
City of Bethel, Alaska

Public Safety & Transportation Commission

October 10th, 2005

Special Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Public Safety and Transportation Commission was held on Monday, October 10th, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, Bethel, Alaska.

Chairperson John Hastie called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

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

Charley Chung	Hugh Dymont
John Hastie	John Dickens
Mark Springer	*Mark Miller

Kyla Hagan absence excused as she was called to Texas to help with hurricane disaster. * Mr. Miller arrived after roll call due to flight arrival.

Ex-Officio members present were the following:

Administrative Assistant Debbie Reukauf
Transportation Inspector Molly Bailie

III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

- A. David Henderson
 - a. Representing Mr. Woo S. Yoon owner of Qu yana Cab and joint owner with Tack Son of Alaska Cab. While commission is well within their duties to set a rate for dispatch fees owners would like commission to reconsider their decision on freezing the rate.
 - b. Rate set for dispatch fees should be equal for all dispatch service/taxi cab owners.
- B. Hugh Short Jr.
 - a. Thanked commission members for their service. Explained his position as former Dispatch Service/Taxi Cab Owner.
 - b. Setting of dispatch rates reflects evolution of how the Taxi Cab industry is run and asks commission to take a careful look at the rate question.
- C. Min Sook Huh
 - a. Upset by freeze on dispatch rates. Thinks Commission only listened to driver's side of issue. Dispatch fees have traditionally been changed at different times of the year to accommodate increased use of dispatch. Wants the ability and flexibility to adjust dispatch fees.
- D. Sarn Yi
 - a. Translator/Interpreter for Owners who are concerned about freeze on dispatch fees. Stated that there are reasons for raising dispatch fees.
- E. Michael Cho
 - a. Cab fare rates that have been set are equal and dispatch fees should also be equal for all taxicab dispatchers.

- b. Needs to be flexibility to change rate for dispatch fee.
- c. Asks that freeze on dispatch fees be removed as soon as possible.
- F. Hugh Short Sr.
 - a. Every business in town has increased prices in response to higher fuel cost. Drivers should be given a little raise to offset the higher gas and insurance prices.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF OCTOBER 10th, 2005 AS AMENDED

MOVED BY:	Dyment	Insert and Add Appeal of Taxi Drivers as item VI
SECONDED BY:	Dickens	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
-----------------------	---

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 12th, 2005
MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF September 12th, 2005**

MOVED BY:	Dyment	
SECONDED BY:	Dickens	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
-----------------------	---

VI. APPEAL FROM TAXI OWNERS

- A. Mr. Hastie asked Mr. Henderson if he wanted to add his testimony from people to be heard to item VI. Mr. Henderson responded by adding his testimony.
- B. Discussion of concerns expressed by dispatch service/taxi cab owners in item III.

MOTION TO VACATE THE FREEZE ON DISPATCH FEES

MOVED BY:	Springer	Set at last months meeting and set a special meeting within three weeks time to address the subject further.
SECONDED BY:	Dyment	

*Original motion was changed from two weeks to three weeks
Discussions concerning the fear taxi drivers have about being fired for expressing their side of the dispatch fee increase.
Break taken at 8:00 and Resumed at 8:08 for Miss Yi to translate comments to audience. Roll Call Vote called for motion on table.*

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by roll call vote as follows: Hastie, Dickens, Chung, Dyment, Miller, Springer all Yes. Six Yes/ Zero No votes.
-----------------------	--

- C. Appeal granted in favor of dispatch service/taxi cab owners.

VII. CHIEFS COMMENTS

- A. Chief not present.

VIII. TRANSPORTATION INSPECTOR REPORT

- A. No report as Bailie is still learning her job and was not aware that she needed one.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. **Continued Discussion on Alcohol Distribution Center.**

- a. Mr. Dyment informed commission that City Council will be introducing Ordinance 05-16 to create a Bethel Alcohol Delivery Site for vote at the October 11th, 2005 meeting. Copy of letter to appear in papers given to commission members for their review.

Break taken at 8:20 and Resumed at 8:30 to facilitate recording of meeting.

MOTION TO SUSPEND RULES TO HEAR RAY WATSON

MOVED BY:	Springer	
SECONDED BY:	Dickens	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
-----------------------	---

- B. **Mr. Watson**
 - a. Was stopped by City Police Officer when he was driving back from airport with his parking lights on.
 - b. Understands that he was in the wrong but concerned about the questions he was asked by the officer. Wants to know if everyone is asked the same questions.
 - i. Asked where he works, where he was going and how long has he lived here.
 - ii. Mr. Watson speaking up for himself and for those who will not speak.
 - c. Mr. Hastie explained the reason an officer might ask questions.
 - d. Mr. Dymont will follow up with Police Chief as it is very important for the public to trust the police force.
 - e. Mr. Springer commented that he would tend to think that the officer does ask the same question to everyone. Suggested for Mr. Watson to talk to Chief Dudley about doing a ride along.
- C. **Mr. Hastie expressed appreciation for Mr. Watson coming to the commission.**
 - a. Suggested the possibility of officers watching assimilation tape explaining Native Customs.
- D. **David Trampkin recognized in the audience but did not wish to speak.**
- E. **Continued Discussion on DMV Road Test Proctor.**
 - a. No Discussion.
- F. **Discussion on Drug and Alcohol Testing for Chauffeurs (BMC 5.20.085). (H. Dymont)**
 - a. Copy of Chief Dudley rewrite of BMC 5.20.085 presented to commission
 - b. Mr. Dickens thinks a good job was done on the rewrite by Chief Dudley.

MOTION TO PUT THE RECOMMENDATION ON NEXT MONTHS AGENDA

MOVED BY:	Dymont	So it can be discussed further with reference to BMC 5.20.085.
SECONDED BY:	Dickens	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
-----------------------	---

- G. **Vehicle Impound (Chief Dudley)**
 - a. Will carry over to next meeting for discussion.
- X. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Discussion on rewriting BMC Title 5 (Chief Dudley)
 - a. Will carry over to next meeting.
- XI. **COMMISSION MEMBER'S COMENTS**
 - A. Mr. Springer
 - a. Encouraged commission members to read through ordinances for PS&TC.
 - b. Emphasized need for PS&TC to watch out for interest of cab drivers.
 - c. Concerned about condition of Fire Department apparatus and breakdowns.
 - d. Amateur Radio Team Services available for emergency coordination.

- e. Would like for Fire Chief to be present at PS&TC meeting.
- B. Mr. Miller
 - a. No comments but still unsure on the drivers showing up for the meetings. Likes the free market aspect.
- C. Mr. Chung
 - a. Asked how many people were present for meeting. Does not feel any drivers will show up for special meeting.
 - b. Asks PS&TC to review BMC Title 5.50.010 and 5.50.020. Concerned that no one can apply for a dispatch service permit besides those who already have one.
- D. Mr. Dickens
 - a. Expressed sorrow that Mr. Chung has suffered as a possible result of PS&TC's actions.
 - b. Depend a lot on volunteers and questions why they have not yet been paid stipends from January, February and March.
 - c. Would also like for Fire Chief to be Present at PS&TC meeting.
- E. Mr. Springer
 - a. Coercion is a felony. Public official should be protected from fear of loosing their job as a result of an action taken as a public official.
- F. Mr. Dymment.
 - a. Agrees with Mr. Springer about Coercion.
 - b. Mr. Watson's concerns very important as people should not be afraid of the police department. Officers do make mistakes.
 - c. Check with Fire Department to find out why After Action Report from Table Top Exercise in March has not been completed.
- G. Mr. Hastie
 - a. Concerned that taxi drivers will not come to meeting and give their side of dispatch fee issue.
 - b. Concerned that After Action Report is taking so long.
 - c. Most meetings consist of police department and cab problems and may be why Fire Chief has not been present at meetings.
 - i. Ask Fire Chief to attend to give commission a wellness report.
 - ii. Mr. Dymment will follow up on equipment break downs.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT
MOTION TO ADJOURN**

MOVED BY:	Dymment	October 10 th , 2005 at 9:30 p.m.
SECONDED BY:	Dickens	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
-----------------------	---

Next meeting on Monday – November 7th, 2005


 John Hastie, Chairperson

ATTEST:


 Debbie Reukauf, Recorder