

**Regular Meeting
Public Safety & Transportation Commission
Monday, February 5, 2001 at 7:00 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Members present were James Blake, John Dickens, John Hastie, Guy Mercurief, Mike O'Brien, Don Poe, and Hugh Short, Jr. Members absent were Kevin Carter (excused) and Tae Hwa Chung (excused). Ex-officio members present were Chief Robert K. Petitt, Cyndee Simpson-Sugar, and Janette Persinger. Also present were City Manager Bob Herron, Attorney Louann Cutler, Attorney Michelle Power, and members of the Taxi Industry.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Steele presented information regarding the lack of speed signs posted on certain streets in Bethel. As DMV supervisor, Mr. Steele administers road testing and has found the lack of signage very confusing while road testing. He presented the Commission with copies of the Bethel Municipal Code and pictures to support his concern. Chair Hastie asked that this item be put on the next agenda for discussion. Council Member, Mike O'Brien said that he would make sure that this is an agenda item on the next City Council meeting.

**PEOPLE TO BE
HEARD**

Several members of the Taxicab Industry presented the Commission with written concerns and comments regarding the new proposed "Vehicle for Hire" ordinance. A taxicab driver also mentioned, in regards to traffic signs, that the school zone sign near I.D. Variety is hard to see because it is posted too close to where drivers are negotiating the turn.

Motion was made by Mr. O'Brien and seconded by Mr. Blake to approve the minutes of 1/8/01 and 1/17/01. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES OF 1/8/01
AND 1/17/01**

Motion was made by Mr. O'Brien and seconded by Mr. Short to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF
AGENDA**

There were no Chiefs' reports.

CHIEFS' REPORTS

At the last City Council meeting Mr. Libby presented the Council with a letter requesting an emergency increase in cab fares. The Council asked that the Public Safety &

NEW BUSINESS

Transportation Commission review and make a recommendation.

The Commission heard concerns from the industry and Attorney Michelle Powers that an increase was warranted based on the increased costs of gasoline, insurance, and automobile repair. Ms. Powers presented a document with suggested changes in the proposed ordinance on behalf of her client, Hugh Short, Sr. Industry member Mr. Libby spoke in regards to his letter, addressed to the City Council regarding an emergency raise in rates due to increased costs of doing business. Louann Cutler suggested that rates be set based on costs plus reasonable rate of return. Industry members voiced that there has not been an increase in quite a few years and that rates need to be set for the Kasayuli Subdivision zone.

Ms. Cutler explained that the new ordinance would allow the Commission to set taxi fare rates. Mr. O'Brien felt that a rate increase was warranted, but both sides of the story need to be considered, the consumer needs to be able to afford it. He felt a dedicated fee was needed for Kasayuli. Mr. Libby's suggestion for the Kasayuli zone fee was \$15.00 for one to two people. Mr. Hugh Short, Sr. suggested a \$10.00 fee per person. An inner airport fee was also discussed. There were concerns from some industry members that raising fares too much would shock the system and that they didn't want to push customers away. Mr. Dickens asked if anyone in the industry purchases fuel by bulk. He suggested that this might be a way to cut down some of their costs. Discussion followed on the emergency rate increase, bulk fuel, rates for in-route stops and charters.

Motion was made by Mr. O'Brien and seconded by Mr. Blake that the Commission recommend to the City Council that they consider an increase in minimum taxi cab rates:

Airport \$6.00
Tundra Ridge \$6.00
Trailer Court and town \$4.00
Kasayuli \$10.00
Airport-to-Airport \$4.00

Discussion followed on the motion. There were concerns regarding setting minimum rates as opposed to maximum rates. The current ordinance provides for maximum rates not minimum rates. City Manager Bob Herron clarified that this recommendation would go to Council for public Hearing. He also suggested that the word "maximum" be omitted in "A." and "E." of section 5.20.020 Rates in the current BMC Vehicle for Hire Ordinance. These rates would be in effect until the new ordinance was passed and no one could under charge or over charge.

Amendment to the motion was made by Mr. Short and seconded by Mr. Mercurief and reads as follows:

The Public Safety & Transportation Commission recommends that the City Council consider an emergency increase in the Vehicle for Hire rates setting the rates as follows:

Cab Fares within the City (including Bethel Heights)	\$ 4.00
Fare to the Hospital	\$ 4.00
Fare to the Trailer Court, Hangar Lake, Power Plant	\$ 4.00
Fare to and from the Airport to all locations	\$ 6.00
Fare to B.I.A and /Tundra Ridge	\$ 6.00
Fare to Kasayuli Subdivision	\$10.00
Half-Hour Fare Charter	\$25.00
Fare Airport-to-Airport	\$ 4.00
In Route Stops	\$1.00 per minute

Discussion followed on motion. Motion carried with 6 yeas and 1 nay.

City Attorney Louann Cutler gave a presentation on the proposed "Vehicle for Hire Ordinance." She explained that City Council and Administration asked to have the ordinance rewritten. Ms. Cutler said that the Anchorage ordinance was used as a model and that she also worked with Michelle Powers, Attorney at Law.

WORK SESSION

Ms. Cutler reviewed the ordinance section by section explaining additions and changes. Discussions and questions followed and included the topics of complaint procedure, appointing a hearing officer, inspections, drug & alcohol testing, permit fees, transfer of permits, insurance requirements, chauffeur training, maximum hours per day on road per driver, dispatch services and dispatching from vehicles.

Michelle Powers presented in writing specific items she would like to see changed in the proposed ordinance.

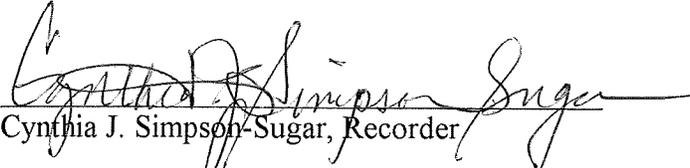
Mr. Hastie suggested that another meeting be set to review input received and make changes to the proposed ordinance. Bob Herron told the Commission that he recommended to the Council that the Commission produce a Commission substitute so that the Council will be able to clearly see any suggested changes. Chief Petitt suggested that as the Commission goes through the ordinance that they sign off on each page and be careful not to go back and forth between pages. This will help the Commission get through the document in a more efficient manner.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 5th DAY OF March, 2001

John L. Hastie III, Chair



Cynthia J. Simpson-Sugar, Recorder



CITY OF BETHEL

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PUBLIC NOTICE

REGULAR MEETING PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Monday, February 5, 2001 - 7:00 p.m.
BETHEL CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

AGENDA

Members

James Blake
Vice Chair

Kevin Carter

Tae Hwa Chung

John Dickens

John Hastie
Chair

Guy Merculief

Mike O'Brien
Council Representative

Don Poe

Hugh Short, Jr.

Ex Officio Members

Robert K. Petitt
Chief of Police
Transportation Inspector

George Young
Fire Chief

Andrew Steele
Transportation Tech

Cyndee Simpson-Sugar
Administrative Assistant

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of 1/8/01 and 1/17/01
- V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- VI. REPORTS
 - a. Chiefs' Reports
 - b. Transportation Inspector
- VII. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Industry Requested Taxi Fare Increase
- VIII. WORK SESSION ON THE NEW PROPOSED VEHICLE FOR HIRE ORDINANCE: CHAPTER 5.20
- IX. ADJOURNMENT

Please submit your comments, questions, and concerns regarding the new proposed "Vehicle for Hire Ordinance" in writing during People to Be Heard.

Public comment is always welcome. Additional work sessions regarding the new proposed ordinance will be announced at a later date.

Cynthia J. Simpson-Sugar, Recorder
POSTED January 29, 2001

POST OFFICE, ANICA, AC, SWANSONS, CITY HALL