

**City of Bethel
Transportation Commission**

Rescheduled Regular Meeting of October 25, 1995

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was convened at 7:45 PM by Chairman Williams.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: O'Brien, Richardson, Robb, Turner, Williams

Absent: Rhodes (excused)

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

motion M/M by O'Brien, 2nd by Turner to approve the minutes of the August 16, 1995, regular Commission meeting as presented. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

motion M/M by Richardson, 2nd by O'Brien to approve the agenda as presented. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

V. TRANSPORTATION INSPECTOR REPORT

Chief Liu reported that the number of cabs in Bethel are increasing, as well as the number of chauffeur's licenses issued. Chief Liu also reported that Ed's Automotive is now an inspection station for taxicabs.

Commissioner O'Brien presented a formal complaint to the Police Chief, which is attached as part of these official minutes. Chief Liu responded that the best solution is to have provisions in the statutes to address the issue, and to have penalties in place for chauffeurs who violate the provisions of Section 5.20 of the Bethel Municipal Code.

Chief Liu also discussed tracking complaints of cab drivers and companies. Commissioner Turner stated that she was looking at developing a tracking system.

Chief Liu concluded his report by informing the Commission that the Mayor, the City Manager and himself were in attendance for the first meeting of the Bethel Drivers Association.

VI. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner O'Brien related her concern regarding a person that was overcharged cab fare from Pacifica Guest House to the Prematernal Home. Chairman Williams suggested the cab fares be posted around the community for all to see.

Commissioner O'Brien asked Chief Liu if Royal Cab Company was operating. Chief Liu stated that no new cab companies had been licensed.

Council Representative Richardson brought up a concern regarding zero tolerance for cab drivers, and asked that this ordinance be discussed at the next meeting. Commission members discussed other ideas for changes to the Vehicles for Hire ordinance, such as how to address complaints and penalties for violations. The Commissioner set a Work Session for Wednesday, November 15, 1995, at 6:30 p.m., prior to the regular meeting.

VII. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

There were no people to be heard.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS**ITEM A: Definition on Qualified Personnel**

Commissioner Robb presented qualifications and criteria for cab inspection station personnel as follows:

1. Demonstration of aptitude, i.e. a test or exam
2. Experience/Credentials
 - a) State certified mechanic; or
 - b) Five years professional experience in auto mechanics; or
 - c) Schooling (e.g. trade school) plus experience equal to five years
3. Physical infrastructure and equipment
 - a) Physical place of inspection up to par, i.e. shop or garage capable of handling cars, proper lighting and warmth; and
 - b) Own, rent or have access to tools and equipment needed for the job, e.g. lifts, jacks, power and hand tools
4. No conflict of interest
 - a) Cannot work for, own or be associated or identified with cabs or cab companies.

motion M/M by Richardson, 2nd by O'Brien to accept the criteria as presented. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M by Turner, 2nd by O'Brien that the Transportation Inspector use the criteria when assigning cab inspection station certificates. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM B: Preparation for Council Presentation

motion M/M by O'Brien to table this item. There was no second.

Discussion followed on the Council presentation and the fact that the new Council had not given an indication whether they were interested in continuing with the committee/commission presentations.

motion M/M by O'Brien, 2nd by Richardson to table this item. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

ITEM A: Chauffeur Physical Examination Form--Bilingual

motion M/M by Turner, 2nd by Richardson that the physical examination form be bilingual and subject to verification that the translation is correct on the form. Voice vote. Motion failed, 3-Yes, 2- No (Robb, Williams).

X. ADJOURNMENT

motion M/M by Williams, 2nd by Richardson to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 1995.

Thor Williams, Chairman

Doreen L. O'Brien
Box 2215
Bethel, AK. 99559

→ City Clerk
J

Transportation Commission- Chair
John Watts
% City of Bethel
Bethel, Ak. 99559

re: Terry Miller and Starship #85, The Taxi Cab

Dear Mr Watts,

As first and foremost a citizen of Bethel and a member of the Transportation Commission, I feel obligated to report an incident that took place Sept. 5, 1995 at approximately 7:00 pm.

When arriving home from an errand I seen a cab turn the corner on to Ptarmigan. (⊥) across from Jim and Connie Pagel's home. Dirt flew everywhere and tracks were left in the road. I followed the cab, I maintained a speed of 25 mph and the cab left me in his dust. He then turned left at the Yield sign. I still followed and decided to clock his speed. I looked ahead and behind to be sure there were no other vehicles or pedestrians in the location. (I drove race cars on a dirt track and feel confident in my abilities in driving on those conditions) My speedometer hit 70 mph and the cab was still pulling away from me. I honked trying to get his attention and/or get him to stop. He turned left at the BLA Yield sign and right at the Highway Stop sign, headed for the airport. At this time I did not see any passengers in his cab. I went to 40 mph and stayed there steady and the cab stayed way ahead of me. He turned right on the one way around the airport and I pulled into Alaska Airline's parking lot. I waited until he was in sight and seen that there was no other cars or people on the road. I pulled sideways across the road, got out of my truck and walked about 6 feet up the road waving my arms to have him stop. He then had 2 passengers in the cab. He stopped and I approach his car stating my name, asking him for all identification, and telling him why I was angry. I also told him I was a member of the Transportation Commission and this incident would be reported to the police and the commission. If I could have made a citizens arrest, I would have. At no time was his or his passengers lives in jeopardy, there were 2 avenues of escape, 1. the Alaska Airlines' parking area was empty and the return entrance to the airport "one way" road. I then backed my truck up and let him pass. I got up to 40 mph and he again sped away.

I went straight to the Bethel Police Dept. and reported not only the cab and driver but myself as well. The dispatcher informed me that Officer Walker was on a call and would be there shortly. Officer Walker was called to another location before arriving to the Police Station. Officer Lockwood came from the back area and talked to me. I explained the above to him and had written down (in a map) a statement of the event. Officer Walker came in and I retold the story. They told me that the cab driver would be called in and told to park the car. Terry Miller was the driver in cab 83, the numbers are black on a brown car and can not be seen unless you are right at the car. I only seen the numbers when I was standing at the

airport talking to Mr. Miller. I seen no other display other than the numbers on the drivers side rear (up just pass the back door)

I feel that Mr. Miller had total disregard for the safety of anyone that may have been in the Tundra Ridge area, H Marker road, and Highway to the airport. I do not feel that parking a cab for a few hours and making him loose revenue was a strong enough punishment for that.

Sincerely,

Doreen O'Brien

Doreen O'Brien

*cc: Police Chief Liu
The Taxi Cab
Transportation Commission*

**TERRYL MILLER
STARSHIP #85**



**THE TAXI CAB
543-5199**