

**City of Bethel
Regular Transportation Commission Meeting
January 2, 1997**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairman Himshoot.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Robert Himschoot Jr., Thor Williams, Allen Glore, Doreen O'Brien & Richard Robb

Absent: None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

motion Thor Williams moved to approve the minutes of the December 5, 1996 meeting; seconded by Allen Glore.

vote Voice vote passed unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

motion Thor Williams moved to amend the agenda to include under new business Item B. Appeal of Permits; seconded by Doreen O'Brien.

vote Voice vote passed unanimously.

V. TRANSPORTATION INSPECTORS REPORT

Chief Eilers reported on the status of the paid permit holders. Discussion followed. Thor Williams requested that a list be compiled of the delinquent permit holders. Mr. Williams also requested that this list be given to the officers on duty so they can contact the cab drivers informing them they are out of compliance with the taxicab ordinance. Discussion followed regarding number of cab permits for river and Bethel cabs. Yukon Cab was inadvertently missing from list. It was reiterated that NO NEW permits be issued. Chief Eilers stated that we will update the Transportation Inspectors Report and distribute to commission members.

Discussion followed regarding vehicles out of compliance. Chief Eilers stated that he was not aware that there were any complaints.

VI. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Allen Glore brought up for discussion the flier regarding "blue flashing lights". Commission members were not aware that this was an issue.

Thor Williams again reiterated that there are not to be any new permits issued.

VII. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Fay Short presented handouts to the commission regarding a petition, signed by 70-80 community members, in support of the decision regarding the cap that was put on the taxi industry. It was requested that Thor Williams take this list before the City Council, at their next meeting.

Terryl Miller discussed deregulation. Collection of signatures is good. Ordinance does not allow for any new dispatches, correct? Correct from several commission members.

Teresa Williams discussed City Cab and Quyana Cab displaying two separate telephone numbers on their cabs. Allen Glore brought up for discussion the use of the same dispatch service being used in two different cab company dispatch vehicles. Mr. Glore stated that he believed that it was illegal to pickup other dispatcher frequencies. Discussion followed. It was brought to the attention of the Chief that it is an enforcement issue. It was offered, from the audience that Alaska Cab and Checker Cab may also be in violation of the ordinance.

Ordinance 5.50.040 Mandatory Dispatch Service. Each taxicab permit holder must subscribe to a dispatch service. Only one dispatch service may be subscribed to for each taxicab permit.

This ordinance was read aloud to the owner's of City Cab, Quyana Cab, Alaska Cab and Checker cab, who were all in attendance at this meeting. Discussion followed. Chief Eilers was directed by the commission Chair to look into this possible violation and to use his own discretions and deal with it as he sees fit.

Frank Mazzaro asked if heneeded a separate cab permit to run a cab in Bethel and to run a cab on the river? Discussion followed. Doreen O'Brien stated yes you do.

Ordinance 5.20.010 Definitions. As used in this chapter: J. "River Taxi" means any motor vehicle used to transport passengers for hire between another village and Bethel and which operates within the city limits of the City of Bethel.

Ordinance 5.20.110 Fees. The following fees shall be payable to the City of Bethel at the office of the Bethel City Clerk: C. \$100.00 annual fee shall be paid for the issuance or renewal of a river taxi permit no later than the 10th of January.

Ordinance 5.30.020 River Taxi Permit Required. No person may provide river taxi service within the City of Bethel without a river taxi permit. Discussion followed. If you live on the river and go from village to village you don't need a permit, right. It was the concensus of the commission that you do need a permit if you bring to and pickup from Bethel. If it can be proved that unmarked taxicabs are operating without a permit it is in violation of the ordinance and subject to penalty. Thor Williams offered that the Bethel city limits are within a 5 mile circumference of First National Bank. You will have two separate permits; one for the river and one for Bethel, the permits will have the same number. The river permit must be paid before the

VII. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD (continued)

10th of January. The river permits are not regulated, only the Bethel city permits. Discussion followed. Inform the inspector of the violation. Frank was told that if he wanted to run his service he had to have a river permit.

Dawn Lee, City Cab owner, stated she was here to sell City Cab and she was told that she had to come here before the commission. Doreen O'Brien confirmed that she had talked with Ms. Lee earlier and suggested that she come to the Transportation Commission meeting. Chairman Himschoot stated that he didn't think that they could sell because we have a freeze. You would be transferring permits from one person to another. Under the freeze you cannot transfer permits.

There are just no new permits issued. The commission requested the City Clerk look up Ordinance 96-46-E regarding this issue. LJ Tanner cited Ordinance 96-46-E which suspends city codes 5.30.040A 1&3 and 5.50.020. No transfer of ownership of permit.

Ms. Lee also asked would they have to wait 25 days before they can sell the business? Chairman Himschoot stated that yes they would have to wait because the new ordinance is not back from the City Council. Once it is repealed it is gone and no new dispatches, it can be amended. It is attrition. If the ordinance passes City Council than it is passed and no new dispatch services applications will be accepted. So if someone wanted to move away they would just loose the business and the permit. Chairman Himschoot stated that that is the attrition we are looking for.

Bobby Rondean stated he was here about his inspection business. Chairman Himschoot reminded Mr. Rondean he was on the agenda last month and no one else was here with available resources so you will need to appeal again. Discussion followed.

Mr. Rondean was told that he would have to reapply; be put back on the agenda. Apply through the Transportation Inspector, you will need your state business license and the inspector will either approve you or deny you as an inspection station, then you will need to appeal to us if you are denied. Discussion followed. Renewal license was denied because the original business license was sold with the business. Chief stated that he could make a phone call and check on the status of the license and other criteria that is needed.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Item A: Re-regulation of the Cab Industry - Update.

Thor Williams stated that an ordinance was introduced to the City Council on December 10, 1996; and has been placed on the City Council agenda and public testimony will be taken January 14, 1997.

Thor Williams mentioned the idea of a work session for better lines of communication. LJ Tanner shared the ideas of the city attorney, Lee Sharp, in that he would like to receive a narrative from the commission members stating the goals that they would like to accomplish in the ordinances'; Mr. Sharp in turn would put this information into legal language.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS (continued)

Item A: Re-regulation of the Cab Industry - Update. (Continued)

Chairman Himschoot asked LJ Tanner, City Clerk to request a workshop with the commission and Mr. Sharp. Discussion followed. Doreen O'Brien asked Thor Williams to take the idea of the commission having a working group session, with the attorney, to the city council. Discussion followed.

Item B: River Taxi Permits.

Thor Williams stated it was submitted to City Council on December 10, 1996. It did not have the needed public testimony to get on the agenda. Discussion followed.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Item A: Recording of Dispatches by Taxi Dispatch Service.

Thor Williams quoted the ordinance.

Ordinance 5.50.060 Records Required. Each dispatch service shall maintain a system of records of all dispatches. Such records shall be retained for a period of not less than two years and be made available to the Transportation Inspector and City Manager upon request. (Ord. 191, 1990) Discussion followed.

Thor Williams stated these records requirements are in the ordinance and would ensure that we get accurate data from the cab industry and what they are getting in gross revenue. Discussion followed. Doreen O'Brien handed out sample "trip sheets" that she created as an example of what the commission has in mind. Discussion followed.

motion Thor Williams moved to begin collection of records from taxicab dispatch "trip sheets" on January 25, 1997. Seconded by Allen Glore. Discussion followed.

motion Thor Williams amended the motion to state that those will be handed out to every dispatch service tomorrow January 3, 1997. That three drivers from each of the cab companies use the "trip reports" and that they come back and tell us how it works. Using this report until January 25, 1997. Discussion followed.

Thor Williams withdrew his two previous motions.

motion Thor Williams moved to request that three drives from each cab company keep "trip sheets" for one month starting January 3, 1997; the chief and his staff are to call in the nine (9) cab owners explain the ordinance, the "trip sheet" and the time structure; seconded by Allen Glore. Discussion followed.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Item B: Appeal of permits - Transfer of Permits

Chairman Himschoot asked for a motion to table this item until we hear from the city attorney, Mr. Lee Sharp. Discussion followed.

motion Allen Glore moved to wait to hear the Appeal of Permits until we hear from Mr. Sharp. Discussion followed.

The appellants attending the meeting were asked if they agreed with the decision to table the meeting until attorneys from both sides can meet. All appellants in attendance agreed. Discussion followed.

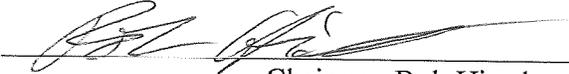
motion Allen Glore moved to amend the motion to read tabled until next meeting;
vote seconded by Doreen O'Brien.
Voice vote passed unanimously.

motion Allen Glore moved to add to the agenda "Update - Appeal of Permits" for the February 6th meeting. Seconded by Chairman Himschoot.
vote Voice vote passed unanimously.

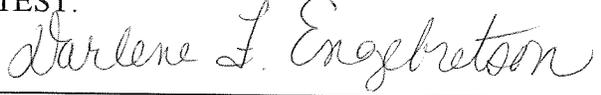
X. ADJOURNMENT

motion Doreen O'Brien moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Thor Williams.
Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 5 DAY OF JUNE, 1997.


Chairman Bob Himschoot Jr.

ATTEST:


Darlene F. Engebretson, Administrative Assistant