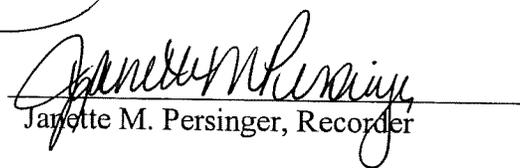
## **NEW BUSINESS**

At 8:20pm a motion was made Mr. Williams to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Blake seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 13<sup>th</sup> DAY OF August, 2001

  
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John L. Hastie III, Chair

  
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Janelle M. Persinger, Recorder